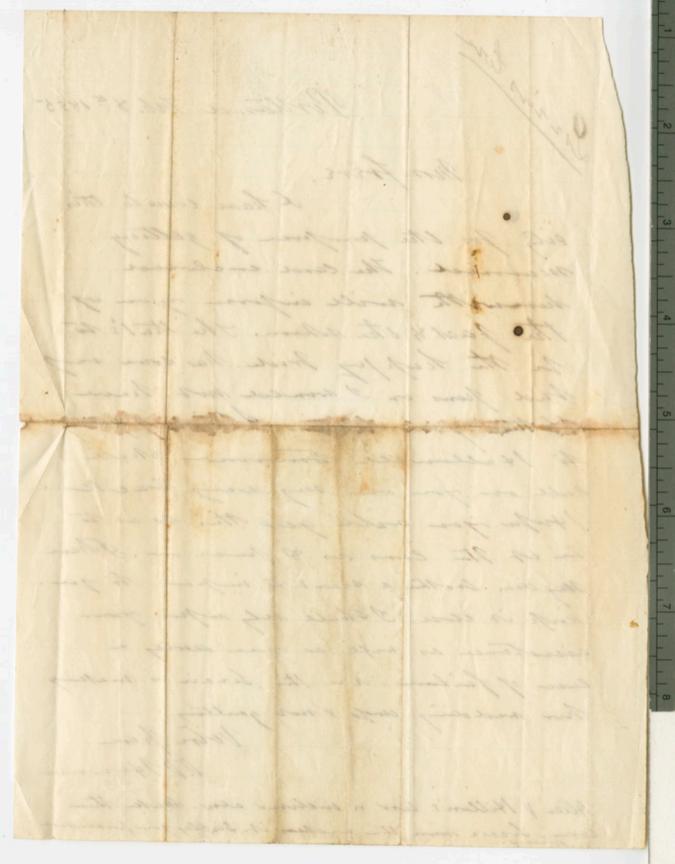
Que in love Portlance Feb. 3 # 1855 mon frêre. L'have come to this eitig for the purpose of getting Marmet . The land enclosed herewith will inform you of The fact & the when. The that's to he the heappy trick has some very thad Juns on I would not have Alother your letter. I that's going to It allow ell tomarrow, shall lall on you on my way back I tupe you will get this so as to he at the cars as I pour a. I drave May dear brother a secret to impart to your. Kup it close. I thate very upon your assustance as mile as your searces in lase of failure - is is this , Leizie is making her medding and I not gailting. Volor frem O.V. Ignard Alier y Hillen's lard is enclosed also. Make them lava - Lizzer some the making it. Display your portraction



113 2/8/1855 *From:* O.O. Howard

Portland

RBH-078

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Feb. 8th, 1855

Mon Frere,

I have come to this city for the purpose of getting married. The card enclosed herewith will inform you of the fact & the when. The that's to be the happy bride. Has some very bad pens or I would not have blotted your letter. I think of going to Hallowell tomorrow, shall call on you on my way back. Hope you will get this so as to be at the cars as I pass on. I have my dear brother a secret to impart to you - keep it close. I shall rely upon your assistance as well as your secrecy in case of failure, it is this. Lizzie is making her wedding dress & not quilting.

Votre frere O. O. Howard

Alice & Helen's card is enclosed also. Make them come. Lizzie more than wishes it. Display your persuasive powers.

Lizzie's Love.

[Otis & Lizzie were married 14 Feb 1855 in Portland.]

temperament I am not over patient - to I bell to bretting, smarling & building all the parts half as provoking. But it was no use. to unite the reluctant Waistbands. I laced The frounts with an elegant thouting making very much the same display of Linnen as some ladies do in a different place -I mean these muslin bosons with their circl lacing - In the mean time. The low lost, and my unlucky appearance. with my Munt legs & open fronts- destroyed all my tuper of here ting my bashion able upraintence and almost kept me from the Concert itself, but thewitt came in, land me tis clock, and, at lass I new, and enjoyed The music in an obscure corner, unoticed and unknown - The lecret mas, Waterman Meht with me the night before I by mistake level norm my hants to topsham and had left his own little those, prang, nanow contracted things believed - Remember me to Hatter, Dellie Roland & Lucia. V Mon my offection at don Kontand

