ing over it a half an hour or so; set me into a most outragous burst of laughter -- and devilishly mal-a-pro-pos too I assure ye — for just at that moment who lent it me...&

The good old lady ^ who, by the way is a relation of the author-ess was just asking my opinion! -- and I, unlucky wretch-was exactly asking her "to oblige me with the loan of

As true as you are a sinner the first thought that whisked itself into my noddle after profoundly work-

Now, my sister prepare for a little modest astonishment -- but before I venture to surprise you to any alarming degree let me ask you If you have any Remembrance of the <u>Character</u> of Miss Harriet Porter? once, they say here, but another name for gaiety & Sprightliness -- and almost Rudeness! tell if not in Clay cove — <u>whisper</u> it not in the Streets of Portland Well child, this Identical Miss Harret Porter did write or, cause to be written whilst on a visit to this place, the preceding fervent effusion -- the foregoing comfortable <u>sighings</u> & Breathings of a contrite &

Broken spirit.

this Exell-ell-- ha! ha! ha! says I--

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

(Coll. 2125, Ser. 1, Box 1/2)

Date: 1814 ca.

Description: John Neal letter to sister Rachel

and in one unlucky moment I lost the good opinion of most worthy most Excellent Woman --- after having sucessfully cultivated it for six months by constant attention to Gravity — and by constant adhe rence to 2 simple rules I had laid down — first now for a moment to forget the most profound & pitious deportment — and always where an opportunity occurrd, proper or not proper - tuck in like Sancho Panza a wise old saw —— or a string of Solomons proverbs ---- Now, this woman had a daughter--- "thereby hangs a tail" would you desire to learn what made me guilty of this outrage. I will tell you that only a thought of Christening the performance was the cause. I could'nt help thinking of two famous works, p[page torn] long since by some devout & well meaning folks "Hooks & Eyes for unbelieving breeches" & "gentle shoves for heavy- a-s-'d Christians-! I think the latter would be a very appropriate title for H.P. letter o Girl! Girl! how would the uncircumcised rejoice should all this prove a hum a dream, a "tale told by and Idiot; full of sound and fury: signifying nothing"-Should this amiable and enthusiastic girl relapse into her former habits (after describing her sufferings so eloquently) and thinking cheerfullness the characteristic of real christians: mistake her former noisy gaiety and mirth; her old habits of unthinking levity & glee for that cheerfulness. What an incalculable injury will be done to Religion! all such ardent proffessions would be regarded as moon struck -- weak, wrong headed and mistaken worshippers of they knew not what

