

Bowdoin College, June 14<sup>th</sup> 1846.

My Dear Father,

Another ~~birthday~~ anniversary of my birth has visited me— and with as auspicious an aspect as any old superstition could require. The day is fine— I am in excellent health & spirits— and the time is close at hand when I shall be called, at least, "a liberally educated young man—" Though Mars is in the ascendant just now, in these parts, yet I hope he will be kept within proper bounds by the influence of Pallas and the other "bona numina".

My birth days used to come round in my orbit quite regularly, once a year— but, now-a-days, it appears to me, that certainly not more than a month intervenes between their visits— I admire the old custom of celebrating these occasions with festivities— for though at such times we are forcibly reminded of the continual decrease of our life in this world (and I don't know why that should not be a matter of rejoicing)— and though we may therefore be more likely<sup>at this period, than at any other</sup> to take into serious consideration our destiny & our duty, yet in rejoicing I think there is much more merit, and a much greater tendency to the maintenance of virtue, than in a gloomy, constant anxiety. I think a man may enjoy himself, (generally, at least) in any situation— and I am about

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as well convinced, that he commits a sin if he does not

Monday -

During the past week, the weather has been excessively warm - almost too much so to study with comfort -

I have, till now, entertained the idea, that the last term of the Senior year was one where little exertion would be required & much leisure given us: but I find the reverse is the case - as we have two lectures per day, in addition to our three recitations, thus demanding of us five hours every day to be spent in the recitation room - So, you see, with these & the time necessarily spent in preparing our lessons, we must be pretty actively employed -

In addition, we have lectures on Botany, semiweekly, from Mr. Swallow, agreeably to a vote passed by the Boards at the last Commencement. Our studies are at the present time, then, Mineralogy, Botany, Natural History (including Anatomy, &c.) Mental Philosophy, Natural Philosophy & Moral Science - all extremely interesting -

We have, however, no exercises in Composition this term - unless the preparation of Commencement parts by those who expect them be considered as such -

Some very interesting lectures are now being delivered on some of the principal characters of Shakespeare by a Mr. Hudson, of whom you have probably heard.

I have attended but two - they were of a high order - I shall expect a letter from home soon. With much love to all there, I am, as ever

P.S.

You remember that you had not on hand as much money as I asked for - and spoke of sending it down to me - When you can find it convenient, I would like to have you do so.

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Your very aff. son, Josiah -

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Latest Intelligence -

Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1846.

My Dear Mother,

I begin to think I shall never finish this letter. I have been so often interrupted while writing it -

Miss Barbour & her father made me a short call, last Thursday - I shewed them all the lions I could find at home - She told me the most amusing (though it was somewhat disgusting) story about Briggs. I have heard this long time. What has become of the fool? A most notable example, truly, of the degree of debasement into which a young man may fall, by this foolish fawning and fussing with the girls which they so much covet -

I don't pity her in the least. She has only acted according to the instigations of her nature as a female -

The Rev. Amos Brown, spent the Sabbath here, a week since, and favored me with his agreeable society, for a brief period, as you have probably been informed -

He left me, begging that when I came to S. I would come & see him, with my family & friends, and stay a month or two. Don't you repeat that.

I wish I had a little of your tincture of rhubarb this hot weather. I am getting dyspeptic, as I have left off "fumigating" to a certain degree - Hoping that you and the girls won't pine entirely away, before I return I have the honor to be,

With assurances of the most distinguished consideration  
your particularly humble & abased "help."

Josiah.

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