geland, repuel a letter from this Dond. Coll. Karch 18. 1855 My dear Mother Ilvhcoe, or as me thale room have to call him, De Jennings neutrip a Deeds yesterday and raide he Abouel go to meeting today of there was any and prouved me he would sprak to jou of Jan mere there. Li of you hear from me Lundag you non't probably care much about it duesday when this gets home. but as I have got through going to Clunch for today I will write - I have not heard a moral from letis since he left Maine-I mote tim an account of Grandwethers death & funeral inmediately on my return from Deeder & requested an immediate auswer as I mus amerious to learn how The any mercase will which had then put prefect lengup was to affect tim Ruaning, as I died, that he had petitioned for a Captainey in the Dragcour - I rather repeat & I guess he hopes, that he will not get it - Such an appointment noned min deprive tim of a home & make him a Rover - a kind of life which a maniel man nould not which even if he diel get double pay & double hover -

I thall certainly expect a letter from him the first of the week - Our Engine gave out up in Greene. That morning I came down. I detained is an how. to I mighed the fram at harmow the & whad to make teneles another compulsory visit. I found him with a pretty bad over, which this daugh mattin and Moppy going is not calculated to belfe much - So I did not reach Brunswick life Findey lefternoon I had nearly a onet to make up - I have had a cold in the head. Thoat &c most of the time since I came back - but it is more trouble tome than injurious. In nand of tomething better a believe I must tele you of a practical joke which was unnittingly played on me the other night - I am one of those who enjoy a good joke about as well when it falls on myself as an somebody else. Well. you Un, en old higing marter of Mine. M. Rice 1 Bath. nes togrie a concert here on Wednesday night apisted by his blue belafsand a Vinger of Boston who is an especial paronite of mine Mrs. Hattie & Long got the molt heaven by voice you ever heard) - As was natural I made up my mind to go, in fact I was my ancious to go I as I had a musical friend have who has theat the

moter in new Lock, who has heard all the excel bingers I new knows all about music, who is very pretty and very aqueable I naturally enough with into my here there I would like to have beer go - only just to me, of course, whether our testes coincided in regard to Mrs, Long because of the die I thould consider myself quite a judge to chiefs as avon as poprible, that I might have a thirt call a char before Concert = Car reaching my room, and having purtly drepsed, what news my suprise to find that of fin pairs of unamentionables. not one was there but had holes in the knees or in a Mile more embergplace. I was in despein - bur after lunting some minutes, which remed like Mours, I found under the bed & pair, which although they nere morguery & Threadber them I her recollect mine to have been. yer they remed to be entire - There I concluded mu the lost parts. I tried them on & Ohonor of lineas!' my legs Much through farther Than Le haball Cranes, and when I attempted to bring the Maisthands into anything like porinity it was a dead failure - Three makes at least did they lack of a proper terrion-Now, Mother you know that being of a nervous

Well - I hunied home from Supper, revolued

114 3/18/1855From:Rowland [RB
Howard]To:Dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]RBH-079Bowd. Coll.Source:Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. March 18, 1855

My dear Mother

Roscoe, or as we shall soon have to call him, Dr. Jennings, went up to Leeds yesterday and said he should go to meeting today if there was any and promised me he would speak to you if you were there. So if you hear from me Sunday you won't probably care much about it Tuesday when this gets home, but as I have got through going to Church for today I will write.

I have not heard a word from Otis since he left Maine. I wrote him an account of Grandmother's death [Elizabeth (Stinchfield) Otis died on 3 March at the age of 81] & funeral immediately on my return from Leeds. I requested an immediate answer as I was anxious to learn how the Army increase bill which had then just passed Congress was to affect him knowing, as I did, that he had petitioned for a Captaincy in the Dragoons. I rather suspect & I guess he hopes, that he will not get it. Such an appointment would now deprive him of a home & make him a Rover, a kind of life which a married man would not relish even if he did get double pay & double honor. I shall certainly expect a letter from him the first of the week.

