

Portland June 12. 1843

Dear Mary

I arrived here safely this afternoon about one o'clock. I had a very pleasant ride, but like the old woman saw nothing but a few rocks and trees flying past. Tell father I saw no more of the gentleman who was to attend to my trunk and box, but I had no trouble, a man took me directly to Mrs Wells in time for dinner. I paid ninepence. The school-room is in the same building, but Mrs Wells excused me this afternoon before I thought of making the request. The school hours are from nine to 12 and half-past two, to 5 There are five boarding with Mrs Wells myself excepted, and about 20 scholars in all. There are two beds in the room I am to occupy. a Miss Green from Topsham (who has enquired about the Bourne, s and Perkins, s and says her great Grandmother resided in Kennebunk and was related to them,) occupies one bed with a Miss Whittier, <sup>from Belfast</sup> and a Miss Cushman from Augusta (who has been here since last December) and myself the other. I have a very good place and plenty of room for my clothes & trunk. The room is quite large and pleasant, has a carpet on the floor, 2 wash-stands & tables 2 looking-glasses 4 chairs each with 4 legs I expect, I have not yet counted them. I believe we are to take turns in making bed and sweeping the room

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society

(Local Code: Coll. 89 box 1/19)

Date: June 12, 1843

Description: Letter to her sister, Mary from Lydia Patterson

The washing is done out of the house, there are ten pieces allowed weekly. There is a boy in the house who does the errands. The letters are directed to the care of Mrs Wells and sent in a package to the house, I am told. The girls are very familiar but I do not like to make to many enquires the first hour. I shall know more about the school and studies the next time I write. I have the room to myself this afternoon the school is out and one of my roommates has gone out to ride, and another called me to see a steamboat come in, and then took her bonnet and went out. I had forgotten to say my room is in the third story of a large brick building or block of buildings I scarcely know how it looks outside yet. There is a very prettily furnished room on the first floor which I went into first, and suppose it to be the common parlor as I was there introduced to Mrs and Miss Kellog and all the young ladies. I have contrived to fill a letter with almost nothing according to directions. I shall be very glad to receive a letter from you this week and let me know how mothers plaster draws. and all the little news both in doors and out I feel very well contented so far and think when you come I shall feel a great deal better I think of nothing more to say at present excepting ink is purchased of Mrs Wells. I borrow this afternoon.

Yours affectionately

Lydia Patterson

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