

Howard University

Digital Howard @ Howard University

Correspondence

Oliver Otis Howard Collection

9-25-1853

Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 9/25/1853

O.O. Howard Collection

Follow this and additional works at: https://dh.howard.edu/ooh_corr

Recommended Citation

Collection, O.O. Howard, "Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 9/25/1853" (1853). *Correspondence*. 2.
https://dh.howard.edu/ooh_corr/2

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Oliver Otis Howard Collection at Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact digitalservices@howard.edu.

and I feel rather badly about it, for our studies now are of the utmost practical importance. Particularly Civil Engineering. There is too much drawing connected with this study. It is too great a tax upon my talent for this branch of art to be obliged to expere by a drawing every idea I may have on any subject. I rather think if this is to be the way my ideas are to be tested I will not be likely to have a great many. However, in this as in all things else I will work on. ^{From} ~~The~~ civil engineering I find that

I have not used my eyes sufficiently heretofore. This study is doing me good. I began to notice ~~buildings~~ buildings, structures of all kinds within the limited scope that I can survey. Their component parts and how they are put together. We learn in the first place all about the materials. Their composition their strength &c, of which structures are made, their use learn how to put them together. being able ~~to~~ in all cases to give the mechanical reason for every form, link or joint. We are sent up to the board to make drawings of bridges in plan, Elevation & perspective - as well as sketches. anchors &c. &c. We have little framed models of the same to examine & describe in detail. Prof. Mahan our instructor in this branch, deals largely in "Common Sense" He expects a young man to read over a long lesson - description of a dozen different structures and be able to tell by a drawing or on the floor every thing in detail so clearly that a workman could follow out ~~your~~ his description & make the construction. This is precisely of

I know I will improve, though as I said it is hard for
me to do it. Perhaps Rowland has told you that Mrs
General Scott was at the Hotel when he was here and
that he was introduced to her. The General himself is
here now. Trying the effect of electricity on his arm. I
fear it will never again be well. His left arm is almost
useless from wounds that he has received. He cannot
raise it to his head. Now then that his right arm is so lame
that he can scarcely move it he is rather badly off.
Mrs Scott made a party for her friends & acquaintances
amongst Cadets. which took place last night at the
Hotel. She invited me & I had to go thro. I did not
feel like it at all. She looked better & younger than I
ever saw her before last night. She was dressed
plainly without any ornaments except a circlet of pearls
~~and~~ embracing her hair. She gave me her hand & called
me by name & talked with me some time when I first came
in, which I never ~~felt~~ my vanity - showing as it did
that I was of consequence enough to be remembered by
Mrs General Scott. The lady who refused the hand of Mr
Scott - again of Clint Scott, but finally accepted
Earl Scott. who is now General Scott. She afterwards
introduces me to some fine young ladies. Then indicates
that I had not eaten any Oysters. Now you perceive
I don't eat Stewed Oysters but I thought I would
not explain my peculiar tastes to Mrs Scott. so
I went off to the table. eat a piece of cake looked at the
Oysters - thought they might be good to those who had
a taste for them I went away. I first was not in my

good spirits. But a young man came to me and asked if
I would not like to dance with him (i.e. take a lady
and dance opposite to him as in the Spanish form) in a Grandville
I told him I would. He soon appeared on the floor with
Miss Kate Thompson - one of the old maids with whom
I used to board. She must be 50 or near it. She was dressed
like a girl of sixteen in a beautiful silk dress - low in the
neck and coming to his heels (before & behind) at the
waist. She had on beautiful satin slippers - what recollections
I picked forth from beneath the folds of her rich dress - How
you like she looked very young & beautiful from her feet
to her neck. But her face with its age wrinkles were
nonchalant out of place, as Dr. Mahan ^{would} remark
"Effectually marred the Architectural effect". A few
young people are "mighty apt" to titter upon ~~and~~
witnessing such ludicrous combinations - but I was
good for it and the young lady who danced with me showed
hardly a frown after my levities. Surprised there was
an encirclement of her arm which dispelled all
my discontent. The next Grandville I danced with her as
a partner. She took me up & introduced me to General
Scott who made his appearance about that time -
Tall he who is a good sized man about as large as
my father, looked like a boy in stature by the side of the General.
Oh what a powerful man he must have been in
his prime. He was dressed in uniform last night. Looked
splendidly, towering as he did above every body about him.
He had to bend down to hear my reply when he asked what
State I was from. He said he supposed I had no objections
to being thus young ladies & dancing with them. He thought it absurd