Our engine gave out up in Greene, that morning I came down, & detained us an hour. So I missed the Train at Yarmouth & so had to make Charles another compulsory visit. I found him with a pretty bad cold, which this damp weather and sloppy going is not calculated to help much. So I did not reach Brunswick till Friday Afternoon & had nearly a week to make up.

I have had a cold in the head, throat, &c most of the time since I came back, but it is more troublesome than injurious.

In want of something better I believe I must tell you of a practical joke which was unwittingly played on me the other night. I am one of those who enjoy a good joke about as well when it falls on myself as on somebody else. Well, you see, an old singing master of mine, Mr. Rice of Bath, was to give a concert here on Wednesday night, assisted by his Glee Class, and a singer of Boston who is an especial favorite of mine - Mrs Hattie C. Long (got the most heavenly voice you ever heard).

As was natural I made up my mind to go, in fact I was very anxious to go, & as I had a musical friend here who has spent the winter in New York, who has heard all the great singers & who knows all about music, who is very pretty and very agreeable, I naturally enough took it into my head that I would like to have her go - only just to see, of course, whether our tastes coincided in regard to Mrs. Long, because if they did I should consider myself quite a judge.

Well, I hurried home from Supper, resolved to dress as soon as possible, that I might have a short call & chat before Concert. On reaching my room, and having partly dressed, what was my surprise to find that of five pairs of unmentionables, not one was there, but had holes in the knees or in a still more embarrassing place. I was in despair, but after hunting some minutes, which seemed like hours, I found under the bed a pair, which although they were more greasy & threadbare than I ever recollect mine to have been, yet they seemed to be entire. These, I concluded were the lost pants. I tried them on, & o horror of horrors!! My legs stuck through farther than Ichabod Cranes, and when I attempted to bring the waistbands into anything like proximity, it was a dead failure. Three inches at least did they lack of a proper union. Now, Mother, you know that being of a nervous temperament I am not over patient. So I fell to fretting, snarling & sending all the pants to his Satanic majesty by turns.

Job must have cussed had his situation been half as provoking. But it was no use. So after exhausting myself in vain efforts to unite the reluctant waistbands, I laced the fronts with an elegant Shoe-string making very much the same display of Linnen as some ladies do in a different place. I mean these muslin bosoms with their cord lacing. In the mean time, the hour lost, and my unlucky appearance with my short legs & open fronts, destroyed all my hopes of meeting my fashionable acquaintance, and almost kept me from the concert itself, but Hewitt

came in, lent me his cloak, and, at last I went, and enjoyed the music in an obscure corner, unnoticed and unknown. The secret was, Waterman slept with me the night before & by mistake had worn my pants to Topsham and had left his own little short, greasy, narrow contracted things behind.

Remember me to Father, Dellie, Roland & Lucia, & as

Your very affectionate Son Rowland

room the curper that was under her Just when the theore stow befor her with such tenoting mondo .- I am in This room - Lizzie is in the weeking chair by myside -The has been pretty entented though the rather longs for her girl - friends in Portland ____ If she gets home sick with such a fine even-Tempered, gut matured - milding Musband as the has, I chall send her back to Portland. that the is burking entrule over me A I must stop tacking about her She was to take my enreshandere to show you have little dections she is, I write tell you, Subrose, She has not morithe a single letter for me yes-Undenthedy there are thousands of things you proved like to Tenore that I have nor told you - I don't mean to satisfy your enving for I should though shorten your subsequent epistor & expen the probability of your meiling no next summer. There is much to be San - A pour alle improprime has preceded you in this quarter. Insue says she is making out a list of purchases. It is anday the must have projection - The sends her love to you -The sends how to blice & Hellow if you see them, the is going to write the soon. Remember we to the

death Morrigh a letter from mother that carme to hand a few days before. Dregret very much induce that I did not go to Isallowell as I at first intended. but the past'eannot be helped and it burts little to recale such things to grien over. I was glad. (that is it affordid me a sort of mournful pleasane) that you were This particular in describing the last moments of our down Grand nother; for I lunck her very much and anything connected with that sad time when she was on the wenge of Eternity could not fail to make me prouse in my levity & points me towards the same incretable terminus in my sun journeyings monard. Manda to god my end right he like hero! But enough of Sadthinghits it is not a frank of my philosophy or veligion to be dolarone - Our giand mother was a furthful I hashing christian and she has give to a better world after a life of usefulneps in which

