

Portland June 14 1843

Dear Mother

you will be surprised to receive another letter from me so soon, but, having learnt that the expenses will be more than you expected I thought I had better write. The tuition is 7 dollars a quarter as Mrs. Wells wrote but 14 for the term of 22 weeks. I asked Mrs W this morning what she would board Mary for. She said she would think of it, and told me at noon she never had, made any difference but would take her for 11 shillings per week which would be two and sixpence less than mine. I then asked her what mine was a week. she told me 2 dollars and a quarter, the quarter for the washing she puts out. I enquired how far the Methodist church was from Park-street she did not know but thought about a mile and so far to walk every sabbath, and said she hired 2 pews in the congregationalist church and would let me have a seat the time I stay for 1 dollar and Mary for 75 cts. She keeps a cow and said Mary could have milk every day without extra charge. The board is as good or better than might be expected, with one exception we have no coffee. Tea and cold water in the morning at noon water tea at night. I do not miss it much for my mind has been so much at home to allow me to be hungry since I have been here until dinner time today and that might have been caused by thinking father might be dissatisfied with the additional charge and send for me home.

Portland June -14-1843

Dear Mother

You will be surprised to receive another letter from me so soon, but, having learnt that the expenses will be more than you expected I thought I had better write. The tuition is 7 dollars a quarter as Mrs. Wells wrote but 14 for the term of 22 weeks. I asked Mrs W this morning what she would board Mary for. She said she would think of it, and told me at noon she never had, made any difference but would take her for 11 shillings per week which would be two and sixpence less than mine, I then asked her what mine was a week. she told me 2 dollars and a quarter, the quarter for the washing she puts out. I enquired how far the Methodist church was from Park-street. she did not know but thought about a mile and so far to walk every sabbath, and said she hired 2 pews in the congregationalist church and would let me have a seat the time I stay for 1 dollar and Mary for 75 cts. She keeps a cow and said Mary could have milk every day without extra charge.. The board is as good or better than might be expected with one exception we have no coffee. Tea and cold water in the morning at noon water tea at night. I do not miss it much as my mind has been so much at home to allow me to be hungry since I have been here until dinner time today and that might have been caused by thinking father might be dissatisfied with the additional charges and send for me home.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society
(Local Code: Coll. 89, Box 1/15)
Date: June 14, 1843
Description: Letter from Lydia Patterson to her mother via Capt. Acter P. Patterson.

But I am very well, only very homesick at times. I was mistaken
in saying my room was on the third floor it is on the fourth. Packed ~~with~~
if Mary and I could room alone if she came. She would make some ar-
rangements but did not know. I have not been into school because there
has not been room. This afternoon folding doors has been opened and I
shall probably go in tomorrow. Mrs W thinks I had better attend to mental
philosophy, English history, and Algebra & Botany. Drawing 3 dollars extra
I can attend to worsted work if I stay if you wish it Mrs W asked me
this morning if she mentioned paying in advance she would have
been glad to have 15 dollars. I went into several shops yesterday but
found no bonnet to suit me. intend to go again this week. bought
a hair brush suit and Aunt S, dress am some fearful that it will
not suit. Called at Mr Brooks Julia had gone to Gardiner Mrs B gone
out. I would not object to walking a mile to meeting but it would
be some time before I could find the way alone. There will be a
vacation at the close of the 11th weeks, write me about taking my trunk
home. or if you can think of any excuse send for me or tell father
to come after me before that time. For I am afraid I shall not
earn half the worth of the money. Do write to me as soon as
possible, and if I must stay prepare Mary to come with me.
Mrs has just been in to speak about my bonnet, she very kindly
takes an interest in her scholars purchases. Two of my room mates
are very agreeable companions, but my bed mate is not remarkably so.
She is from Bangor not Augusta as I said before. 2 of the young
ladies are from Charleston S.C and have been here about 2 years.
Mrs has but 1 servant, the boy is a nephew. She has 3 sisters at home
one daughter and one adopted daughter sister to the boy. I do not

But I am very well only very homesick at times. I was mistaken

her

in saying my room was on the third floor it is on the fourth. I asked ~~what~~
if Mary and I could room alone if she came. She would make some ar-
rangement but did not know. I have not been into school because there
has not been room. This afternoon folding doors has been opened and I
shall probably go in tomorrow. Mrs. W thinks I had better attend to mental
philosophy, English history, and Algebra & Botany. Drawing 3 dollars extra
I can attend to worsted work if I stay if you wish it Mrs W asked me
this morning if she mentioned paying in advance she would have
been glad to have 15 dollars. I went into several shops yesterday but
found no bonnet to suit me. intend to go again this week. bought
a hairbrush suit and Aunt, S, dress am some fearful that it will
not suit. Called at Mr Brooks Julia had gone to Gardiner Mrs B gone
out. I would not object to walking a mile to meeting but it would
be some time before I find the way alone. There will be a

1st

vacation at the close of the ^ 11 weeks, write me about taking my trunk
home, or if can think of any excuse send for me or tell father
to come after me before that time. For I am afraid I shall not
earn half the worth of the money. Do write to me as soon as
possible, and if I must stay prepare Mary to come with me.
Mrs. has just been in to speak about my bonnet., she very kindly
takes an interest in her scholars purchases. Two of my room mates
are very agreeable companions, but my bed mate is not remarkably so.
She is from Bangor not, Augusta as I said before. 2 of the young
ladies are from Charleston, SC and have been here about 2 years.
Mrs has but 1 servant, the boy is a nephew. She has 3 sisters at home
one daughter and one adopted daughter sister to the boy. I do not



think of any thing more to say at present only you ^{and Mary} will not
neglect writing when you think one day with me appears like 3
to you.

from your (obedient to a fault in writing) daughter

Lydia Patterson

and Mary
think of any thing more to say at present only you ^ will not
neglect writing when you Think one day with me appears like 3
to you.

from your (obedient to a fault in writing) daughter

Lydia Patterson

June 14 - 1843



6

Capt A. P. Patterson
Kennebunk-port
Maine

7 x 10 1/2

Capt A. P. Patterson
Kennebunk-port
Maine