

Hollis May 20-1842.

My Dear Coz,

I have been meditating for long weeks and months, writing you a letter – but so many things of importance, and trifling nothings have occurred, to occupy my time and attention, that I have not succeeded. You may thank the weather for giving you my attention to-night, for had it been more beautiful over head and less inclement under foot.” I should have gone down to Mrs. Chisholm’s to have heard Mrs. C. play the piano and Dr. Osgood the fiddle with E- Chase and Bess Luther. As it is, I am not a bit sorry that the weather is unfavorable – I am just in the stay-at-home mood, and shall have a nice time writing to you. But then I cannot help thinking all the while, that I ought to be writing to somebody else – there are letters from Mary Dunlevie, Merrill, H. Woodman and E. Stephenson that surely ought to be answered, but never mind, I’ll forget them for a little while – and write to my cousin, as I see that he will not write to me else. We have received the letter

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 79543

Date: May 20, 1842

Description: Martha “Mattie” Usher of Hollis, who was about 18, wrote to her cousin John Lane in Worcester, Massachusetts, telling him all the family news and gossip.

papers &c informing us that you have really taken
the Worcester House, and Father would have
attended to them ere this, if he had not been sick.
— he has been out of health for some six or eight-
weeks — has been out a great part of the time, though
he ought not to have been — he is now under Dr.
Mulvey's administration, and will be well in a
few days I think if he does not get refractory and
careless. And so you are really a Landlord (Query —)
wouldn't Sarah I have made a nice Landlady? Such a
good-natured bustling body — upon my word just
the one — oh! Ay! aren't you sorry? the truth now.
She is still in the market John, at least, as far
as I know — you had better take a trip down
this way — we have some rare fish in these waters —
I reckon some of them would be easily caught too —
When I go to Worcester I'll braid my tresses a la
Jose — that'll please you. Now for some news concerning
that same Jose family, I presume it'll be "pedlar's
news" to you though. Mrs. Jose (alias Mrs. Bradbury)
came to the conclusion a few weeks since (rather late
to be sure) that she preferred the state of widowhood
to the state — matrimonial, so she quietly (perhaps) sent
her husband — Mr. Jose away — take warning from this
John how you plunge into the pit — matrimonial, for
it must be anything but pleasant to be so
uncerimoniously put aside, like a piece of old furniture.
I should judge Mrs. J. to be a good advocate for

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woman's rights - what do you think of it? - Sarah
has taken a small private school at Salmon-Falls
and is apparently very happy. - I have been all
~~all~~ sorts of a girl since I saw you - a school-girl,
a sick-girl, a romping-girl and now am a very nice,
good girl. I haven't seen any of your folks for a
long time except Uncle - I want to go up to their
retreat terribly, but know not when I shall be able
to - I am entirely out of patience waiting for
Almeda to come. Bess Sands is in Portland with Ellen
who is now at house-keeping in Cumberland Street -
Leonard is at Old Town in a Hotel. Bess Foster
is at Elden's Corner keeping a high school - isn't
it laughable? - she has seventeen scholars, all young
ladies - terms three dollars per quarter. - she boards
at the Tavern and eats at a private table with Dr
Osgood - quite aristocratic - she likes much. Elis Chase
has also taken a school this summer and we have
sport enough with the school-marms. You will see
that I am at home alone this summer, that is -
that I am the only girl at home - it seems rather
queer I assure you we have ever before had such
a ~~f~~ houseful, but I run about, read, write and attend
to my flowers, and should have a nice time if I was
only in as good health as I was last summer, but my
half-sick days have predominated over my well ones so
far - I take cold so easily that I can't enjoy anything -
but I hope to be hale and hearty next month.

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Is your partner married? or who acts in the capacity of
landlady? Father says you must write him how you progress
and all the particulars — and also that he shall go and
see you — If Father goes to New York this summer — I mean to
go with him, and in that case should probably take Worcester
in our way. I would give a fig to see you established in your
new s capacity. When are you coming home? I should think you
might take a trip down here and spend a few days, at least —

P. S. Father wished me to ask you, how
you and Mr. Adams — your former landlord
agree? — Write soon soon a long letter
to your Coz Matty —

Buxton Me -
May 23 12 ½
Mr. John W. Lane.
Worcester
Mass.

[upside down beneath address]
P. S. Father wished me to ask you, how
how you and Mr. Adams — your former landlord
agree? _ Write soon soon a long letter
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[upside down at bottom]
Anna Sweat is at home this summer also Amanda Dunn.
Ellen and Dr. Bacon spent a few days with us last week — Ike
and the Dr. went fishing up the river and came down on a
raft of logs — new business for him, — he was as pleased as a
school-boy — Ike is as usual diving into everything — one day
at the boom — the next working on the farm and next in the store —
I do not think of anything particularly interesting to say further
so I think I had better without taxing your patience farther go to
bed — We shall want to hear from you soon, and if you please you
may direct the next epistle to me instead of Father — Good night —
your

affec coz Martha.