Water vliet Arsenal March 18 1855 " Dear Brother Inseewed your letter in good time, but I had already been apprized of Grandmothing her children & grandchildren will do mail to Emalate

her yample, is them then, of not a came for joy,) little cause for abiding sorrow ! - how say I know what you wish to know better that you can till me - Will we came through safely from Corteand to Springfield the first day (monday) & The second day arrived at Tray. Instead of miding my frinds at the deput to welcome The bride I could mand a carriage theme fit to take her in to The arsenal. I left her at the Start wenty procumed one at a Living Statele of me set porthe for this new frome - The met interesting abjects we met an the may that is to Lizzie) were pipp - The saw a this at every corner, in the streets on the side walks, Eury where in fact excepting in pere where the Thought they ought to he. WE croped the Hudson over the troy bridge which exprends no, a pairs the siver by his sections - the first to a lattle island I the second for the island to the opposed shore -This is just above the junction of The Mohawk . Mi then horned south . eroper the latter river . The a branch of the canal & found and in the filty dety of West Fray the only reducing fictures of which are the Madamized. toods & Materatul, which it chances to contain. Me followed the viver donor for a mole or more till we came to an iron Jense which Lizzies abserving Eyes guefor belonged to lince Jam. Me soon came to The gate & larned to the right passed through - up the mad

acrop the canal again to the right afew steps she comes to a large Stone levere - with Morters in front these huge month pointing antwards - one half of this double tenement. Olis tilly her is to be under her supervision. He entired found the Roygs - who had made preparations to meet us that might at allang I come sh tothe us have a carriage for us of the Deferr. and egood dinner for welcome . but we got the Start of him . I had written that I did not extract to get further than Boston the first night. I through could not such albung the enning. The Birds & plant come safely. The tasket also though & dropped it and spill some of the seeds contained to also with the Shand I bandboy I bride - all arrived safely at the andenal on trisdy the 24th of February 1855. We are now quite setted. Though my lasinep Vizie confect require a longe to make all complete in the farmition line. I packed friand. Chains ye. ve. as Contand. They arrived by Freight train on throwing Jallowing safe & sound sost for 3 large houses only ten arleans, carting de inclusive, M's nume have those norms fitter up. two abour your below. Loris purlos is beautifully furnished, an clegant new compet - a center table of soccord I a setter of the same with her former sice mahogany furniture. The some above looks forthe to the East with

Two windows to the worth with one . She has shown this

115 3/18/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-081

Watervliet Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal March 18th, 1855.

Dear Brother

I received your letter in good time, but I had already been apprised of Grandmother's death through a letter from mother that came to hand a few days before. I regret very much indeed that I did not go to Hallowell as I at first intended, but the past cannot be helped and it boots little to recall such things to grieve over. I was glad (that is it afforded me a sort of mournful pleasure) that you were thus particular in describing the last moments of our dear Grandmother; for I loved her very much and anything connected with that time when she was on the verge of eternity could not fail to make me pause in my levity & point me towards the same inevitable terminus in my own journeyings onward. Would to God my end might be like hers! But enough of sad thoughts, it is not a part of my philosophy or religion to be dolorous. Our grandmother was a faithful & trusting Christian and she has gone to a better world after a life of usefulness, in which her children & grandchildren will do well to emulate her example. Is there not then, (if not the cause for joy) little cause for abiding sorrow?

You say I know what you wish to know better than you can tell me. Well we came through safely from Portland to Springfield the first day (Monday) & the second day arrived at Troy. Instead of finding my friends at the Depot to welcome the bride, I could not find a carriage there fit to take her in to the Arsenal. I left her at the Depot went & procured one at a Livery Stable & we set forth for her new home. The most interesting objects we met on the way (that is to Lizzie) were pigs. She saw a pig at every corner, on the streets, on the side-walks, everywhere in fact excepting in pens where she thought they ought to be.

