

Ms 124
#3
New York, Monday, Jan'y 28. 1839

My Dearest Lucretia,

Your kind letter of the 7th, 12th & 21st together with three for John, reached me last Thursday - I have been hoping every day to be better so that I could write you - but I am one day better and another day worse - in fact my lungs are weak & I doubt whether if I get cut out, well I shall be able to go out this winter - by the lancet & blistering one symptom is removed - but is succeeded by another - What the result may be situated as I am I cannot tell - but I feel sure of this, that the best thing I can do is to go south to Florida or to Havannah & remain till Spring - If I do not go, but remain here, I need your sympathy & care. It is now the fourth week since I have been confined to the House, & I am not on the whole advanced - I have almost every attention - but I have not the presence of a wife to care for me & cheer me - I have frequent calls but I want companionship - such as none but you can give - You must not be alarmed, my Dearest wife, I may not be so bad as this will lead you to suppose - but I am not so well as my friends here think - I have hesitated and delayed writing this hoping that time would bring better auspices, & knowing also that ~~whether~~ I must go south, or send for you, ~~in either~~

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case, I could not do as I might wish — I have been
able since last July to support myself — & if I could
have my health, before another year could do more —
but, unfortunately I have no surplus, nothing for “a rainy
day”, — and whether I should ~~seek~~^{look} a milder climate, or
see you here I can do neither, without aid —

If I should go south, the town that would cost the
least money, & perhaps it would have all the good
effects of a change of climate, — would be to go by ship
to west Florida — Pensacola in St. Marks — If I can not
go there — but must remain here alone — I see but little
hopes of my being able to go out before spring, if at
all, & hence any time for business would all be lost —
If you were with me, I should certainly feel much better
than if I should not be able to go out — by taking a room
up town, I might be able to hear my young ladies
recite, which would do something towards paying my expenses —
~~I will say nothing further on this subject till I hear
from you.~~ — Would it be difficult for you & Eunice to
come on next month with Joseph? (John tells me he is coming
then) — It is but a quick passage — I should all things go
well you could return in the Spring & spend the Summer
in Pottawomut. My going south, I should ~~lose~~^{lose} nothing of
my clerkship — for I am allowed 2¹/₂ month vacation per an-

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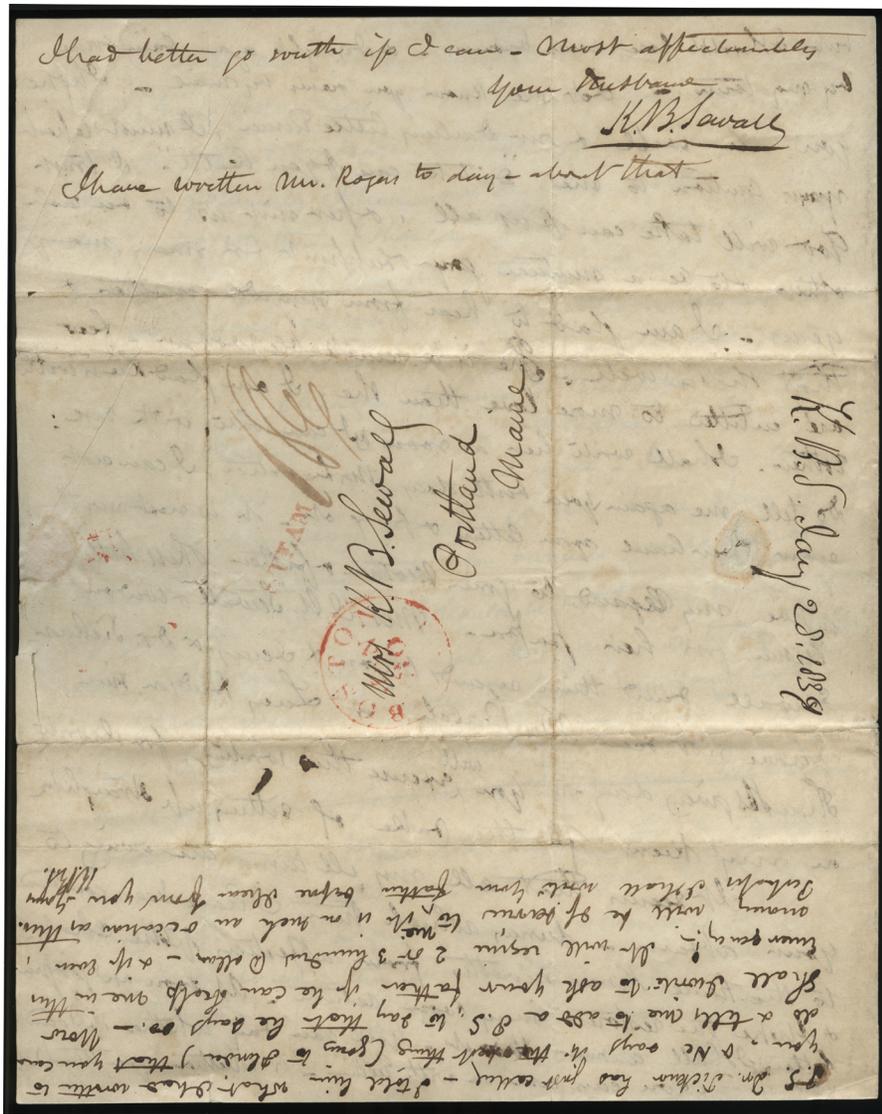
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by my town. - Let me know your views by mail - I hope
you are well & our Darling little Eunice, I must repeat
your caution to me, "Do take care of your health" - I trust
God will take care of us all, & permit us to see each
other & to be a mutual joy & support for many, many
years - I am glad to hear from my dear mother &
that she is well - She is a remarkable woman - few
are entitled to more love than she. I am glad Lu is with
Esther. I shall write her as soon as I can write with ease -
Do tell me again your birth day, Mabel, I can ask
now - we have your letters & find it - it is next month -
Give my regard to your Mother & father - kiss little
Eunice for her papa - Mrs. I. M. Sewall & widow
Sewall send their regards to you & Jerry & Dr. Ticknor -
I have not seen Mrs. Balch or Lucy Hudson since
Thanksgiving day - you will excuse this wording, for I write
on my knees for the sake of sitting up straight -
It seems that all my ill turns are owing to
your absence - during which time I have been confined
to the house three months from affections of the chest -
& I hope the restorer may soon return - As soon as I get your
letter I shall answer ~~it~~ it - You can say whether if I send
for you, you can come on with Eunice - or whether you think

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I had better go south if I can - Most affectionately
Your husband
K.B.Sewall

I have written Mr. Rogers to day - about that -

[sideways]

Mrs. K.B. Sewall
Portland
Maine

[upside down at bottom]

P.S. Dr. Ticknor has just called - I told him what I had written to you, & He says its the best thing (going to Florida) that you can do & tells me to add a P.S. to say that he says so. - Now shall I write to ask your father if he can help me in this emergency! It will require 2 or 3 hundred Dollars - & if ever me

money will be of service to ^ it is on such an occasion as this. Perhaps I shall write your father before I hear from you - Yours

K.B.S.