

Sabbath eve, June 15<sup>th</sup> 1851,

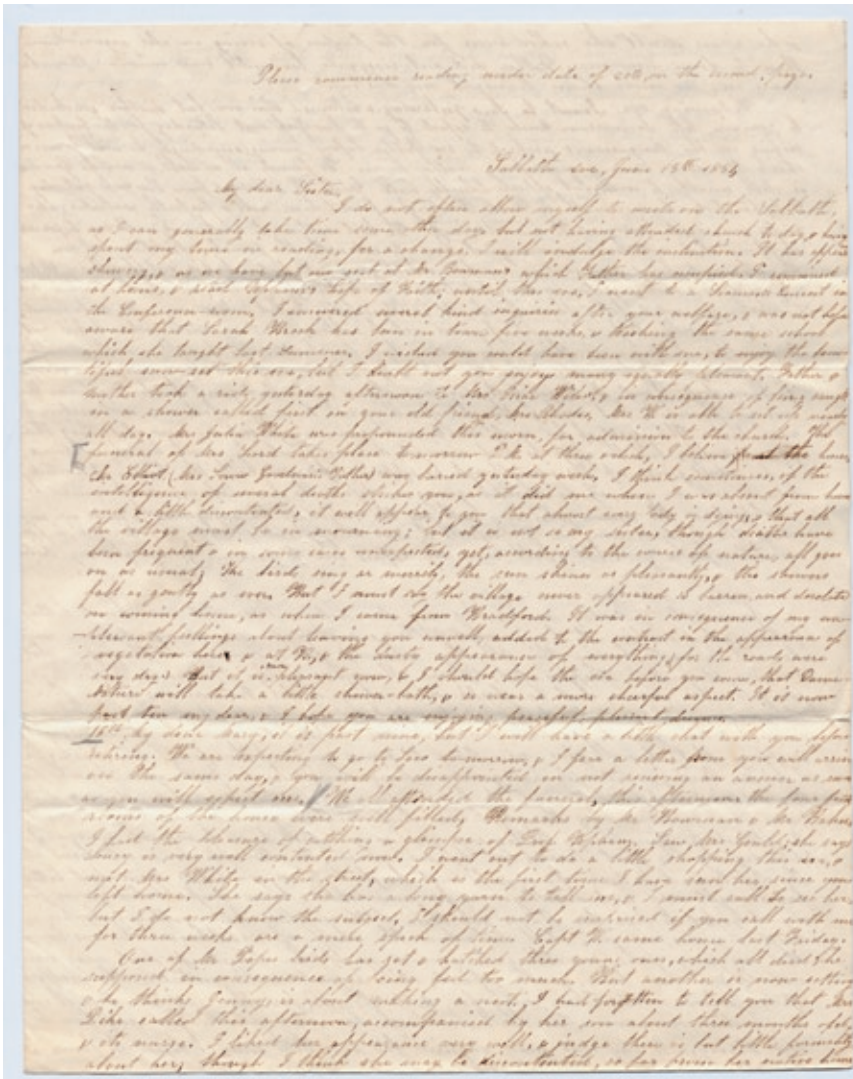
My dear Sister,

I do not often allow myself to write on the Sabbath, as I can generally take time some other day, but not having attended church to-day, & having

ed spent my time in reading, for a change, I will indulge the inclination. It has appear showery, & as we have but one seat at Mr Bowman's which Father has occupied, I remained at home, & read Upham's Life of Faith; until this eve I went to a Seaman's Concert in the Conference- room, I answered several kind inquiries after your welfare, & I was not before aware that Sarah Brock has been in town five weeks, & teaching the same school which she taught last summer. I wished you could have been with me, to enjoy the beautiful sun set this eve, but I doubt not you enjoy many equally pleasant, Father & mother took a ride yesterday afternoon to Mrs Isiac Wiles', & in consequence of being caught in a shower called first on your old friend, Mrs Rhodes, Mrs W. is able to sit up nearly all day. Mrs Julia White was propounded this morn, for admission to the church. The funeral of Mrs Lord takes place tomorrow P.M. at three oclock, I believe at the house, Mr Elliot (Mrs Lewis Goodwin's Father) was buried yesterday week, I think sometimes, if the intelligence of several deaths strikes you, as it did me when I was absent from home and a little discontented, it will appear to you that almost every [?] is dying, & that all the village must be in mourning; but it is not so my sister, though deaths have been frequent & in some cases unexpected, yet, according to the course of nature, al goes on as usual; The birds sing as merrily, the sun shines as pleasantly, & the showers fall as gently as ever. But I must say the village never appeared so barren, and desolate on coming home, as when I came from Bradford. It was in consequence of my unpleasant feellings about leaving you unwell, added to the contrast in the appearance of vegetation here & at Va., & the dusty appearance of everything, (for the roads were very dry.) But it is more pleasant now, & I should hope the eve before you come, that Dame- Pature will take a little shower-bath, & so wear a more cheerful as peet. It is now past ten my dear, & I hope you are enjoying peaceful pleasant dreams.