We crossed the Hudson over the Troy bridge, which expands no, spans the river by two sections - the first to a little island & the second from the island to the opposite shore. This is just above the junction of the Mohawk. We then turned south, crossed the latter river then a branch of the Canal & found ourselves in the filthy city of West Troy. The only redeeming features of which are the McAdamized roads & Watervliet which it chances to contain. We followed the river down for a mile or more till we came to an iron fence, which Lizzie's observing eyes guessed belong to uncle Sam. We soon came to the gate & turned to the right, passed through up the road across the canal, again to the right a few steps, she comes to a large stone house with mortars in front, their huge mouths pointing outwards - one half of this double tenement, Otis tells her, is to be under her supervision.

We entered, found Mr. Boggs, who had made preparations to meet us that night at Albany & come up with us, have a carriage for us at the Depot, and a good dinner for welcome, but we got the start of him. I had written that I did not expect to get farther than Boston the first night & therefore could not reach Albany till evening. The birds & plant came safely, the basket also though I dropped it and spilt some of the seeds contained. So also with the shawl & bandbox & bride -all arrived safely at the Arsenal on Tuesday, the 27th of February 1855.

We are now quite settled, though my laziness & Lizzie's carpet require a lounge to make all complete in the furniture line. I packed piano chairs &c. &c. at Portland. They arrived by freight train on Thursday following safe & sound. Costs for three large boxes only \$10, carting & inclusive. We now have those rooms fitted up, two above & one below. Lizzie's parlor is beautifully furnished, an elegant new carpet, a center table of rosewood & a settee of the same with her former nice mahogany furniture. The room above looks forth to the East with two windows, to the South with one. She has upon this room the carpet that was under her feet when Mr. Moore stood before her with such knotty words. I am in this room. Lizzie is in the rocking chair by my side.

She has been pretty contented, though she rather longs for her girl-friends in Portland. If she gets homesick with such a fine even-tempered, good-natured yielding husband as she has, I shall send her back to Portland. But she is looking critically over me so I must stop talking about her. She was to take my correspondence - to show you how little obedient she is. I will tell you, sub rosa, she has not written a single letter for me yet.

Undoubtedly there are thousands of things you would like to know that I have not told you. I don't mean to satisfy your curiosity for I should thereby shorten your subsequent epistles & lessen the probability of your

visiting us next summer. There is much to be seen. A favorable impression has preceded you in this quarter. Lizzie says she is making out a list of purchases. It is Sunday, she must have forgotten. She sends her love to you. She sends love to Alice & Hellen. If you see them, she is going to write them soon. Remember me to the <> tutors individually & by name.

Your affectionate brother Otis

to my youth & temper amount them thinking but I have got to think & act like the rest of the world Inter, howerty, look a me as if they nere all his thirds mad) I be called a fool I a Dunce for my pains . but enough of this for the pret ut. I thate feel better tomorrow and go into Recitation, no doubtteharles has lately matter me good & long letter. He went house arith merile last Sunday. 2 naves time to come down here before he goes how I then the Sabbath -Olis has also written me. He keeps puty still about domestie affaires ashe should . Mings are at a last pape other there is a third confidence 15 anon & Wife - He rays he lites me little in order What I may with flow in order to learn more - Her louched may Naniz- There - and so mipes this culculations for wall all Rowland

Charles speaks of getting a nere superior toind galetter from Deleie. He muss Do me The same burn . Bond. Coll. Mch. 28. 55 My dear mother I heritated some time before I concluded to mite This knowing myself to be in rather a blue state of mind. I mas afraid I should inflict some of my bad Minits on you. But, after all, human nature mants something revious, nay about gloong now and then just to keep the ballance of power: Besides of me should always miti in an apparently happy mood we thould begin it suspect each other of a mant of Confidence - for the mind much have its downs as well as its ups: and of We do not decive. if me nould thow that confidence which is the true lest of offection, ne much make each other aquainted with the rad & ronow ful filings as well as those that are bright & minthful - Here his the quat

