

Kennebunkport, April 3, 1851

My Dear Sister,

Though I did not promise you a letter until I had recieved one from you, yet I must anticipate a little, day

as it is the aniversary of your birth^ by hoping you have passed it pleasantly & are now enjoying a quiet sleep & pleasing dreams, for it is a little past your hour for retiring. I arrived home on Tuesday a few minutes before one o'clock, & felt very lonely during the afternoon but am getting on now, more comfortably than I expected.

If I can hear that you are pleasantly situated & happy I shall endeavor to be so too, knowing that it is for your benefit to be seperated from us for a short time. I feared the rain yesterday afternoon & this morning might make you feel a little dull, but we have had a delightful afternoon to cheer you & then I have the consolation that

of knowing ^ my sister is not so weak & simple minded as I am.

Yesterday P.M. we received wedding favors from Mrs H. which are carefully preserved to take to you when I come to Bradford. - and by the way I did not in the least envy the bride, who could be allowed to sit a long hour in the depot, without the least attention from her better half I should like to say, but I fear it would be a misnomer. - are you not of my opinion?

Father met Capt. W. Lord this afternoon, who told him

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 89, Box 1/15)

Date: April 3, 1851

Description: Letter from Lydia Patterson to her sister, Mary.

Miss Hasseltine proposed your rooming with Susan, if agreeable & I am quite anxious to know how you are faring in regard to a mate but I have no doubt she will consider your reason for declining a very good one, if you saw fit to do so. She might have mentioned it in part to know Capt L's opinion of you, or more probably he objected to the small room she was to occupy, & Miss H. supposing if you took her into your larger one the objection would be removed, made the suggestion. Capt. L, I think, expressed no particular wish in regard to it but merely mentioned it & said the lady of the house did not speak of it. I will now wish you a good night & prepare to retire - father & mother have been sleeping nearly an hour I suppose. But a few words more before I leave. We are very sorry we did not think of a paper of composition powders for you to take with you, as a very necessary precaution against a cold, & if you should need it do not fail to procure it if possible. A duster & sink-cloth, too, were entirely forgotten, - had I not better send them in a letter, or by telegraph? Good night my darling. Friday eve, eight o'clock. I am sitting alone, father & mother being at Aunt Marys so I will entertain you with the trifling events of the day. I have just been out, to return the secretary's book to Mrs Mason, did not find her at home, but left it with Miss Perkins & borrowed of her the "Memoir of Mrs Ann Judson" which I shall read with more interest on account of the relationship which she sustained to your teacher. You will probably find the volume in the Library, & I would recommend your reading it.

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Instead She was not a teacher, but a pupil of B. Academy & also Miss
 H. Atwood, who sailed in the vessel with Mrs Judson for Calcutta, as the
 first wife of Mr Newell. Now for the items. Uncle E. is employed this eve
 in papering his room. I have been occupied to-day with your barge dress, but have made
 but little progress, in consequence of callers. Mr & Mrs Abbott were in, & both expressed
 the wish that they could have called before you left home. Clara Ward called - said her
 brother was sorry she did not invite us up stairs when we were in last; but
 she did not think of it, or supposed we might almost consider her imprudent
 for so doing, but now insisted me to call & see him. She spoke of your principal
 teacher in high terms. Afterwards a sho pedlar called & I purchased a pair, strings
& all for 48 cts. When Mr & Mrs A were in Jesse performed admirably - & Puss
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 occasion^ly looks
 in upon us, but I fancy she misses her hind friend. Father has commenced replacing the boards
 around the flower beds. I will with you a good night my dear sister, for it is nearly
 half past nine.

