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Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 07/1/1855

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Waterloo Arsenal N. Y.

July 1st 1855

My dear Mother

I feel ashamed of my negligence in letter writing. For I verily believe I have not written you since you wrote the account of Arza's death. I have staid day after day for some time. I must write mother what will she think if I do not, but I have allowed one thing or another to prevent me. For the past week I have been very much engaged on an examining committee in Troy. The examination was at the Female Seminary, under the direction of Mr & Mrs Willard. In the course of the year they have some three hundred scholars, of whom about two hundred & fifty. As soon as the report of our Committee comes out I will send it to you so that you will see what part I played at the lengthy examination, as well as what a superior school we have near by. Yesterday and today the weather has been so hot that we are longing for a cool draught of air. There is air in plenty stirring but it is not cool. This morning Lizzie and I walked to town to Church. I have hired a small pew at the Episcopal Church in Troy, and hope now we shall attend regularly. We had a very interesting sermon addressed

to the Sabbath school this morning by our pastor Mr Temple.
Mr Temple is a Welsh man by birth, educated in the English
School. He has a peculiar accent, is not a great speaker or
writer but a good kind man and I like his sentiments.
His sermons are simple and instructive, really a reiteration
of what one already knows. But I think it better for me
to keep good, wholesome, practical lessons constantly in mind
than to be striving after new things the whole time. I mean
on a moral point of view Poor Liza has gone to his rest. The next
world will be brighter for him than this has been. And
Father, how does he do? I did not go to Boston to meet
Lizzie; she came alone as far as 13 - Col Coxy our ~~chief~~
Chief of Corps accompanied her as far as Springfield -
Maj's Myrington & Tagger were just coming through
and accompanied her - I met them at East Albany depot.
So, you perceive she was under distinguished & safe
protection. I am glad you did not decide to go to
Boston, ^{on my account} as it would have been inconvenient for me to
have met you there. I met to have written Roland to leave
congratulated him on his marriage. Tell him I should
have kept the bride & claimed her as my sister. Give
them both my love and my hearty good wishes for
their prosperity. Tell Roland he must make her particularly
happy. I should like to visit them very much.
Do you see Warren and his wife often? Remember me to
them when you see them. Tell me if ^{old} Mr Moore still survives.
I have not heard from Charlie or Roland since Lizzie's
return. She was pleased with her visit but seemed very
happy to get back again. Mr Moore has to travel several times

together - to two parties and to a concert given at the Female
Seminary during the Examination. She went to the
Examination with two days, the Maj advised her to keep
along with me, while I was engaged in that dangerous
occupation of examining pretty girls. How is Della
getting on this summer? Working hard and growing? She
suddenly neglected him among my other correspondents - I
my best chance of forgiveness in that quarter is to
write him a very lengthy Epistle. I want him to
write me and tell me about - hopes and fears, and projects
that may be ^{undergoing} the process of formation in his head.
He has read much of history & entered into Geography
extensively, so he need not confine himself strictly
to statistics, but branch out a little and give me
a clue at his thoughts. Give him my love -

I have finished my topographical drawing of the
Grounds, but still have others to do. We are expecting
some changes here this summer. Mr Lunt has been
recommended to establish an Ordnance Depot, at
Fort Leavenworth, on the Missouri river if you remember
perhaps Della could ~~have~~ tell you the number of miles
from its mouth. If I had been unharmed I would have
liked that strategy: for there would be something to call on
ones energies a little. Lizzie got considerably fatigued
in her long & hot walk this morning and is sleeping
in her rocking chair near by. She says it is too hot to
lie down on the lounge. Write me dear Mother as soon as you
can get leisure. My love to all - and believe me affectionately
Yours Son, Otis

Dear Mother,
I see that Otis has not covered the page, but I do not know as he left it expressly for me, however I presume he will not object to my writing you. I believe I have scarcely written you at all since I have been at Waterlot, why I cannot tell. I assure you my intention has been all the while to write to you often. I did not leave Lewiston as early as I expected when I parted with you on account of Mother's not being as well as when I first went to Leeds. I regret so much that I did not see Rowland or Charlie. I did not know when I should start until that very morning, therefore I could not write to Charlie or Rowland as I intended. We received a letter from Otis Howard a few days after my return, giving me a very strong invitation through Otis to visit him on my way home. I did not stay long enough in Boston for that, but shall be very happy to do so some future time when Otis and I are visiting together. I have no news to write for I believe Otis has written that. He has not told you how pleasant Waterlot is looking, and I do not know as I could do it justice so I will not attempt it. Otis's garden is looking finely. I was walking in it after tea. The potatoes are in blossom. Tomatoes star, Peas and Strawberries

over since the day I got home after Emma's visit. I fully expect in a very few days, I shall be writing you again. I am writing you on Sunday evening at Waterlot. I have not been home since I got home from the day I finished the parties we are invited at this part of the week. I am writing you on Sunday evening at Waterlot. I have not been home since I got home from the day I finished the parties we are invited at this part of the week.

and believe me your affectionate daughter, Sarah