pleasure of aniting my Mother - I need not feel that it is necessary for me to be Apright & amusing when there is nothing minthful in me - but I need only to feel I to speake the true emotions of the heart - My mental depression today is almost unling the result of physical comes - I have a terious over Long whole body beels dule & Muprice Las unal my mind refuses to study or to Think. after Milling, weking wood for half the formoon I have taken This Wheel to houble you with my listleforefobut, I have think I ought to do to -Tometimes it almost seems as of The intellect. The soul, being to Depision in its ettence, is two along connected with the body too sensible of the ballers illes & aches. I know once, when I mus very lick, that the laddest moments which I esperianced were those when I was anserver of my makeling to To Mink. reflect & reason -

No merely physical weakings is half so sensibly fell. The lops of a hand a foot could never to affect the fielings of a man as a lever of mental inferiority. Here then loses his reme of superioris a even equality with those around him, When how young woman is mourning for her lack of beauty of the lacks nothing else. the ought easily to be convoled. live me the conscionings of a superior intellect & I though need no beauty of person, a acres of land to make me proud - But alad! The World does not to estimate it - Wealth & fashion vile always ein their blows at that kind of price - from very eng of it's superioris to their own price of Jweket & pride of appearances - & down it much come, mulip bet aff by what the World calls needpary - To - in order to heelfsthe intellect itself must bet itself to mike to acquire the arts of Fashion & meet auch his no une for bogs like me ti dream, although dreaming is much pleasant

116 3/28/1855From:Rowland [RB
Howard]To:Dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]RBH-080Bowd. Coll.Source:Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. Mch. 28, 55

My dear Mother

I hesitated some time before I concluded to write this, knowing myself to be in rather a "blue" state of mind. I was afraid I should inflict some of my bad spirits on you. But, after all, human nature wants something serious, nay almost gloomy now and then just to keep the "balance of power". Besides if we should always write in an apparently happy mood, we should begin to suspect each other of a want of confidence, for the mind must have its "downs" as well as its "ups", and if we do not deceive, if we would show that confidence which is the true test of affection, we must make each other acquainted with the sad & sorrowful feelings as well as those that are bright & mirthful. Here lies the great pleasure of writing my Mother. I need not feel that it is necessary for me to be sprightly & amusing when there is nothing mirthful in me, but I need only to feel & to speak the true emotions of the heart.

My mental depression today is almost entirely the result of physical causes. I have a serious cold & my whole body feels dull & stupid & as usual my mind refuses study or to think. After sitting, rocking to & fro half the forenoon, I have taken this sheet to trouble you with my listlessness - but, I hardly think I ought to do so. Sometimes it almost seems as if the intellect, the soul, being so superior in its essence, is too closely connected with the body, too sensible of the latter's ills & aches. I know Once, when I was very sick, that the saddest moments which I experienced were those when I was conscious of my inability to think, reflect & reason. No merely physical weakness is half so sensibly felt. The loss of a hand or foot could never so affect the feelings of a man as a sense of mental inferiority. He then loses his sense of superiority or even equality with those around him. When some young woman is mourning for her lack of beauty, if she lacks nothing else, she ought easily to be consoled. Give me the consciousness of a superior intellect & I should need no beauty of person, or acres of land to make me proud.

But alas! The World does not so estimate it. Wealth & fashion will always air their flaws at that kind of pride, from <verging> of its superiority to their own pride of pocket & pride of appearances & down it must come, unless let off by what the world calls necessary. So in order to success, the intellect itself must set itself to work to acquire the arts of Fashion & "sweet cash".

It is no use for boys like me to dream, although dreaming is much pleasanter to my youth & temperament than thinking, but I have got to think & act like the rest of the world (who, honestly, look to me as if they were all two thirds mad) or be called a Fool & a Dunce for my pains, but enough of this for the present. I shall feel better tomorrow and go into Recitation, no doubt.

Charles has lately written me a good & long letter. He went home with Merrill last Sunday. I want him to come down here before he goes home & spend the Sabbath. Otis has also written me. He keeps pretty still about domestic affairs, as he should. Things are at a sad pass when there is a third confidant to man & wife. He says he tells me little in order that I may write often in order to learn more. He touched my vanity there, and so misses his calculations.

