The letters of Oliver Wolcott Gibbs include some written to his family and to his friend, fellow inventor, and cousin, William F. Channing, while Gibbs was a student in Europe from 1845 to 1847. He wrote in detail of his work, his impression of European scientists (Berzelisu, Rose, Liebig, and others), and of the unrest in Europe which he prophesied would eventually lead to revolution. Likewise, he expressed his mind on American science and politics, particularly the war with Mexico, which he regretted as imperialism.

After 1869 there are only a few scattered letters, with the exception of a small group written by George Gibbs V in 1880 in Europe on a vacation trip and his 1918 recollections of his trip to Russia as part of the Railroad Mission. This journal was reprinted in the Spring, 1979 issue of The Wisconsin Magazine of History. In addition, the collection also includes a file of genealogical material on the Gibbs and Wolcott families and a number of oversize diagrams and maps. All of this material appears on the microfilm, although the original maps are catalogued as part of the Society's map collection. The call numbers for these three maps appear on the attached separation record.

Container List

Box	Folder	Reel	Frame	
				Correspondence
1		1	1	1762, 1796-1834
2	1-6	2		1835-1856
	7-8	3	1	1860-1873
3	1-2			1880, 1886, 1889-1903
	3		322	Undated
	4		495	Genealogical material on the Gibbs and Wolcott families, n.d.
	5		530	Russian journal, 1918
Photo Lots 3696 & 3697			651	Photographs and drawings
			737	Maps and diagrams
				See map catalog

Box	Folder	
4		Diagrams