

Ms 124
 42
 New York Tuesday Evening, Jan'y 15. 1839

My Dearest Lucretia,

This afternoon I rec'd the package by Mr Cutter
 Two letters for me & three for John, they are old but notwithstanding
 welcome - I am rejoiced to hear you are all well. I fear you will think
 I have been very remiss in writing to you. I sent an old letter inclosed in
 a few lines last week by Mr. Crocker. I should have sent a long letter -
 I was about doing so before, but was suddenly taken ill, & have been able
 to do most any thing but write for about eight days. I am now
 restored again & shall walk out the first fair day - so you must
 not feel any alarmed. I think it better to tell you of it myself
 for you may hear of it some other way if I do not which
 may not be pleasant to you - Mr. Crocker called to see
 me - I am in the same house with Jerry & his wife as I wrote you
 They have been very attentive - also our old friend Dr. Ticknor
 He wishes to be remembered to you - He always enquires for you -
 The Trouble was with my lungs - Hemorrhage - probably brought on
 by sitting to late at my writing desk - as I have done for a long
 while past & irregularly in my meals - It is not a very uncom-
 mon symptom for a person in my circumstances - but it took with
 great care to keep along. My chest I am satisfied is not strong -
 I am like an oak planted in a glass jar - It will be some
 time before I can labor as I have done - & this is the more to be
 regretted, as I am now in my last year ^{of my apprenticeship} & have acquired some skill
 in the use of the implements of my profession - & my private
 business is so increased as to afford me some remuneration ^{& a cheering}

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 99343

Date: 1839
Description: Kiah B. Sewall on lung problems, New York

prospect for my family - But I allow nothing of the kind to discour-
=age me - I think my system not yet so affected but that with
care it may save me perhaps a goodly number of years - But
I doubt of course your encouraging presence & your kind attentions -
if you were with me I am sure I should ^{live} ~~live~~ more evenly
instead of setting at my Desk in the office the long evenings which
has been my chief pleasure I should have the attractions of leisure
to keep me to good hours & to cheer me on -
Wednesday morning - It is a bright looking beautiful day - but they say it is sharp &
cold - I am better - quite well but one weak spot - but I shall walk out
tomorrow if it is pleasant. - Mrs. Gerard has been very kind & Mr G. He
called on me the day after I was taken (a week ago last Monday) & said, if you
want any money let me know in Ida & Juliet have called several times
Ida brought me first a nice basket of fresh grapes & apples - & to day they
have called again - Juliet with a large paper of grapes & Ida with a large
china dish of stewed apples ^{which Mrs. G. sent down by a servant} - which Mrs. G. sent down by a servant - and
when they went out, I raised the corner & found it smoking hot - just
prepared - Mr Belden & her little girl also have called once - they live farther
off - so you see I don't lack for any thing Except your Smiles & presence
Jerry's wife sets with me more or less every day - but enough of myself I trust -
except that I will add that I am making enquiries to find a room & board
up town so that I shall be nearer my pupils & shall save more
time & more exposure to the cold wet mornings - I can't afford to board
here - & besides it is too far down town & not so genteel as I like -
Jerry's is the best room in the house - By the by I have read so working
Chair & Jerry's dressing gown, in which I spend most of my time in reading -
I have read the back nos. of the Review that I had not time to read as they
came out - and since I have felt well enough to laugh - I have read Oliver
Twist, though I cried over it more than I laughed - it is a fine thing - & I am

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Jerry's is the best room in the house — By the by I have Mrs I.s rocking
chair & Jerry's dressing gown, in which I spend most of my time in reading —
I have read the back nos. of the Review that I had not time to read as they
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Twist though I cried over it more than I laughed - it is a fine thing - & I am

now reading the Pickwick Papers - It is only, in fact, when I am confined
by illness that I have time to read anything of a Literary kind. Have you
read anything of Dickens? I have read some of Chesterfield - much of
him is well worth reading - but I am particularly pleased to know that you
find more & more pleasure in reading the Bible - So common is this best of books
that we seldom adequately prize it - either as a literary treasure - or as a History
of all that is most instructive & important in Example & precept. Continue My
Dear Wife, to gather wisdom from its pages & may that merciful God which
it makes known bless you with happiness in life & in eter nity - we are
a small family and scattered - but God can preserve us & bring us together
& unite us more friends[?] in love. He will do it if we trust in Him -
I have thought of the cheap little Testament I gave you - You shall
have a better ^{one} of these days.