Love to all. Affectionately Rowland

Charles speaks of getting a very superior kind of a letter from Dellie. He must do me the same favor.

Sor a mark or the or the is now i confirming Sawarting the surterer of the Court martial with possiderable anxiety - We know that same What he has to awair the bode from Washington. This remards me of my Experimen or that Sout. The time when I waite patiently for a Spleision - not knowing whether I was to have expect a backelor to be reasonable". I was a a furlough or not. I helin I wrote you shoot time since on myself & know when Super about our eligant roome, how they have well how to estimate them, particularly freen fithe up according to this good toute of with regard to this reasonableness - They are Mino 12 - Thunk is very much like you to days entirely unsettled in mind and in heast full Stazin, Jule of monsure & fun - 1he train her of vegaries and strange funcies . bound by four her birds & whereas things - 1 sh sugs no the or "tompuct" as you call the " pour little things I must set this at liturty. boud of mion that exists between me & L' 3 an very well cutiton with moules Since . I I will use the per in order to keep it moving behim this is much humbug I gas, about all I and if the Howard sent get back to doon I will This representations to his disposagements. He give you particular for writing such a letter to Sound to do things abour right. His appointments I goon worthy brother, who has, by the way, gone into , could ut have been paires or have give more the other quarters to have a little southe with his general entrepartion to the corry. The friend. Mu Thank. Fist it too bed his wife wont Sounting amo to be in a very prochirous let him stroke at home you die not think Scondition de . I regan them times of designation -I should read that same little first. Domestic Thehich are prover sometimes times of reproach } His when . Som grapes . He is coming . I have Sand sometimes not as the even may the riz: Locus A freen doing nothing: I whige as of the hour consequence in the world . 1 and - march in a mus as 2 mills

29. Fot gutto on young the hum - and down pur you are the mass you the stand of here is here or al hour hour entre nons. That aner- plus surveillance can easily he avoided, and that extrem truiding that you impute near neither bedongs to me or lizzie. but you may know that that same howy - mon is unfavorable to the full development of common ande or to the importing of information this would be of interest or comfort to a backelor. Now I have reached the condid part of your letter -Semithow this life of her are why you need les & sead your talking to this individual or you here " To be ennered in reply of there is angles to write that she might nor su. why she would'us be likely to su wand the writes letters dues the up and sunds this off and I do not ken there . he abov the receives lettine. hears of the lop or hollow as the lase may be, wherever the seents happen the heater. If my accurhin is not sufficient on thise important points, why prove me. As to this matter of history - The recent shanges in this army do not affect me much. May Harding's chathe which occured a a day or how hefore my Marriage, with my Brever off. rendering me a 2nd Liens. By this new

arrangement, Mu 122 Tients Symme of our forges was much a topk of Cavalry. This trings we along a little neaver a 1st Lientenancy. Two years from nerr July I shall be a 12 Linkerart by regular Amonotion; my eachatty will heing me who before that time. I dive not apply for Monotron In a new requirent usily the Ordinance forps mas disbanded as we men led to autrestate by the briginal army Bile. Mr Think has every in his puy us a visit. He is intertaining Lizzie while I continue to write, Irzzin is trying to smoke - She has a engas proportions to her own personal domensions to wit - Sinches long 1, neh Mongh - They continue to bother me havi is sursich num. as I judge I har falting times. We have had a bound mortial have the preas nuk - and I was Accorder, had to write one day from 6 V'elock a.M. The 12 9. M or midnight rather. Nothing has arisen to give me so much labor is a long while, as I had in the 1st flower to back my acg up on Murtice low, then to leven the chilies of a Judge advocate, Apoor fillow got to drinking too hand to allere to tis duties property - Having her reported

he was my into confirment I remained there

117 3/29/1855 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-082

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y. March 29th, 1855

Dear brother,

"Of course I don't expect a bachelor to be reasonable." I was a short time since one myself & know well how to estimate them, particularly with regard to their reasonableness. They are entirely unsettled in mind and in heart, full of vagaries and strange fancies, bound by no tie or "compact" as you call the bond of union that exists between me & "L".

