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Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 04/8/1855

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Waterloo Arsenal

April 4th 1855.

My dear mother,

I have been in hopes, Lizzie would have written you a descriptive letter before this, but to tell the truth I do not think she likes to write letters very well. However, you may expect to get one from her one of these days. Our spring is opening one of these gradually, the snow has quite disappeared from the hills that are visible from our chamber windows - and the birds, such as sparrows, robins & blue-birds have made their appearance, and pleasantly greet us every ~~plain~~ morning. The surrounding country here is quite rugged and occasionally Lizzie finds sites that remind her of scenery in Maine. One little grove that tops a high hill on the opposite side of the river, she says is just like Mr Bates' Grove. But this part of the world is not thickly settled & furnish more than a mere similitude to anything in Leeds as yet. We spent one day in Albany - one day or a portion of it in paying calls in Troy - and taken one or two drives - but for the greater portion of the time we have kept ourselves inside of the walls, enjoying the comforts of home as best we might. I have been

quite busy myself making drawings. Serving on a
Garrison court-martial held here &c. but I have not
been over-burdened with the labor of any kind. The army
bill that I spoke of when at home, underwent change
after change and did not pass - The two regiments
however, were formed and the appointments made,
but the Ordnance Corps was left as it was of old.

About the time of my marriage the death of Maj Harding
occurred which promoted me from Major 2nd to 2nd Lieut.
and an appointment from our department to fill an
office in one of the new regiments being made raised
me one step nearer to a 1st Lieutenantcy - In two years
from the evening July I shall be a 1st Lieutenant
of the present law of creating three 1st Lieutenants
who have been in service 14 years, continues in force.

This does not matter much in the way of pay, but
will give me more responsible posts, and probably an
increase of duty. I have generally attended church in Troy.
Previous to my marriage I was in the habit of attending the
episcopal service at what is called St Johns Church,
and so when Lizzie has been she has accompanied me
there. I went there in the first place because
the Maj's family attended the same & I could have
company. I went ~~once~~ ~~or~~ twice to hear Dr
Beeman the Presbyterian Clergyman of Troy, but his

young assistant officiated both times. I went once
to hear Dr Hally, another presbyterian, and said
to have been the one of the best preachers in Troy, but
unfortunately he had resigned his post the Sunday
before. I have received three letters from Rowland
since I returned and am good long one from Charlie.
Probably you hear from them oftener than I do so -
I will not repeat anything they wrote. I am glad
Charlie is getting on so swimmingly with his studies.
He is so far advanced that his next summer's work
will be nothing but a review. With a difference
between that and the amount of Latin & Greek I
had to read that last term before entering College.
I never have "taken time by the fore-lock"; though now
I have learned to be pretty prompt. Charlie has this
advantage, a good solid foundation, and the experience of
his brothers before him. You may remember how
curious I used to be about Uncle John's College
course. Rowland is doing well in College, and there
is now no doubt of Charlie's doing well if he can have
his health. I cannot hope while in the Army to be more
comfortably situated than I now am. Really I am
denied nothing that I could reasonably wish for, but
the society of my friends & relatives left behind
me. Rowland & I had a very long & happy conver-

sation touching upon the past, when I visited him
at Oley. We put together what we could remember
of ^{our} father. He told me of reading letters written in
his youth & of many things he had gathered &
retained in mind. You don't know how much
I wish I had seen Grandmother when at home.
It seems wished not to have visited her, but
perhaps it is as well. Did she say anything about me
about not seeing me or about my marriage?
I wish to know any little incident ~~so~~ connected
with her or her death. Rowland told me about the
funeral. Tell me what Aunt Fanny had to
say, how she looked? much older or about the
same? I saw Uncle John Otis' arrival in N York
with his wife and little boy, by the paper. I
presume he is on his way to Philadelphia or
Baltimore. How our family is getting
scattered. Lizzie is writing to Laura for me
while I write to you. I wish you could pay us
a visit and see Lizzie & her husband in their pleasant
home. There are two things we have to dread
and they are not domestic difficulties - they are
dust and mosquitoes - I suffered much from
the former after I came in October. Dust troubles
me very little - but Lizzie will suffer from it -
My love to all affectionately yr son Otis -

Fanny's name is written in the margin.