



Kennebunkport May 7, 1850

My dear sister

While waiting for the carpet to blow a few minutes longer, I will improve the opportunity to commence another letter; for I have not had time to write the past week, without sitting up late at night.

We are all very well, or progressing finely with our cleaning; I was about taking my pen last eve, to write, when Father or Mother came in from Aunt Mary's with an account of a tragedy, which at the time dissipated all my thought; & is now very unpleasant to write, & will be equally so for you to hear.

about eight

Last eve ^ Mr William Tinum committed suicide; by cutting his throat with a razor No particular reason for the deed is known; but I believe it is thought he might which

have been partially deranged, ^ combined with ill health & poverty induced the act. It would appear to have been premeditated; for he took the rings from his done

ears in the morn, gave them to Olive & told her to take care of them. It was ^ in his house, & that was not all which took place there that night: a jury of inquest was called, & there being no coroner, a Mr Kelly was sent for, who resided at Kennebunk, near the depot. When he went into the room he spoke to the gentlemen present; & Mr Mason handed him a paper to read, which they had drawn up; but perceiving that he was unable to read distinctly, & supposing it to be to the effect of coming so far in the cold, he read it for him; but had no sooner finished, than Mr K. fell down in an apoplectic fit; this took place about ten; he remained speechless until three, during which his wife was sent for, and arrived about fifteen minutes before he expired. Both were laid out, & Mr K's remains were taken home this afternoon. Mr T will be buried tomorrow morning

time previous

at nine o'clock, from his home. Mr K had not enjoyed good health or some ^ Evening, I find I must begin to economise soon, the sheet fills so fast

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local code: Coll. 89, Box 1/15)

Date: May 7, 1850

Description: Lydia Patterson of Kennebunkport wrote to her sister, Mary, a student at Bradford Academy in Massachusetts, about the suicide of a neighbor.

though I have nothing more of much importance to say. I hope the paper which I just found you in good health. you will perceive by the little bouquet that our flowers are thriving, though I have done nothing for them yet. Last Wednesday Father & Mother took tea at Mr Abbott's in company with Mrs Lugues & Mrs L Grant. The same day Mr & Goodwin set out four small elm trees in his field, bordering Green St, for which I feel grateful as it shows his good will toward old neighbors. Last Sabbath Mr Clark's daughter was ~~bapt~~ baptized at the altar & Mrs Leach & Miss Leach & Miss Jellerson at the river. Mrs Mason called at the door ^ to tell me that the society would meet this afternoon at the Misses Stone, but I have been too much engaged to attend, and besides, she appeared very desirous that I should be there, which leads me to think, that book is not disposed of yet.

I believe Mr Church is visiting at Mrs Lugues's, but I have not seen her, & hope she will not see me, unless we are through with the cleaning. Tomorrow we commence on the sitting room, which is the last large room. I am getting so sleepy, that I will wish my dear sister a good night.

~~not attended church~~ Sabbath P.M. We are all very well, but mother & I have not attended church to day, as it has been showery, & we are a little fatigued. Your very welcome letter found us yesterday afternoon very busy in putting down sitting room carpets & I know you will be glad to hear the house cleaning was entirely finished last eve, with the exception of the cellar, which Mrs D. will clean tomorrow afternoon, after the washing is done. Uncle E.'s family are well excepting that Aunt's L's foot is still lame, She declines doing much for it, thinking that it must have time to gain strength.

Susan Chadbourne's little boy is spending a few days with them. She has called but Thursday to ask mother if she would take one of the Domestic children, which she declined doing, at least for the present. They are very unwilling to go to the poor-house. We have received two magazines & with the last Bowdoin Catalogue all of which I will bring when I come. We were very happy to hear by Capt. L. on Friday that you were well, he said he should have called to see you but did not have time. Mother & I conclude that if you do not have an opportunity to laugh at yourself for being home-sick, you will not be without opportunity to laugh at others; for Capt L. said Miss A. had taken her little room-mate to Boston, to amuse & interest her, though I believe that is her place of residence. I must tell you that puss is at this moment sitting in the window, she comes regularly every day for her dinner, & seldom fails to receive it; partly on her own account partly on yours. I like the rule which requires retiring early, for I am satisfied that it will be for your health. I am very glad to hear that you are more pleasantly situated in regard to room-mates than you have been; & long to see you & hear particulars; not without ending your silence. I have feared you were not so comfortably situated as you could desire.

I hope your sleeping room is sufficiently airy to be healthful, without sleeping with a window much raised; if it opens into the parlor it will [ending crossed out] remedy the evil by leaving the door open. As to your carpet, Father & Mother think it will not do as well to have it taken up before the close of the term; if you should attend again you might need it, if it should be worth anything after serving this term; but you can do as you please, though I think if you should have it taken up, it would be a lot of concern there ~~at~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup>. You wish to know when I will come; but it will be difficult for me to tell you now, to a day, there are so many trifling circumstances to disappoint one. I have a little sewing to do for myself, besides going to Saco & we are thinking that Uncle & Aunt David may be here soon on a visit, which might detain me a day or two. I hope I may be able to come by the middle, or last of next week; but you must not be disappointed if I do not come until the week after next. The twilight is drawing on, & you see I am making a great many mistakes, so my dear sister good night.

Monday P.M. We are all well, the washing finished & Mrs D's floor cloth is making music down cellar & occasionally assisted by her voice. She sends her love to you, & says she wants to see the dear little thing. You say my dear, that you like to be constantly employed, that the time may pass rapidly. I would not indulge that feeling much my dear Mary, remember that we have but one life to live, and that the longest life is short, & try to pass the time so pleasantly, as well as profitably, that every moment may appear precious. I do not say to [illegible] life you to study, for I should ~~never~~ fear that you might apply yourself

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to closely. I have heard no news today, excepting that Mr T.'s children are all provided  
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I had written all the news; but they sent their love to you. I forgot to say I shall  
probably come by the first train and will try to let you know the day by a paper.  
I have no time to write more at present, as it is nearly time for the mail  
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From your affectionate sister

Lydia Patterson

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Miss Mary Patterson  
Bradford (Academy)  
Mass.