[The next paragraph was written by Lizzie]

I will use the pen in order to keep it moving and if Mr. Howard don't get back too soon I will give you particular for writing such a letter to your worthy brother, who has, by the way, gone into the other quarters to have a little smoke with his friend, Mr. Shunk. (Isn't it too bad his wife won't let him smoke at home.) You did not think I should read that same letter first "domestic Bliss when." Sour grapes. He is coming. I have been doing nothing.

March no April 1st 55

Dear brother

Be you well assured entré-nous that over-plus surveillance can easily be avoided, and that that extreme timidity that you impute neither belongs to me or Lizzie, but you may know that that same honey-moon is unfavorable to the full development of common sense or to the importing of information that would be of interest or comfort to a bachelor. Now I have reached the candid part of your letter - "I can't for the life of me see why you need let L read your letters to this individual or you hers." To be candid in reply, if there is ought to write that she might not see, why she wouldn't be likely to see it, and she writes letters, does them up and sends them off and I do not see them, so also she receives letters, tears off the top or bottom as the case may be, wherever the secrets happen to be located. If my assertion is not sufficient on these important points, why prove me.

As to the matter of history, the recent changes in the Army do not affect me much. Major Harding's death which occurred a day or two before my marriage, took my brevet off, rendering me a 2nd Lieut. By the new arrangement, the 1st Lieut. Symins of our Corps was made a Capt. Of Cavalry. This brings me along a little nearer in 1st Lieutenancy. Two years from next July I shall be a 1st Lieutenant by regular promotion; any casualty will bring me up before that time. I did not apply for promotion in a new regiment unless the Ordinance Corps was disbanded as we were led to anticipate by the original Army Bill. Mr. Shunk has come in to pay us a visit.. He is entertaining Lizzie while I continue to write. Lizzie is trying to smoke. She has a cigar proportioned to her own personal dimensions, to wit-8 inches long 1/8 inch through. They continue to bother me. Lizzie is sea-sick now as I judge by her faltering tones.

We have had a Court-Martial here the first week, and I was recorder, had to write one day from 6:00 A.M. Till 12 P.M. or midnight rather. Nothing has arisen to give me so much labor in a long while, as I had in the 1st place to back myself up on Martial law, then to learn the duties of a Judge Advocate. A poor fellow got to drinking too hard to attend to his duties properly. Having been reported he was put into confinement & remained there but paper or the want of it makes me forbear for a week or two. He is now in confinement awaiting the sentence of the court-martial with considerable anxiety. We know that same but he has to await the order from Washington. This reminds me of my experience at West Point, the time when I waited patiently for a decision, not knowing whether I was to have a furlough or not.

I believe I wrote you before about our elegant rooms, how they have been fitted up according to the good taste of Mrs. H. Shunk is very much like you, so says Lizzie, full of nonsense & fun. He teases her about her birds & various things. He says "poor little things, I must set them at liberty."

I am very well satisfied with Pres. Pierce. I believe there is much humbug & gas, about all the representations to

his disparagement. He seems to do things about right. His appointments couldn't have been fairer or have given more general satisfaction to the Army. The country seems to be in a very prosperous condition &c. I regard these times of assignation, which are sometimes terms of reproach and sometimes not, as the case may be viz: locos & Whigs, as of the least consequence in the world. If my page was not down, I would enlarge more upon politics & show why I don't care a copper one way or the other & how I have reason to doubt the advantage to the country of our man more than another.

I haven't heard from mother but once, from Charlie I believe not at all. Write the news, and don't fill your letter with abuse, for Lizzie's edification - though she thinks she has a perfect right to laugh at it.

I want you to come here if possible this summer sometime during your vacation. You can go from Boston to Troy for \$5.00 remember. Lizzie says "I will write to you if you will write to me "a private letter" if you are very desirous of having one". They take much pleasure in criticizing my personal experience, no, my personal appearance. So you see I am a little confused, but this is better than a rope round one's neck.

Lizzie's love.

Yours affectionately O. O. Howard

Good or bad this will be an April fool.