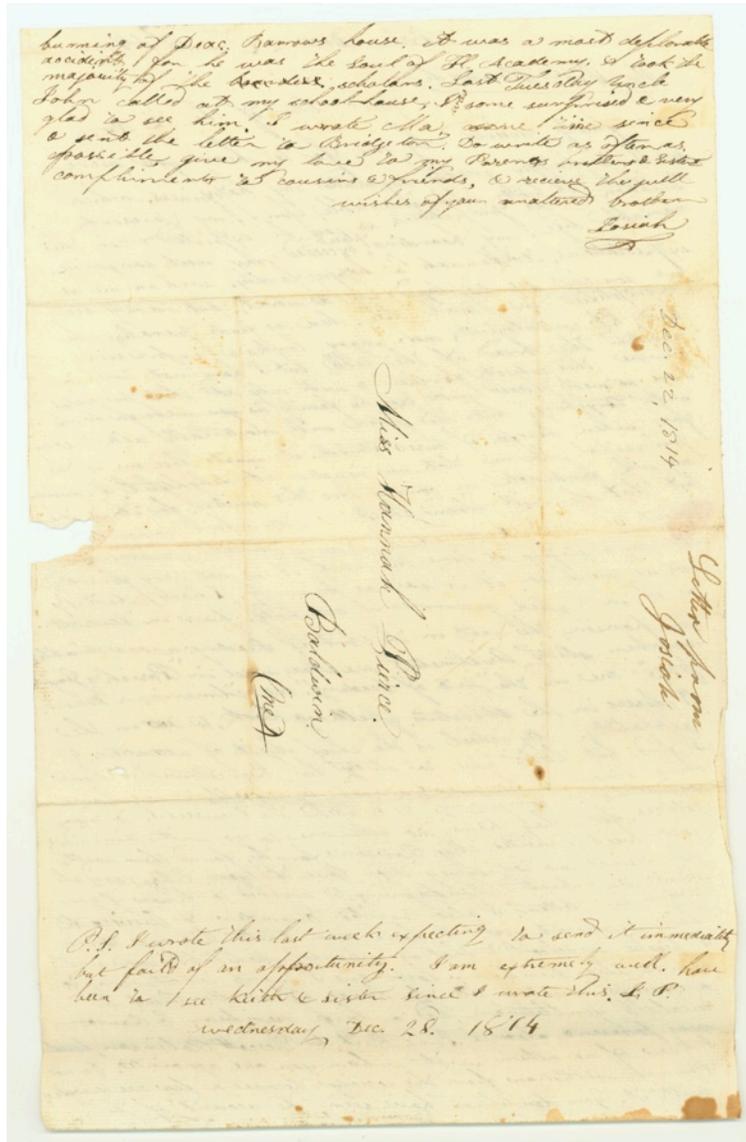


Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
Maine Historical Society
Date: Dec. 22, 1814
Description: Josiah Pierce on teaching

Paris Dec 22^d - 1814.

My Dear Hannah,

your letter of the 12. Dec.
was gladly received by me, for to hear you were
well & happy greatly augmented my happiness, which
in Truth is not inconsiderable for my present
situation is as propitious as can be expected in this
place
variable life, my boarding ^ exceeded my most sanguine
expectations, it is Hannah a happy family, such an one as
we sometimes see displayed in a novel but rarely see
exemplified in real life, here no feuds penalize the
hand of contentment, nor angry looks & expressions
embitter the bread at the table, but I have not time to
pursue this subject farther & will only add that perhaps
I am as well pleased with Esqr S's family as you were formerly
with Fryeburg, but this place will materially alter soon
for when bereft of Miss S. Stowell, it must lose one of the
principal charms that now render it delightful, I consider
myself fortunate in coming here this winter, for it is the
last that she will spend at P. _____ My school consists [page torn]
[page torn] 60 scholars. The school is very variable, many coming
one day & staying at home the next, it is not very forward,
not so much so it is said as formerly. I have about 17
or 18 in English grammar one half, parse in "Students
Companion, the rest in the Art of Reading; a considerable
number study Arithmetic. one class read "Parish's Geogra
=phy" one in the "Art of Reading," one "American Reader
3 classes in the Webster's spelling book, & one in the
alphabet. My school is the chief object of attention, &
I find but little time to study for Esqr. Stowell's house
being small I have not a room by myself, & we have
considerable company, & I attend the misses S. to many
places, for they have no other one to go with, then last
week I visited Maj. Rawson's family, found them well
they desired me to convey their love to you. Eliza said she
wrote you about Thanksgiving, & wished to know if you
received her letter. I also visited Evander & Orissa R.
had a pleasant visit. I have seen Keith but once since
I began my school, & that at a party. Mehitable was with
him, & also Dunham. last eve I went to Norway to
a society meeting at the house of a Mr Reed, a
wealthy gentleman, had a large number, E. Rawson
was present, also L Lane Rust & Prescott Robinson, besides
I know of no other with whom you are acquainted. Do not
Hannah withdraw from this society because a few are disaffected
with it. You doubtless have seen the account of the



burning of Deac. Barrows house. it was a most deplorable
 accident for he was the soul of H. Academy. I took the
 majority of the boarders scholars. Last Tuesday Uncle
 John called at my schoolhouse, I was some surprised & very
 glad to see him. I wrote Ma some time since
 & sent the letter to Bridgton. Do write as often as
 possible, give my love to my Parents brothers & Sisters
 compliments to cousins & friends, & receive the well
 wishes of your unaltered brother
 Josiah

[Written sideways]

Miss Hannah Pierce
 Baldwin
 (Me)

P.S. I wrote this last week expecting to send it immediately
 but fail'd of an opportunity. I am extremely well. have
 been to see Keith & Sister since I wrote this. J.P.
 Wednesday Dec. 28. 1814