



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Coll. 89, Box 1/15) Date: April 22, 1851 Description: Lydia Patterson wrote to her sister with news of home and discussion of an upcoming visit she planned to Bradford Academy.

There is nothing here so urgent that it may not wait a few hours for a reading, or until you are at leisure, if it should not find you so.

Kennebunkport, April 22, 1851

My Dear Sister,

We are one more enjoying a pleasant afternoon, after having two stormy days since I last wrote, Neither mother, or I, were out on Sunday, & Mr B did not have services in the PM. If you can still say you have not been troubled with home-sickness, I think

you are now proof against the malady, which I sincerely hope is the case. You did not tell us my dear, that one of the young ladies boarding at the other house was ill, Capt. L. was down last Saturday, & told Father that he received a letter from L. about the 15th, saying that six of the eighteen were unwell with colds, caught by being out in the rain the first Sabbath you were there & that one, (a Miss Robinson,) had a fever; her Father had been sent for, but had not arrived and Mrs V. was there, at time of writing cutting off her hair. So you perceive you had better inform us of the worst yourself, for we shall hear it, & perhaps with a higher colouring; though I incline to the opinion, that you did not know anything of it. As you did not go out that afternoon from your home there must have been partiality, or more likely they were caught in returning from the morning services; in consequence of having further to go than you. Father has gone out to hear the news, & Mother is at Aunt Mary's, we have the parlor carpet out

blowing this afternoon. I have finished my moreen shirt & am now lengthing my dark Alpacca also have finished reading second Mrs J. & have commenced on second part of Butler's Analogy. Mrs Smart questioned Father very particularly to-day in regard to your school discipline. Her motive was probably to know if he was aware that you were under strict government. She thinks they should have sent Susan, but was confidentially informed of the fact, (by the lady whose acquaintance we have lately formed) - you will understand, she did not wish the name mentioned) and also that it rested more heavily on the younger pupils. I hope my dear, they will not consider you one of that class. We are very desirous to hear from you, particularly in regard

to your studies; for if you are disappointed in those, I know it will cause you to feel more discontented than strict rules; provided they do not deny you necessary comforts & conveniences.

Father is quite as willing my visit should be made since you left home, as you or I [word scatted out] and is inclined to hasten it. I long to be there for I might help to "put you through." I should still, a little prefer waiting until the middle of the term, on your account as well as my own; but if for any reason you should wish me to come sooner, I shall not be in the least particular about spring work, but will come with pleasure whenever you desire. You best know when your winter clothing is no longer necessary, & as to going to Saco for berage that would not be very important, for I shall certainly lend you mine if I cannot pattern it, there. I might succeed as well in Haverhill, or afterwards at Saco & make them to bring, or send by the time of the examination. I might have informed you by my last letter, of Capt. Oliver Walker's illness but I did not think about it, as I had lately heard of it. He was confined to the house

on Tuesday 15th and to his room about Thursday or Friday & on Sunday eve at ten o'clock he expired. The funeral will take place tomorrow, The Methodist Society will meet tomorrow at Mrs Stephen Wards - we are invited to attend. Wednesday eve, My dear Sister, I have just returned from the society & will now give you an account of the doings of the day. I attended the funeral this afternoon which commenced at two o'clock, - remarks made by Mr Bowman & Mr Baker, The church was well filled; & when the procession was formed from the Mrs W's house, it extended nearly to ours. Afterwards attended to shopping - bought a pair of worsted hose

at Mr L's, could procure a pair of blue ones, the colour of your silk dress, if you wish  
me to, for 47cts, about as coarse as our coarsest black ones, but not so good quality) also  
a neck-ribbon at Miss D's, she returned from Boston last Saturday. Then ^ at Mrs Gould's  
but learned that she went to Boston last Monday; is a little expected to return this eve.  
Business probably to Watertown, as Lucy expects to attend that school, 17<sup>th</sup> May. Called at  
Mrs Cousen's, then returned home & finished Alpaca dress & went to society at six. - all attended  
Expectet to see Mr H. there, as he attended the funeral, & played the Organ, but presume he  
returned home early. Society passably pleasant; - the second quilt commenced, & every one  
preset dunned for five cents to purchase materials. You were frequently inquired after.  
No appointment made for next meeting. I paid ten cents, (our share in Mr I.'s quilt, to M.  
Lugues; & likewise proposed going out with her some eve, to collect the remaining half  
that has not been paid in; which she readily assented too. Mother called at Mrs L's last eve  
she expects to go to Boston soon, to have her teeth, attended too; which accounts for that  
letter to Dr L... - if she meets him there, you may expect a call from "somebody" "Oh boy! for somebody."  
By the way, your rose is now bearing another expanding bud. I should hope the wind  
would favor a passage to B. rather than to R.I just now. Out first daffodil, bloomed to-day  
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Father ^ set out two elm trees, this week, one in the corner of back ^ in place of one which  
had died; the other in the garden, where the smallest maple was planted. I intended to be  
economical this time, in regard to paper, but the other kind was ruled too near to  
admit of writing between the lines - but it extended only to the paper, For I presume that you will think I  
have no pity on the ink.  
I must wish you a good night my darling sister, for it is getting  
late, & we must commence house-cleaning in good earnest to-morrow, if it is pleasant.  
Thursday eve, - We have cleaned, & put down the carpets in the two sleeping chambers  
to-day, & never finished earlier, or felt less fatigued with the days work than now.  
I should feel quite comfortable & happy, if I knew you were so, - but I have one consola  
tion, which is by no means small; -- that of asking & endeavoring to believe that you  
recieve the desired blessings. It is the strangest wish of my heart my dear sister, that  
you may be a christian now. Perhaps it appears strange that I should say this to you, who  
know so well how often & how greatly I sin, - but I do not ask you my dear to  
follow my example; but follow the example & obey the commands of Jesus Christ.  
I am unworthy even to write the name. My darling, you know the way.  
I did not tell you last night, that Mrs Bourne inquired particularly how you liked Miss  
H. [word scratched out] She said that she used to make an effort to interest the pupils, & would  
sometimes read  
I her sister's (Mrs J.'s) letters to them probably the same that are now published in the Memoir.  
I told her I thought you liked her; but I do not know exactly how to answer the question.  
I tell them I believe you like tolerably well; find them rather strict, but have not been there  
sufficiently long to know yet. You must tell me what to say, for I do not know your  
opinion yet, myself. Please make a distinction between the two Misses Hasseltins. X  
X [written on the side of letter] That request is unnecessary, as you have done so in your last letter.  
At society, the gentlemen were a long time in getting through with tea, & last year's game  
was played, -- that of pulling them back from the table, The noise inclined Mrs Lugues to go  
and see if it was caused by playing, -- after giving a few hints, she came & reported to  
Mrs Abbott. (Mr A had gone home.) I do not imagine it game offence, as it did not come under the  
head of play; but I do not consider the proceeding very complimentary to the young people.  
When will they be old enough to take care of themselves, & refrain from telling fibs; that their  
mothers may trust them? It is reported that Mr Hayes really intends to marry; (his lady  
before mentioned.) Some one at the stores remarked "if he said so, they did not believe it."  
I do not know why you did not recieve the paper we sent, as early in the day as  
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the letter; for they were both sent by ^ six o'clock mail. If they pass through a  
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[postmark] Kennebunkport Me APR 29

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Miss Mary Patterson

Bradford (Academy)

Mass.