	to Those who are and awared and I of our relevence and Those who
er	The state of the state of
	to those who are not avour enemied of our relegion, and those who they can descree infirmity on hour out any things
	the state of the s
	wrong in The lives of the Religious. They they become the subject of Rids
1	reale. score. contempt and censure: propertioned to the digree of
	michelance the Att was the
	wicked ness - thoughtles ness - or betterness of the observer.
	Thirt of the state
	The week young one store to whom are alluded - as danger of the
tous	The ble state (c): I still and let to be with the thirty to ablact
cour	Houble John Goddard of this place and sister to her who hore those " lectes of light" which set the hearts of so many Tolland Beauto en a flame the
	light" which set the hearts of 10 many Toilland Beauty in alland it
	I'll i'll a prame the
	last spring - I sest a a Comet well sometimess with his lail condes
	6
100	which will be world on two - Bury in ashes a little universe or
Carlo 1	which with his flambings and baganess a system enter River - lest ye deliceious and was worn bolanes of the ling god! list ye two fisted male hells ye practing woodlands and is dayed
	delegioned and the less ye
	and were worn colored of the true and lit +
	ye parting we il , a let ye woo fested more hells
	ye parting woodlands and je dancing, skepping, handseloffing soft
	heathing, and the first handselokhund sold
	mountained - lest, while I will I'll
	hinkes Hill
	heathing mountains lest! while I wach the praises of mermaids with
	colored charles
	pinker Hish and sea green hair I more maids with cooling hair of nango colored chaps! But now for "my briefly young creture" - such highly the hours of more almost always for highly
	colored & touching appeals to one sympachy are almost always successful and in demands of a master of the athas & sentement to consistable least and in
du	of any appeals to our sumbond
	the hours of a master of Bathas V. Sentement to constable and in change dying by inchis whilst the speaking heats
/	di di athas V sut
to	arrange dyrug by inchil
	whilst the speaking best 11.11
200	me and prove a most powerful.
,	enable write B. The and interesting theme in it bands of
Miro	- West give it to the Orate I !!
	powers, and wrote as to the till the state of the state of the collection
1	sull a fire point - then with a lite of it is
	and welly over whelmed every beach.
00	ness the west stand of our facility or and
1	in gratefull adjustice of al //
ian	to which - " !! I for pay from our hearts than !!
5	1. 18 it destre man I it
	the have of a reaster of the athers & sentencent to irresistate I beauty much always hoose a most powerfull and interesting themen in the hands of a look must each write. But your it to the Orator! I slow & imprecipitely he collect his sound, now weight as to the print then with a flood of suisibility to contrassion ress. The gratifule affecting of our soul! or grady with a volving kind weight and play from our hearts throw were the and of southing kind to refer to the gratifule affectively af ply from our hearts throw every channell blent one other falures of survey with these seas alives of prejundly in dely has sone to realise and all alled beautions to realise the presently in dely passion to realise the following the contrast of prejundly in dely the course most only can dury is written feelingth?
,	passion to retiment obscure, and render top to all alked ones ion mobody can day is written "feelings" " you will do will to take comical pastine - letterally where the sures to their me a certain the
ter.	passion of ruling of
	ons we not ody, can de new bloguet de 11
um	and I , " many is written feet Il"
	per at a hali
	comical 1.
	1) positive - letterall
	Hungard P.l. I way up in End!
	1. how much
	Junger with die 1 1 1 1 hanger in
100	and troubles on 1, I If they the early "
iti	Thould, I ge will on by our
	when your all to get
y	from the front
6	another peop at a paisage where the durks to their well do well to take comical pastine. It letterally up in End! how much consist to their in a certain being finger with the has troubles on has should up the eye leds" or by one unto soon. Your affolionate Pro the John
tah	
-	

to those who are <u>not</u> avowed enemies of our religion, and those who <u>Rejoice</u> when they can discover infirmity or point out any thing wrong in the lives of the Religious they they become the subject of Ridicule. scorn. contempt and censure: proportioned to the degree of wickedness – thoughtlessness – or bitterness of the observer.

The "lovely young creature" to whom she alluded was daughter of the Honble John Goddard of this place and sister to her who bore those "locks of light" which set the hearts of so many Portland Beaux in a flame the last spring — Just as a Comet will sometimes with his tail condes cend to singe a world or two -----Bury in ashes a little universe - or whisk with his flauntings and Vagaries a system into Ruin -- lest ye delicious and woe worn volarus of the tiny god! list ye two fisted mole hills ye panting woodlands and ye dancing, skiping hands-clapping soft breathing mountains -list! while I warble the praises of mermaids with pinkee flesh and sea green hair -- & mere-maids with coelico hair & orange colord chaps! ---- But now for "my lovely young creature" --- such highly colord & touching appeals to our sympathy are almost always successfull - and in the hand of a master of Pathos & sentiment - tis irrestible! beauty mouldering --dying by inches! -- whilst the speaking hectic flushes her cheek must always prove a most powerfull and interesting theme in the hands of any tol erable writer --- But give it to the Orator! Slow & imperceptibly he collects his powers, and urges us to the point -- then with a flood of sensibility & compassion suddenly overwhelms every feeling of our soul! -- or guides with soothing kind throb

ness the gratefull ^ [crossed out] of pity from our hearts thro every channell to relief — ... but Sister may not these sensations of frequently undulgd blunt our other feelings — obscure, and render torpid all other passion & sentiment — her Eloquent description of her conversion nobody can deny is written "feelingly" — you will do well to take another peep at a passage where she sinks to sleep in a certain very comical posture — litterally up in End! — how much easier might Bunyans Pilgrim have slept "hanging By the eyelids" or by one finger with all his troubles on his shoulders — Your affectionate. Broth John

Tour arrectionate Broth

write soon



Miss H. W. Neal Portland