

Portland July 10. 1829

My dear Mother, I presume you have seen by the papers that I have opened my office. you have now the gratification of a wish often expressed, that you might live to see me settled in business. Nor is this more agreeable to you than to myself. I am very happy in the thought of starting into life on my own account, and with the opportunity now presented of testing my ability to gain a respectable maintenance. I will not permit myself to doubt for a single moment but what I shall be successful; for I have made up my mind to pursue resolutely those means that ensure success. I intend to be prudent and industrious, to keep in my office, and by my conduct produce a conviction on the public mind that "young Pierce cares more about his profession and business than about anything else in the world." And this, indeed, is my real feeling. I have seen enough of gay life to understand its worthlessness; and have felt that dissipation, is able, not only to chill the heart, but to paralyze the intellect. Nor do I consider myself in any greater danger from those innocent amusements which steal away the time

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Date: July 10, 1829
Description: George W. Pierce to mother

and enervate the minds of many promising young men. I allude more particularly to a fondness for society, which through a natural warmth and sociability of disposition, some of my acquaintance indulge to an excess that renders them incapable of laborious and long continued study. I have nothing in my nature to contend with, of this kind. There is rarely an hour in my life, when the silent companionship of a book, is not more agreeable to me than the most fashionable and gay circle in the town. Some of my acquaintance too, have fallen victims to the tender passion, and had rather gaze for hours on the countenances of certain ladies than to look, for a moment, into their law books. Their fate seems to me more deplorable than that of the dissipated and idle. Nothing could tempt me into the folly of an engagement of this kind under my present circumstances. An alliance with some powerful family or the acquisition of wealth will guide my conduct in an affair of this kind, whenever I shall feel inclined to change the condition of single blessedness. I have mentioned this, because I know it is a subject on which all parents naturally feel very anxious for their children; and because I am at that age when the heart is said to be most susceptible to tender impressions; and am consequently in danger of forming an attachment which my friends might disapprove, and myself afterwards regret. But my ardent ambition is an ample shield for all danger of this kind.

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I know you must ^{be} very solitary at home, and I wish it was
proper and convenient for me to spend a few weeks with you.
But, at starting, I must stay very constantly in my office.
It is of great importance to gain a reputation for attention
to business; and the public always watch the first appearance
of a young man and soon make up their minds of his
character. I hope, however, sometime, during the summer
to make you a visit; and also, that I shall see you in
town.
As yet I have had no business, and it will be impossible
for me to tell how long I shall have to remain unemployed.
But this gives me a fine opportunity to study and write. If
in a few months I do not obtain any professional employment
I shall turn ~~my~~ a part of my attention to literary labour that
will assist in defraying my expenses, which are by no means
very small. Give my best love to Father and Hannah
I am Your Affectionate Son George

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