16<sup>th</sup> My dear Mary, it is past nine, but I will have a little chat with you, before retiring. We are expecting to go to Saco to-morrow, & I fear a letter from you will arrive on the same day, & you will be disappointed in not recieving an answer as soon as you will expect one. We all attended the funeral, this afternoon, the four front rooms of the house were well filled, Remarks by Mr Bowman & Mr Baker I had the pleasure of catching a glimpse of Prof, Upham. Saw Mrs Gould; she says Lucy is very well contented now. I went out to do a little shopping this eve, & met Mrs White in the street, which is the first time I have seen her since you left home. She says she has a long yarn to tell me, & I must call to see her, but I not know the subject, I should not be surprised if you can call with me for three weeks are a mere speck of time. Capt W. came home last Friday.

One of Mr Popes birds has set & hatched three young ones, which all died; he supposed in consequence of being fed too much. But another is now setting & he thinks Jenny is about making a nest. I had forgotten to tell you that Mrs Pike called this afternoon, accompanied by her son about three months old, & its nurse. I liked her appearance very well, & judge there is but little formality about her; though I think she may be discontent, so far from her native home



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
Coll. 89, Box 1/15  
Date: June 15, 1851  
Description: Lydia Patterson letter to Mary Patterson, June 15, 1851



I have no doubt she called once for the purpose of seeing an old acquaintance than to form new ones. Father did not recognize her, until some minutes after she came in. No more items tonight my darling.

Wednesday eve, I went to Fair yesterday, & returned this eve, but mother concluded to remain till to-morrow. Uncle B expects to go to New York next Saturday for the purpose of sailing in the Hungarian, & wished to see Father before leaving; accordingly he will go over in chaise to-morrow morn, & accompany mother home. We found all as well as usual. Grandmother is still unable to walk, but appears tolerably well. Uncle B. returned from New York yesterday P.M.. he took dinner with J.B. at Reading, & found him well & perfectly contented; also quite encouraged in regard to his Business. We had no time to make any calls in S. for our shopping did not leave us one quiet hour to sit with the family, excepting last eve. We did not find any curtain muslin which gave satisfaction & did not purchase. We bought ribbons, laces, shoes & gaiters, a barege de-faire & two collars for mother; in the last article particularly, succeeded better than we should in Haverhill. Quilled ribbon was not to be found, & for my silk drefs, I bought figured velvet ribbon, about an inch wide. I did not inquire for lacing cord, thinking you may have purchased. We bought a watered silk mantilla, with lace brimming for Sarah & gave \$4, 22th for it ready out; also a cheap ginham drefs, I met Mr Hayes yesterday in a store, & again to-day, as I was leaving town. He was in Haverhill last week, & thought of calling over to see you, but was not certain you were there. The object of his visit, was to make some arrangement in view of settling there permanently, but the offer he had recieved, did not entirely meet his approbation, & he has about given up the idea, though he appeared pleased with the town. I invited him to call on you, if he should go again before the term close, & he promised he would, do so. He recieves jokes very well on the subject of his engagement, & owns up readily says the lady is now in Biddeford. I was disappointed when I returned, to find no letter from you, but shall anxiously expect one tomorrow. Good night my Sister.

June 20<sup>th</sup>. -- Friday morn, My very dear Sister, I recieved your kind letter yesterday, but wished to know father's & mother's decision in regard to your coming home, I deferred sending this till they returned from Saco, & sent the paper that you might not be disappointed. We are all well, & mother & I wished Father to go for you this morn, but he preferred waiting until to-morrow; for we fear the air, & confinement to study, are far from being favorable to your health, & cannot allow you to remain another week. This letter will be of no consequence excepting that it will give you time to rescue your clothes from the wash; for I believe Friday & Saturday are your washing days; also to pack your trunks in the morning while it is cool; to have your carpet taken up, & to ge your books from the school-room; though I am half [?] you are not very well able to attend these things. Father says you may expect him to-morrow morning (Saturday) by the first train; but by no means, to attempt to meet him at the depot: and I know he would not be glad to see you there. Your last letter has brought very sad intelligence, for none could know Mifs Nelson, even for one day, but to love her. I dare say those little mullen-leaves, gathered by her kind hand for you, still hi upon the shelf; if so, please take one home that we may have something to remind us of her kindnefs. And may w not believe her pure, gentle spirit, still regards wit interest the welfare of her school-mates? I am sorry for Mifs Clarke, for this sad event will cast a shadow over, even, the last term of her stay at B. Give my love to Mifs Harvey, & to any who may inquire for me. With some, I began to form a

