

Bowdoin College
Mar. 23^d 1860

My Darling Sister;

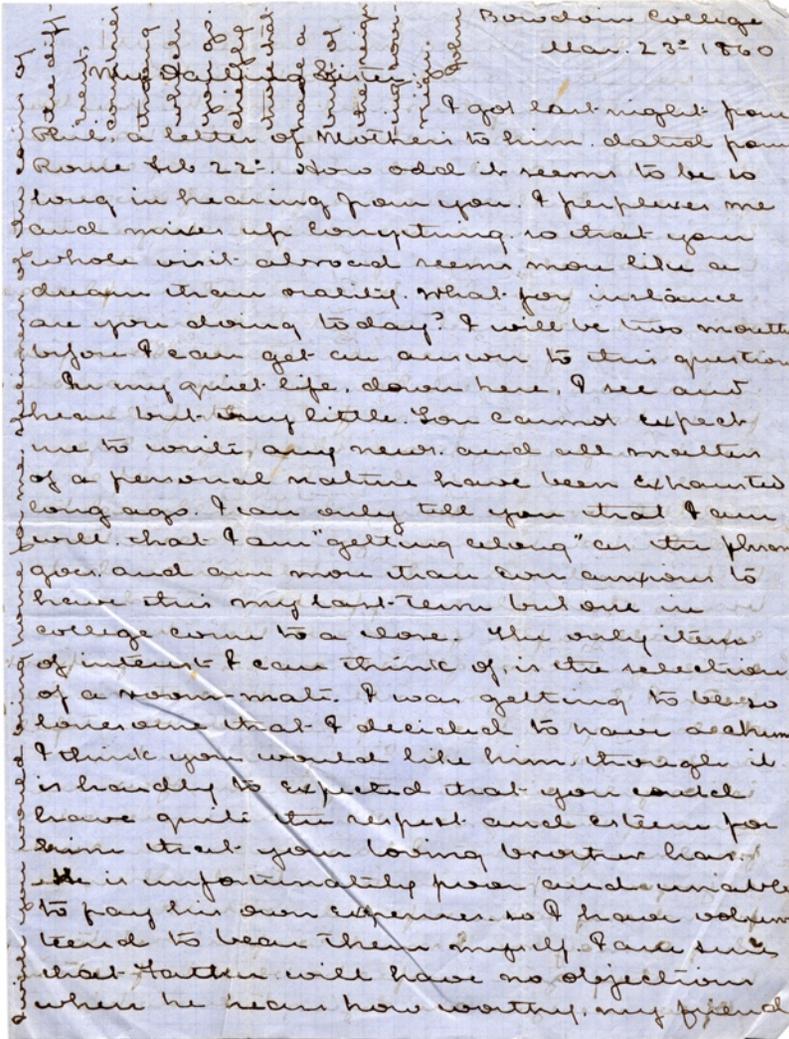
I got last night from Phil, a letter of Mother's to him dated from Rome Feb 22^d. How odd it seems to be so long in hearing from you. It perplexes me and mixes up everything so that your whole visit almost seems more like a dream than reality. What for instance are you doing today? It will be two months before I can get an answer to this question.

In my quiet life, down here, I see and hear but very little. You cannot expect me to write any news and all matters of a personal nature have been exhausted long ago. I can only tell you that I am well, that I am "getting along" as the phrase goes, and am more than ever anxious to have my last term but one in college come to a close. The only item of interest I can think of is the selection of a room-mate. I was getting to be so lonesome that I decided to have a chum I think you would like him, though it is hardly to be expected that you could have quite the respect and esteem for him that your loving brother has. He is unfortunately poor and unable to pay his own expenses so I have volunteered to bear them myself. I am sure that Father will have no objections when he hears how worthy my friend

[written on side and sideways on top]

I wish you would bring home for me specimens of the coins of the different countries through which you go, chiefly those that had a bust of the reigning sovereign.

John



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. S-602, Misc. Box 23/4)
Date: March 23, 1860
Description: John Marshall Brown letter to sister

is. Besides I only pay his board. I will bring him home with me sometime, and introduce him to you. During the short time he has been in college (he came this term) he has won the esteem and admiration of all. Generous. Enthusiastic. full of vivacity he combines in a wonderful degree strong traits which always make one a universal favorite. Not a single unpleasant thing has occurred, as yet to mar the happiness of our acquaintance. Your first impression would I am sure be erroneous for he has a singular face. with full overhanging eyebrows. sharp grey eyes and a moustache like his hair of a lightish brown. somewhat inclined to red. But as soon as you are accustomed to this, and mark the intelligence that beams through every feature, and especially after you have seen him smile, just enough to show his magnificent teeth. I think you will unite with me in declaring his face as fine and beautiful as it could well be. Every one has his idiosyncracies, and my chum, of course among the number. His, is an unusual fondness for rats. I have never seen such a joyous expression, as he had when he found my room infested with them. They annoy me, I must confess, but to him they give unspeakable satisfaction. Of course, you are dying to know his

