



Fryeburg June 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1817

My very Dear Brother,  
Yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> was handed last evening; and words are to feeble to paint the emotions it excited love grief and gratitude took possession of my [?], love which if possible was increased by your kind solicitude for my happiness grief that I should have given you pain; and gratitude that you should still remember one so unworthy of your affections. My feelings are too real to suffer me to remain silent and have risen early on this sacred morn to give them vent by writing although I know of no opportunity of conveyance till the next mail You pitied me Josiah; I could expect nothing less from your sympathetic heart, which was always open to all my sorrows, Can you forgive me for so often burdening you with them? I think you will believe me when I say there is no one else to whom I can open my mind so freely, on whose counsel I would so implicitly follow. You brought your God to pity me also; your pious prayers were not offered up in vain, I am much happier than when I last wrote, not from any change in my circumstances but from having reasoned myself into a state of more calmness. You ask if I am assured that my Father has withdrawn from me his affections & I would be [word crossed out] willing to think otherwise; But he told me repeatedly that he should be glad when I was gone, but I will not dwell on a theme so unpleasant. You beseech me to seek the consolations of Religion. I think I do feel a desire to become one of God's children, that I do feel a wish to have the Savior for my friend. Do pray for that this desire may be strengthened, that I

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Date: June 22, 1817  
Description: Hannah Pierce about teaching in Fryeburg

may be enabled to "so seek that I may find  
so knock that the door of grace may be opened  
to me" I think I am sensible that I am a great  
sinner, but my heart is hardened in sin I fear, for  
I cannot feel that love for divine things that I  
wish, my affections towards my God and Savior  
are cold and languid, and my impressions of  
sorrow for sin are not so pungent as they ought  
to be for so great an offender. Why as I do  
cold and dead? Why so ungrateful to the best of  
Beings, who notwithstanding all my transgressio-  
ns ever has and still continues to load me with  
mercies? Why do I feel such an unwillingness  
to speak of these things to any one? is it pride  
O Lord! search search my heart and see? I never  
wished to see you so much in my life as I now  
do, for I have never opened the state of my mind  
to any one, and to you I could do it witho-  
ut reserve: this is at present impracticable, but  
I know that though distant you do and will  
pray for me. Do not neglect to write me I want  
your advice and reproof, I think I could bear  
reproof with meekness. I will now inform you  
of the particulars of my situation, as to my wor-  
ldly concerns, a merciful God still continues  
to me my health, and his good providence  
has placed me where I am pleasantly situated  
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every attention I could wish, from kind friends,  
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employers I have upwards of 30 scholars, who find ample employment for me 8 hours in the day. I made a visit at Baldwin last week; though at my departure not one of the family requested it, but I had the offer of a passage in a chaise and my love to my dear native village induced me to accept it. I went home on Friday and returned on Monday, was received by my Mother and Sisters with apparent cordiality, whom I found in good health. Sally has gone to Portland to school. I hope it will be a profitable summer to her. Our Father was absent when I arrived and did not return till Saturday evening. He too appeared to be glad to see me, and had the goodness to let the little boys come and bring me home which was very pleasing to them. I did not visit any of our friends at B. but was told that most of them was in good health. Mrs Radding continues very low. Phebe Flint has been deranged but now some better; it is thought that the misconduct of her sisters was the cause of her derangement. I am very sorry Aunt Flint's family should turn out so badly, I think their respectability has received a death blow. Our Sisters I find have no communication with them. Mamma has been to see Sarah she says that she appears very much as formerly, I hope both she and Fanny will be made sensible of their error and ask forgiveness of Him who alone is able to forgive. I could say much more but I have almost covered my paper and it is time to prepare for meeting, with the most grateful acknowledgements and tenderest affection I am as ever yours.  
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