

Brunswick Feb 29, 1816.

My dear Mother,

Judging from the love you have ever shown me, as well as from your own request, that you will be glad to hear from me, I have determined upon writing you a few lines. And first of all, my dear Mother, I beg you to accept of this letter, as containing my sincere gratitude for your past kindnesses to me; & my warmest wishes for your future happiness. --- When I compare my situation with thousands of my fellow creatures, I find I have abundant cause for gratitude to the Author of my existence; for while many are born in a land of mental darkness & slavery, & many with mental & bodily defects, & many even around myself, are "in want of all things," deprived of health, & friends and parents, I find I have a mind capable of improvement, a body perfect in all its parts, a constitution the most healthy, the highest advantages for education, my country can bestow, a competency of food & clothing, & parents kind and respectable & indulgent. I know I have mercies, more than I deserve, & I fear my improvement is by no means proportionate to my advantages. --- If I know what gratitude is, I think I am grateful in yours & my dear Father for what you have done & are still doing for me. I know, that but for you my childhood would have been wretched & probably my manhood ignorant & despicable.

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
Maine Historical Society
Date: Feb. 29, 1816
Description: Josiah Pierce on gratitude to parents

In a thousand instances you have shown your affection. I know my Father has assisted me beyond his abilities. I think you wished me to come to College but I fear that it will deprive you of resources that I ought not to have, & I am sometimes led to blame myself for entering on a course of life that I shall not, (as I fear,) be able to maintain. But be assured whatever be my fortune in this world, I shall not cease to pray for the happiness of my parents & brothers & sisters

Dear Mother should you wish to know about my health I will tell you it has been tolerably good since my return to College. From Portland to Brunswick I had a fatiguing as well as dangerous ride, We came in a carriage; it was slippery.---- I have been anxious about my relatives at Baldwin, for when I left you my Father was ill, & the rest of the family expecting to have the measles. I hope you are all well now; but do let me hear soon.

My dear Mother it would be a very great pleasure to me to receive a line from you, do write so that I may have the joy of having, if it be but one letter in the hand writing of my beloved Mother. Do ask my Father to write me also. Give my love to him & brothers, sisters & friends, & that health may attend you all, that Heaven may strew your path with roses & that whether you live long or short, that you may experience neither pain nor sorrow nor remorse is the wish of your dutiful son
Josiah

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