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Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 11/26/1854

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Waterloo Arsenal

West Troy N.Y.

Nov. 26th 1837

My dear Mother,

I hear through Rowland that you have been sick, but that you are better now. I am almost grieved at receiving no news from home for this very long time. Not a word since I left. Fannie should write and tell me if you are sick. I think the principal reason must be, that you have so many boys away from you that you cannot find time to write to all, and consider the younger have more especial need of your counsel. But whatever may be the reason of your long silence, I hope & trust, my dear Mother, that you are now enjoying the best of health, but if you are not I ought to know, for I can go to visit you now.

I was introduced to a young French Officer, an exile from France, at May Springtown some time ago. He had no resources, was in a foreign country, could speak the English but imperfectly, and hardly knew how to get along. He commenced to write a book at last. He had completed it in French & wished to get it translated. Some clergymen in May undertook it but soon gave up the task

as impracticable, or because they had not time. He
came to me. I told him to render his work into as
intelligible English as he could, and I would
re-write it, and make good English. Striving to preserve
his style of writing if possible. I have been some
times at work already. I know I have devoted too
much time to this work, but I wish to relieve this
poor fellow from the pressure of debt, in short
do for him just what I would wish one to do
for me if by any means I may find myself in
a foreign country without friends or home. His
father was an Officer in the French Staff is no
now but is still with his whole family, because
he did not favor Louis Napoleon's election. I was
in hopes to derive much benefit from associating
with this young French Officer, for he is a gentle-
man & of course has a perfect command of his own
language. I talk French with him a little but
not much yet. For now it is easier for him to
speak English than for me to speak French.

Well when I have got through writing in his
book for the day besides my other duties which
I have not been very light recently. I do not
feel as if I could write any more. So I get
ready and go up to Maj Lynington's, where
I am treated as one of the family. They put all
confidence in me and have done so ever since
I have been on the post. Mr Bugeo who went

on an inspecting tour. has returned and Gen.
Shank has come, so, now there are three of
us here. On many accounts which I do not like
to name, it is better that I should be married.
but I have not enough to furnish my quarters
properly without running in debt. I reckon
it is better to keep along as I am. I really believe
though I should lay by more money if I was
a married man. but this would be a funny
thing to get married for. Mrs Synington, takes
all the care of me in the world. she does not wish
me to go into any mess; but she first. Her children
are attached to me. jump up in my lap. kiss
me & play with me. The soldiers all like me
& do as I wish them, without my having to
exert much authority. all things go nicely & I
ought to be contented & happy. My circumstan-
ces could not be better. so my dear mother
may never be anxious for me more than she
can help. I have been to church every
Sunday but one. and that was very rainy &
a young officer McCherson of the Engineers came
to see me from a town below here where
he was temporarily on duty. He spent the
Sabbath & would have gone to church in
troop with me if it had not rained. My
heart is not without religious feeling - I try
to do right. though I am always failing. Miss

Mary Synington is what I think a true
Christian, true she has her faults & who was
not? But there is a consistent, intelligent belief
in the Bible and she always strives to govern
herself & do good. Her conversations with me
have had a beneficial influence for she can
so candidly & correctly point out my difficulties
and the way to overcome them. That I cannot
help listening to her & conforming in a measure
to what she would advise, when I might
have felt as wise things from another & heed
it not. This Mary is remarkable for her
straightness & with into character. Her education
mostly of her own getting, and her good improved sailing,
but she has not the least pretension to personal
beauty. In her society I never have felt any
of those emotions, which are wont to make one feel
& speak softly in the presence of a beautiful lady.
But I confess, there is something very agreeable
in her conversations, and in her quiet, unpreten-
ding manners - something that makes her
appear like a sister. Give my love to
all, Tell me about Charlie, Deline, Katherin
Kolan, Father of all - Remembering always
that I am yours
very affectionately
Olas