

Northampton April 2nd

My Dear Mother I presume you received the letter I wrote father a few days after my arrival here, in which I gave you an ~~dire~~ account of my journey, and the kind attentions I received in Boston. If I recollect I had not then become at all acquainted or commenced my course of study. Judge Howe has returned from his circuit and our lectures and recitations will commence tomorrow. He is a fine man. His manners are very unassuming & conciliatory though rather homely. Since I have been here I have employed my time partly in reading law and copying lectures of the Judge's, and spent several days in running round the place and its vicinity. Tho my first impressions were not over favourable I now think never saw any place so perfectly romantic and beautiful.

I have delivered my letters of introduction and received the proper attentions from the gentlemen to whom they were directed. I have particularly to acknowledge the kindness of Judge Howe who has been very polite to me in introducing me to his family and urging me to visit his house frequently. Mr Mills is still absent at Congress so my letter to him as yet avails me naught. I regret this as his family is the first in town I could to bidure give the letter to his wife

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Maine Historical Society
MMN #28046
Date: April 2, 1826
Description: George Pierce letter to his mother

but I can't care enough about an introduction to do anything that might be considered improper in the slightest degree.

I feel quite at home here for the life we lead is very much like college life. We have our rooms in a large building, two in each room, and only frequent our boarding houses to eat and sleep. But one very agreeable point of difference between our situation here and in college is that we hear no prayer bell to drive us from our beds at a most unnatural in the morning, nor have we any masters to whom we are bound to take off our hats and make a bow whenever we meet them.

Our studies have not yet regularly commenced so I cannot judge of their character or ^{whether} they are calculated to produce all those favourable effects upon myself which I have so strongly hoped for. Contrary to my expectations, I find very few studious young men among the members of the Law School. Yet there are one or two from whose excellent example I hope I shall profit, and from whose society I shall receive much pleasure.

There are two meetinghouses here, and there is a marked and jealous division between the two sects, the trinitarians and unitarians. The supporters of the Law School belong to the latter, so I attend the Unitarian church. But do give yourself any anxiety on this account, for I am very certain the minister will not

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be able to shake my orthodox principles. in which I have written
I think I need not say that I am happy ^{the giddy style, in which} perhaps more giddy than that in which a loving and respectful son should address an aged parent, will convince you that I am anything but sad. Yet I do have some very sober moments. When wearied with study I shut up my books, and sit musing alone, my mind travels back to you & home with a feeling very nearly allied to sadness. And sometimes I am ready to reproach myself that I am absent from you a single month when so few of your other children are left at home. Yet I cannot but think it is upon the whole best that I should be here, and I know that you would prefer my advantage to everything else. I shall write home as often as once in two weeks and I should wish that some of you would answer me as frequently, if it is only with a line.
I am my Dear parents your affectionate and respectful son
George
My love to Father and Sisters — I will write Harriet next —

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