

Portland, Feby 2nd 1835

My dear Sir,

I intended to write you a letter from Boston or New York - but in the hurry-scurry of travelling I found it quite impossible to write to any one, except my wife - and even in that quarter I have had a lecture for remissness.

I reached town on Saturday last - after riding all night in that sweet rain-storm. All your commissions have been faithfully executed, with the exception of the Mann of birds. Him I did not see. I postponed, that business till my return from the South; and then stopped so short a time in Boston, that I had, not time. Dr. Webster is living in Cambridge. I sent the package to him, but did not see him. - In New York I passed an hour or two in inspecting the Hydro-Oxygen Microscope. It is nothing more nor less than a very fine Solar Mic^{pe} lighted by the gasses of a Compound blowpipe. The two streams of gass play upon a little ball of lime, about the size of a

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rifle bullet, and very powerful reflectors throw the whole volume of light through the lenses of the instrument. The screen is about twenty feet in diameter. The greatest magnifying power used was 10 millions! The wing of a common fly was enlarged into a huge fan - one hundred feet in length, and the shadow was some minutes traveling over the screen. In a drop of water - sea-serpents and dragons without number. In fine - all the usual phantasmagoria of the solar microscope.

In Philadelphia I was introduced to Prof. Hare. He looks something like the Ink-merchant Mons. Le Brun. The utmost I can say for his behavior is, that he is a well educated bear. I leave you to infer how much I was pleased with shaking a paw with him.

Well - I have concluded to accept the offer at Cambridge, and shall go to Europe in the Spring. I want to sail, if possible on the

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first of April; and in order to do this must
dissolve my connection with Bowdoin as early as
the first of March. Or would the Gov^t prefer
that I should not enter on the duties of the
next term? I will do as they think best. Mr.
Greene says he is willing to supply for me
till the close of the College year; so that on
that point there will be no embarrassment, if the
Gov^t wish the course of instruction to go on unchanged.
He communicates this to the other gentlemen.

I intend to be in Brunswick about week before
the beginning of the term - probably on Monday
next. I am not perfectly satisfied with all the
manoeuvres of the Cambridge corporation; but have
concluded after much debate to accede to
their terms. This is sub. rosa. I will tell you more
when we meet; and if you do not exclaim
"That is just like them" - I am mistaken.

Kind regards to all y^r family.

Very truly yrs

Henry W. Long

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