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a pleasant acquaintance which there, you speak of making some purchases, but I would not give myself any trouble about those little things, unless you particularly wish for anything, and can make arrangements after Father goes, to ride to Haverhill. Mother & I bought everything we need in Saco; & among other things, a buff neck-ribbon for myself & a yard of buff for cuffs, though the neck-ribbon proved to be nearer corn-colour. I did not take any for you not knowing but you might have provided for yourself, but you are welcome to anything I have. You say I was disposed to complain of your tardings in surviving letters, but I willingly excuse it, for I am aware your time has all been occupied. Though I [?] acknowledge the three weeks since my return from B. have appeared longer than the seven previous to my visit in consequence of the anxiety I have felt in regard to your health, & I long to have you home again. I believe there is no news, excepting that Mrs Lydia Wheeler ~~health~~ has been failing for some weeks, and yesterday her sufferings ceased. I have no doubt it was a welcomed day to her, Mr Abbott returned yesterday, with health somewhat improved. [?] a great deal of love till to-morrow. I think I did not say before, that Father would wish to return by the second train; but if by any means it should be deterred do not fail to take your thickest shawl to wear in addition to your [?], or if it should be a damp day, do the same. If convenient, I shall call to Mrs Potts this P.M.

From your affectionate Sister,  
Lydia Patterson.

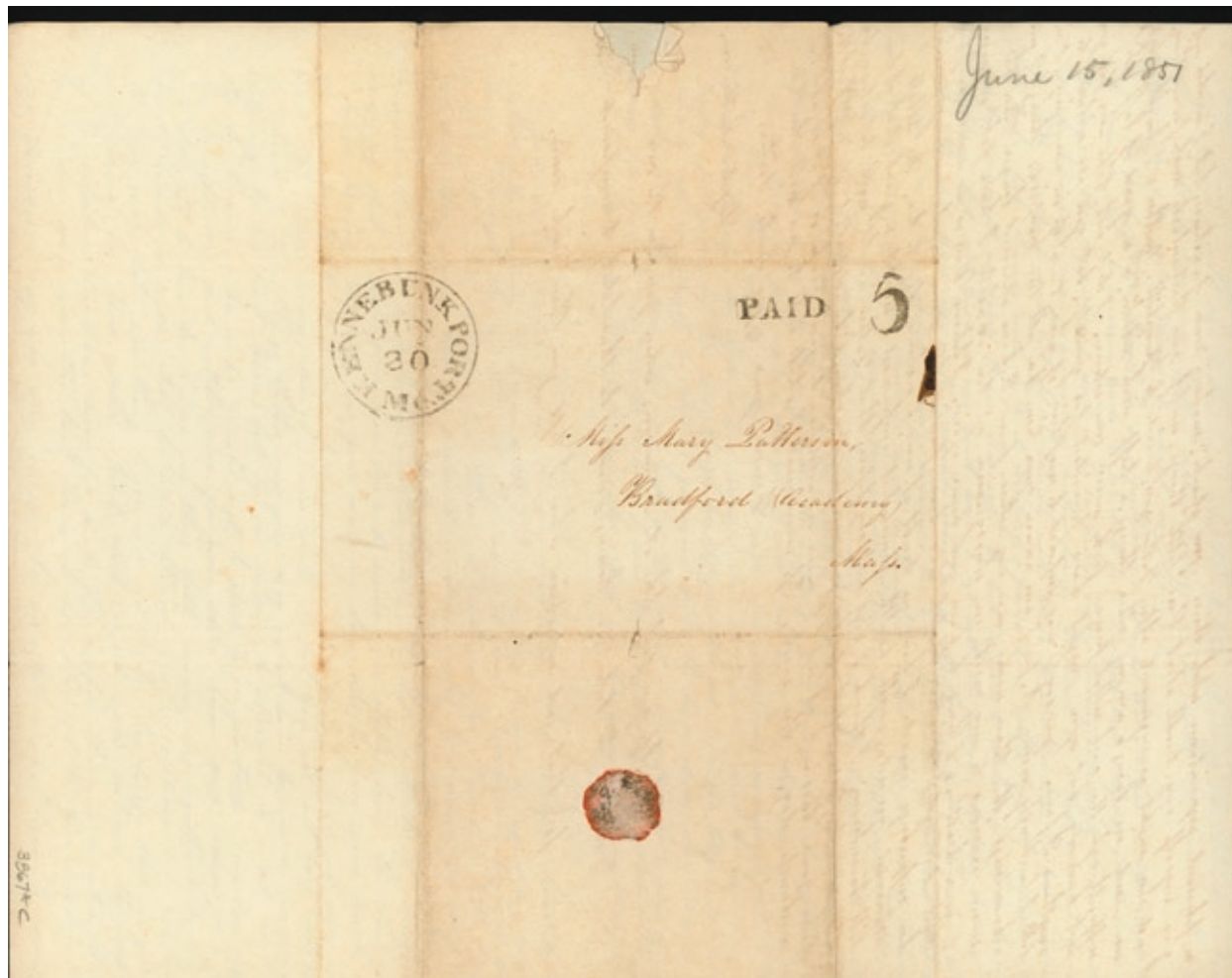
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[postmark]  
Kennebunkport Me PAID 5  
June 30

Miss Mary Patterson  
Bradford Academy  
Mass.