

Gorham April 19. 1861.

Dear Hannah.

I was glad to hear by Elisabeth letter that you were all comfortable in your quiet retreat at Baldwin & that you were relieved from your greatest annoyance - B. Winn - & I hope you will be able to get along the coming year without serious difficulty - from any source.

You have probably seen a notice of the death of Mr Daniel Fox - He died the 12th of April - after a distressing confinement of more than six years to his room. He was buried on Monday My wife & I went to the funeral - which was attended by a large concourse - Sister Ruth was there - she is well Mrs. Pierce did not come home till yesterday.

Nancy is now at home helping Ella get ready for her years absence. Ella will leave home a week from Monday & I expect to go with her - as far as Albany - or perhaps to Rome - 130 miles beyond Albany. We expect George to make a flying visit at home - of a day or two to see Ella - before she goes away - Eva, is very feeble - & cannot leave her room - indeed she cannot walk at all. Her little girls are well. She calls the new one Margaret-Payson. For a particular friend

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Date: April 19, 1861
Description: Josiah Pierce on the Civil War

(Margaret Codman that was) whom she promised to name for her - but Eva says had she not so promised she should have named her Ruth Crocker - as she was born on Sister Ruth's birth day.

Dear Hannah. I have let your money received from the Bank - & from Mr Ducker. & put \$2. to it and got a note for you on demand for \$50. Your Bank Dividends were \$20. Mr Ducker \$28. & I added \$2. towards interest I owe you. The note is signed by Daniel C. Emery Esq who is perfectly good. & I can get you the pay - in ten days any time - Mr E wanted it and I had no time to consult you. & I thought you might as well have it at interest and when you want any money, I will get it.

Three years ago to day Charles, Josiah, & I were at Baldwin. Then the roads were dry & dusty, - it is also 86 years to day since our Grandfather Thompson was killed. Since then our country has grown rich and powerful & renowned! But alas! How are we to day in the midst of a Revolution - a fraternal war - a divided people - No longer - & never shall be again the United States - Slaughtering our Kindred - and bringing unnumbered - woes, suffering, & death. & no one can see or fore tell when this state of things will have an end!

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We have foolishly - & wickedly - thrown away - the rich blessings, left us by our fathers - Wild reckless fanaticism. North & South. has produced these terrible fruits. All might have been well - by a little compromise - a little yielding on the negro question. I feel excessively sad about these troubles. I little thought you & I should outlive our Country's - Our Nation's - name, being, & glory! I suppose war in its most hideous & revolting aspect - will go on till - one or both sides - are exhausted - and then when vast amounts of property are wasted - trade ruined - thousands killed - or crippled - hundreds of families covered with mourning - & poverty. Some fortunate military chief - will assume the power - & establish despotism. I do not expect to see the end of this war. As we are situated here we must sustain the Government at Washington - we must not let our Capital fall into the hands of the desperate Southern Secessionists - therefore I think the President has done right in calling out 15,000 men, to protect our National City - There is great excitement in Gorham - more in Portland - still greater in Boston & New York.

I cannot at present go to Baldwin. And I wish Mr Charles Walker to repair my fences, & if he cannot I wish Mr Page to do the work.

All of my family at home send much love to you & all your family - Your affectionate brother Josiah

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