Saturday eve. I am quite alone again, mother having gone to Mrs Osgood's
 -so I will just say a few words to you & then sit down to read Mrs Judson. I have been
 thinking you may find Astronomy too hard a study, with your other new one, & if so;
 Rhetoric will, I think, require less study & be quite as interesting, & useful, and I would take it
 rather than be confined too closely for health & convenience. That point you borrowed of
 W.M. is called a style. I will give you Webster's definitions, which refer to it in that sense
 "A printed instrument formerly used in writing on tables of wax." 2^d. "Something with a [paper torn]
 point, as a graver; the pin of a dial; written also stile." When you write please remind me
 was anything wanted, if Father should go to Boston, besides the Cologne. Mother [page torn]
 Sophia Murphy is not any better - she still bleeds at her nose and mouth, but it is thoug [page torn]
 it all proceeds from her head. It has been cold and windy to-day & I have feared [page torn]
 Sister would go over to Haverhill & take cold, - but you must take very good care of
 yourself for my sake, as well as your own, - and may you be guarded & protected
 by a higher power, than that of any earthly friend.

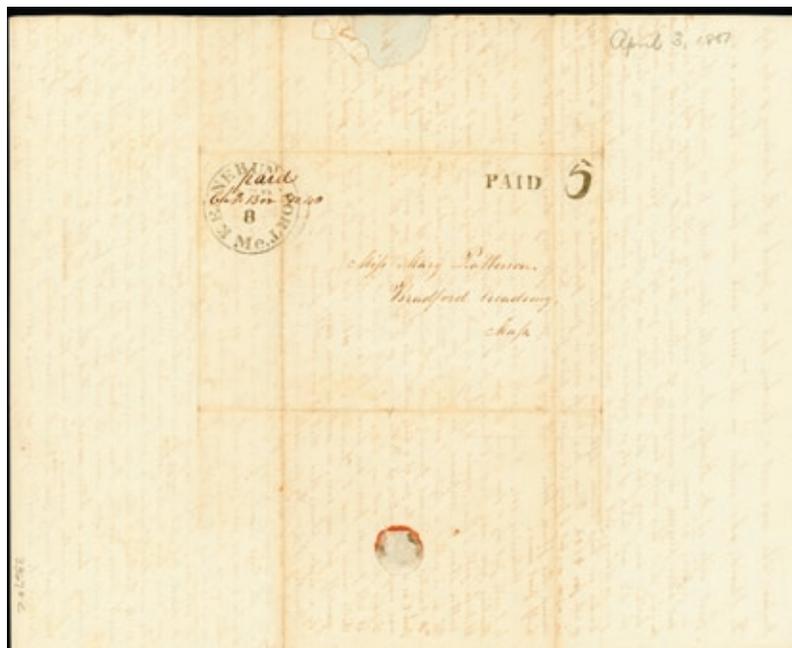
Tuesday P.M. - My dear Sister, we have just received your very welcome letter &
 indulged in a hearty laugh at your description, your dresses ought to have been made
 a little larger on account of the influence of example. We are very glad you have got
 into the large boarding-house, & now the next thing is to be on the best side of the
principal
 teacher & on as good terms with the others as convenience will allow, I am sorry you find
 them more particular than you expected. Father is much pleased with your letter.
 -he wishes me to say it is as good as most girls can write, but wishes you to improve
 all you can. Mother says you must not apply yourself so closely, as to cause your nose
 to bleed, but take every precaution which may preserve your health - tell us if you
 you have been troubled when you write again, - we have all been well since you left home.
 We were disappointed in not receiving your letter last eve - father thinks they must
 go to Portland & then return here, as that may be the first distributing office after the
 mail leaves Boston, I am hastening that this may go at 4 this P.M. & I shall begin
 to economize paper sooner the next time I write. You must write very often & I shall
 probably have a letter nearly filled, the most of the time, ready to dipach at
 a few minutes warning. Our Union this week contained the arrangements for the
 next York county fair & Charles Storer's wedding - if we should send it please
 preserve it. Do write again soon, & give us all the particulars. From your affectionate
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paid
Chg. Box No. 40

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Miss Mary Patterson.
Bradford Academy
Mass.