is. Besides I only pay his board. I will bring him home with me sometime, and introduce him to you. During the short time he has been in college (he came this term) he has won the esteem and admiration of all, Generous. Enthusiastic. full of vivacity he combines in a wonderful degree strong traits which always make one a universal favorite. Not a single unpleasant thing has occurred as yet to mar the happiness of our acquaintance. Your first impression would I am sure be erroneous for he has a singular face. with full overhanging eyebrows. Sharp grey eyes and a moustache like his hair of a lightish brown, somewhat inclined to red. But as soon as you are accustomed to this, and mark the intelligence that beams through every feature, and especially after you have seen him smile, just enough to show his magnificent teeth. I think you will unite with me in declaring his face as fine and beautiful as it could well be. Every one has his idiosyncracies, and my chum, of course among the number. His, is an unusual fondness for rats. I have never seen such a joyous expression, as he had when he found my room infested with them. They annoy me, I must confess, but to him they give unspeakable satisfaction. Of course, you are dying to know his

name. To tell the truth, he has a name that would hardly please you. Charles Pincher, odd isn't it? Before he came to college he was called, on account of his foreign extraction, Carl. But I call him Pincher. It is amusing to see how hard it is for ladies to call him by his name. Some have even been so rude as to laugh, when I have mentioned it. But he has too much good sense to be offended. I say to you, my dear Nellie, long to make acquainted, for he is the finest specimen of a pure, full blooded Scotch Terrier, as was ever seen. What has become of Snap? I hear you say. To tell the truth, the paragon of his kind was getting so ugly that I was forced to disinherit him. He has already addled to late hours and improper company. And having some acquaintances at the Rev. Mr Moore's ran away several times in order to pay them a visit. Such heterodox behavior was too much. I have given him to menial employments and he now watches the stable and green house for the paltry consideration of his bed & board. Tell Jim, that he can now go up stairs in peace. After all though, Snap was a good dog. I sometimes feel sincere sorrow that he should have failed to appreciate his position.

name. To tell the truth, he has a name that would hardly please you. Charles Pincher, odd isn't it? Before he came to college he was called, on account of his foreign extraction, Carl. But I call him Pincher. It is amusing to see how hard it is for ladies to call him by his name. Some have even been so rude as to laugh, when I have mentioned it. But he has too much good sense to be offended. I assure you, my dear Nellie I long to make acquainted, for he is the finest specimen of a pure full blooded Scotch Terrier, as was ever seen. What has become of Snap? I hear you say. To tell the truth, the paragon of his kind was getting so ugly that I was forced to disinherit him. He has been addicted to late hours and improper company. And having some acquaintances at the Rev. Mr Moore's ran away several times in order to pay them a visit. Such heterodox behavior was too much. I have given him to menial employments and he now watches the stable and green house for the paltry consideration of his bed & board. Tell Jim, that he can now go up stairs in peace. After all though, Snap was a good dog. I sometimes feel sincere sorrow that he should have failed to appreciate his position.

It will be long before he finds a better
master or more indulgent friends.
Mother writes that you in the midst
of sunshine and flowers at Rome, and
with us still linger the last traces
of Winter. little patches of dirty snow
lie in the shady places, and the
trees have not dared to trust their
tender leaves to the changeful air.
But we are beginning to have some
premonitions of the pleasant Summer
weather, a venturesome robin sometimes
sings a timid song, and once in a
while there comes up from the sea a
puff of salt air that brings up in
memory the old days of island
parties, and moonlight sails. Shall
we not have more? I would not
abridge your visit a day. But I should
be deceitful if I did not confess to a
childish longing for your coming
home. If I have any characteristic thought
developed, it is, love of family and home
this is something, you know, that separation
only strengthens, I send it over the sea
with this letter, and yet I keep it here
to give to you when you come back.
Take it now, and expect it just as much
then. God bless you all, and preserve
you through every danger and guide you
home again. in the earnest prayer
of your loving brother J.M.B.

It will be long before he finds a better
master or more indulgent friends.

Mother writes that you in the midst
of sunshine and flowers at Rome,
with us still linger the last traces
of Winter. little patches of dirty snow
lie in the shady places, and the
trees have not dared to trust their
tender leaves to the changeful air.
But we are beginning to have some
premonitions of the pleasant Summer
weather, a venturesome robin some times
sings a timid song, and once in a
while there comes up from the sea a
puff of salt air that brings up in
memory the old days of island
parties, and moonlight sails. Shall
we not have more? I would not
abridge your visit a day. But I should
be deceitful if I did not confess to a
childish longing for your coming
home. If I have any characteristic thought
developed, it is, love of family and home
this is something, you know, that separation
only strengthens, I send it over the sea
with this letter, and yet I keep it here
to give to you when you come back.
Take it now, and expect it just as much
then. God bless you all, and preserve
you through every danger and guide you
home again. in the Earnest prayer
of your loving brother J.M.B.