Evening - I am much better to day - to morrow I shall go out.
Benjamin has sent on for his Wife - & we expect her here as soon as she can
get ready & come - She is to take a Packet here for Mobile - & thence
Steam boat up the river to Montgomery. He appears to be pleased with
his Situation & doing well. He has sent \$200. for his wife - so
you perceive he is making money faster than I am. - He writes
that they live out there like fighting cocks & that he has gained
ten pounds weight & the weather is delightful -

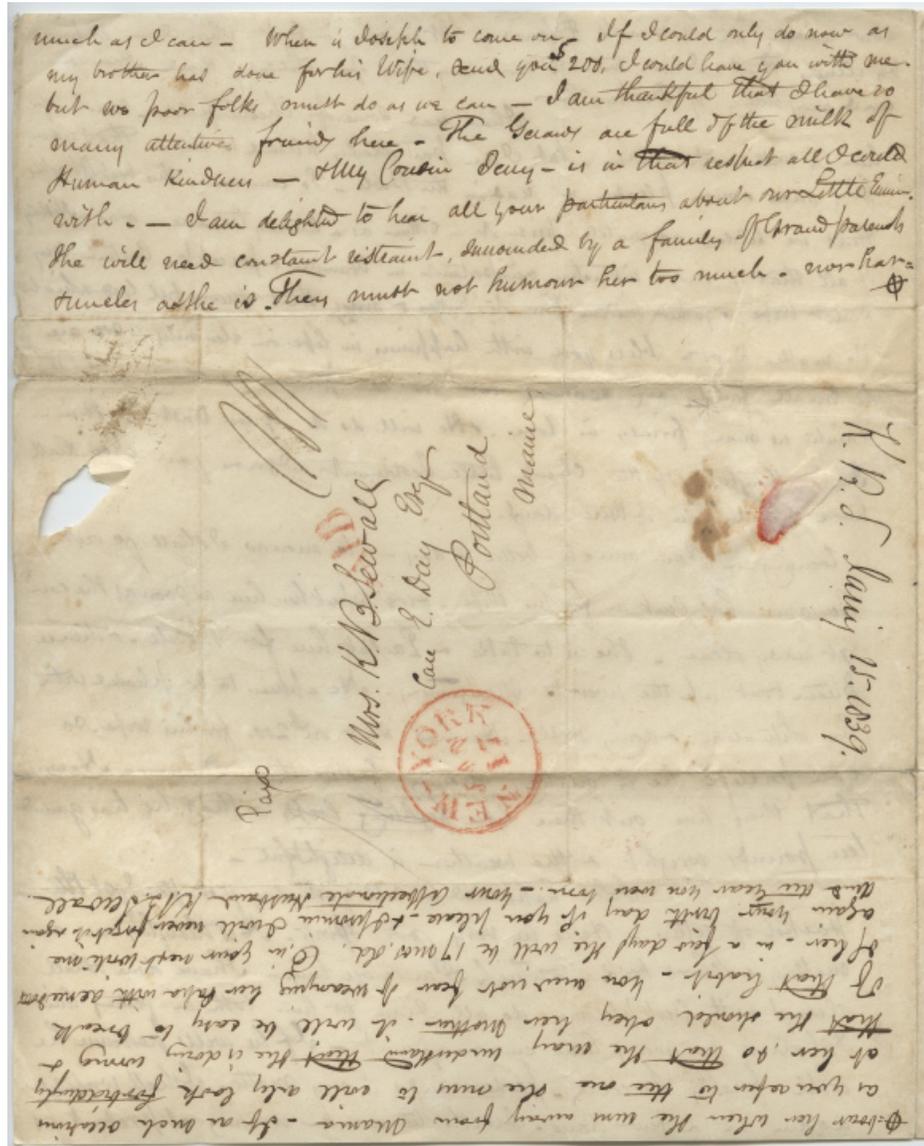
John has had to call yesterday just after I got the
packet of letters - He is in very good spirits. His thoughts are on
making a School book - to which I encourage him - I have done & shall
always with great pleasure do all I can for him both in getting him
Scholars & in giving him encouragement - If he will persevere he
will finally succeed - perseverando is my motto. I shall write you
again in a few days. I wish to avoid writing at present as

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that they live out there like fighting cocks & that he has gained
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John happened to call yesterday just after I got the
packet of letters - He is in very poor spirits. His thoughts are on
making a School book - to which I encourage him - I have done & shall
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Scholars & in giving him encouragement - If he will persevere he
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much as I can - When is Joseph to come on - If I could only do now as my brother has done for his Wife, send you \$200, I could have you with me. but us poor folks must do as we can - I am thankful that I have so many attentive friends here. The Gerards are full of the milk of Human Kindness - & my Cousin Jerry - is in that respect all I could wish. - I am delighted to hear all your particulars about our little Eunice. She will need constant restraint, surrounded by a family of Grand parents & uncles as she is. They must not humour her too much - nor har-

[sideways]

Mrs. K. B. Sewall
Care E. Day Esq
Portland
Maine

[Upside down at bottom]

=bour her when she runs away from Mama. If on such occasions as you refer to the one she runs to will only look forbiddingly at her so that she may understand that she is doing wrong & that she should obey her Mother - it will be easy to break of that habit - You need not fear of wearying her Papa with anecdotes of her - in a few days she will be 17 months old. O in your next write me again your birth day if you please I will never forget it again and the year you were born. -Your Affectionate Husband K.B. Sewall.