

Boston 3rd April 1815. If I could get but one good pen
my dear Sister I would write you such a letter as
you never — will see — This is barely tolerable but
I suppose if I summon all the godlike qualities of
my mind Glue them together with patience so that they
will not part in the application I may ^{yet} contrive to give
you a very pretty recipe for the vapours to put you
at once in the best possible Spirits you must know my
departure must practically take place within 10 days
— The packs sailed yesterday with about \$4000
worth of goods for me — They are all insured —
another will probably sail next week — with the [crossed out]
— just that goes the remainder of my goods will be sent
[page torn] — you must write me oftener & more circumstanc
[page torn] after I get to Baltimore — Considering all
[page torn] gain & all I shall lose this thing comforts
[page torn]e surprisingly — that you can't possibly write me less
frequently after I get there than you have here — now
let me tell you & seriously as I can write it, that
you must both write me at least once a
month by mail I shall reply by private conveyance
if possible — if not by mail I pay the postage
myself — The prospect now unfolding is brighter
than any I have been indulg'd with at any former
period of my life — I go South'r under greater
advantage than I could ever have hoped for —
when I commenced here I expected my residence to
be permanent — even now I feel a sort of reluctance
to depart — tho perfectly satisfied that with
the same abilities which in Boston would support
me I should ~~be~~ soon be independent in Baltimore —

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me I should [crossed out] soon be independent in Baltimore
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 2125, Ser. 1 Box 1/2)
Date: April 3, 1815
Description: John Neal letter concerning move to Baltimore

where industry & attention to Business are ~~they~~
they will ^{be} always best rewarded — my worst
Friends do not deny that I have already suc-
ceeded where many would have failed — while
they acknowledge this they are Strangers to the
cause of that success — that cause is my
impudence — 'Tis the most useful Quality I
possess — no matter from whom I may have inherited
it — tis a most valuable Legacy — I had it a
brother that I dearly lov'd — whose prosperity was
mine — I would say to him as you prize your in-
dependence — as you value the Rhino, be impudent
as Beelzebub — could I bequeath it to a child —
I would ~~determine~~ as the Richest boon I could bestow —
the best fortune he could inherit — tis a
passport thro' the world — the impudent man makes
no friends tis true — but no one dares to be his
Enemy — he is not respected by all — but he
is despis'd by none — in Short impudence
is the touchstone of talent & Genius of transmutation —
this may seem to labor an Eulogy
on this quality — my friends know its usefulness & applica-
tion are familiar as my garter to myself — I will
wonder perhaps at my swelling so when defending it — but I
feel the subject warmly — I must write warmly — fools & knaves
have contriv'd to bring the proudest attribute of man into con-
tempt — Genuine impudence is Real independence —
who ever saw an impudent person totally destitute of talent —

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I know Rachel this is in the ^{very} face and eyes of
 all authority — but I have advanced an opinion & I
 know it can be ~~to~~ maintain'd — fools possess every
 other quality of the human mind in common with
 men of sense — but fools are never impudent — they
 are only impertinent — this quality of the feeling bears
 precisely to ~~impudence~~ the same relation ^{the latter} to impu-
 dence that bashfulness does to modesty — tis in fact
 inseparable from a noble mind — a being feels ~~feels~~ his
 superiority & his looks speak it — his opinions however
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 body of mankind — now as the body of mankin
 are ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~weak, foolish, & [?]cuous~~ — the conclusion is that very
 naturally follows that — that — I should like to
 know my dear what kind of conclusion follows so naturally —
 — This ought to go to the press — now for a
 subject more in unison with my feelings — I leave New
 England in a few days — I go, where the very
 name of New England is treated with bitter-
 ness or derision — But oh! land of my fathers I go
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 Good Bye John N

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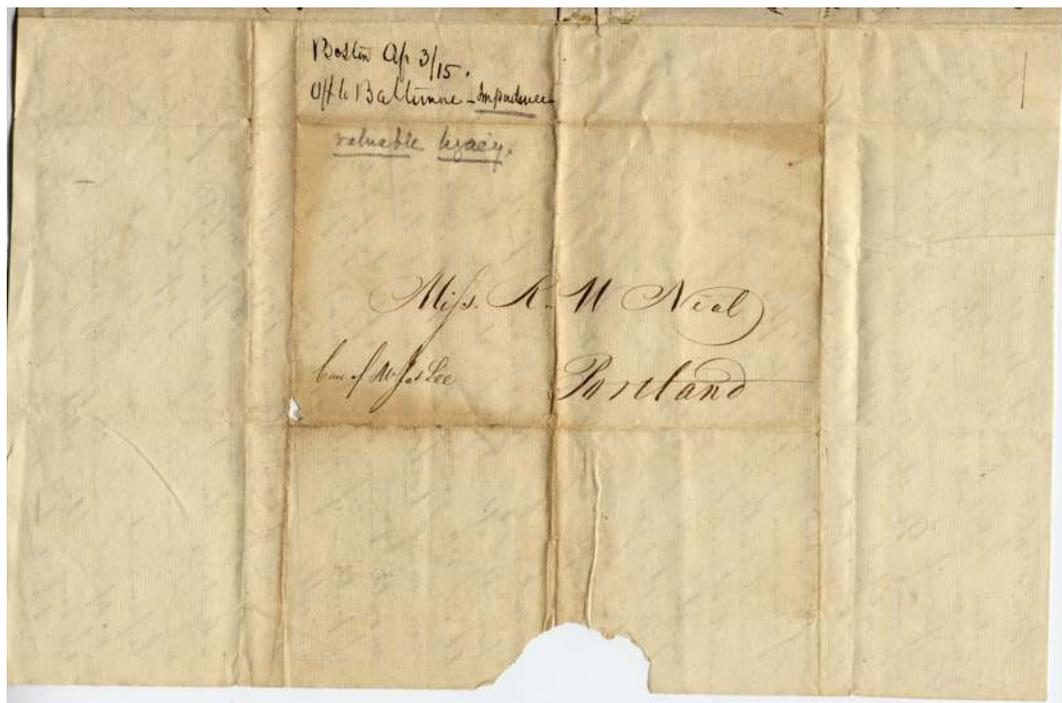
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Goodbye.

John N—



Miss R. M Neal
Care of Mr Jas Lee Portland