

Auburn Nov. 7, 1855
My dear Father,
I received a letter from you last night, in which you say I may come home to Thanksgiving, and my object in writing to you this morning is to find out if you think I had better do so. I asked Mr. Woods the other day how long school was to keep, he replied it would close on the 27 of this month, and as Thanksgiving is the 22nd it would be five days more till school is done, and as it does not keep Saturday I should have four days more schooling, and now father if you will tell me what it is best for me to do, give me your advice, and not merely say "you may come" or "you may not come", but tell me is it your wish that I should come, and is it for my own best good, if you will tell me this, I will promise you that I will trouble you no more with the doleful question of "shall I come home to Thanksgiving?". Now father do not be vexed with me, because I have kept "harping" on this subject, now if in your next letter you say that I may come home I will cheerfully pack my "duds" up and come home with any one who is sent to escort me, if on the other hand you may say that you think it will be for my welfare to remain, I will with equal cheerfulness apply myself to my books, till the four days have elapsed, and then will set my face East Readfield-ward, where I hope you will greet

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me not the less affectionately, for my continual writing upon this subject, for I assure you upon my word and honor, that this shall be the last letter upon this subject this year, as I am aware that "continual drippings will wear the heart of a stone". school does not keep, I think an aforesaid day. Now good bye for forever to the theme of Thanksgiving.

When I do return home I think I should feel safer about my baggage if you should come over to go home with me, I have a trunk, valise (is that the way to spell it) and a satchel and a small box to carry in my lap; and on several other accounts I prefer to have you come instead of Emery, said accounts I will not now mention, but Em has been promised that he should come over, and if he comes I wish he would come so as to be here some Saturday, as school did not close last night till the stores and dwelling houses were lit up, [don't stare, for its the solemn truth, Mr. Woods reads a chapter and prays every night and the scholars, some of them, sing] so I should not have much time to go out with him if he did not.

My health this day is so poor that I cannot go to school, although I wish to very much as they read composition, select pieces, and speak dialogues and have various amusements to day, I have been down to school once but my head ached so that I returned to the house, I do not write this complainingly for I think

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I have been blessed with good health so far, and hope I shall continue to be;

I can conjecture who the person was that you spoke of as having the horrors frequently, and I can also conjecture that if a certain person, whose name I will not here tell, was kept on a diet of 'paddy whacks' for 8 weeks, that that person would wish to return home ~~out~~ Oh I must not mention what day, as that is henceforth forbidden to pass my lips, and I have further to say that as you prefer Emery to me, and as I cant be Em and Em cant be me, you may hunt round and find one who suits you better, and you may swap me off that is if you will find me a father as good as the one I have got now, but that I think would be a hard job which you had better not undertake, and I doubt if you could find a father to suit me, except yourself on this whole earth;

Give my love to all that you know & love and take a lot yourself, as you need never fear that you will take all I have for you.

And now dear father (I continue to call you a relative) good bye.

Yours Affectionate
"Little Sonty"

I had forgotten to say that Rasa Raak said she guessed there would be an exhibition where some of the scholars spoke dialogues, she did know certainly, I write this so that all obstacles to my coming home may be considered as well as the inducements to come

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