

Waterville Jan'y 10th 1873

Some weeks since I recieved a letter from thee — instead of answering it — directed a very civil reply to Uncle Jammy — consequence — mute as a fish the aforsaid Uncle Jammy — A few weeks after a second polite note from as I suppose J Lee — dissatisfied — twas Rachel's swears I had never written a line — d—d Lie! wrote above a score & sent them Back by Bradford after he had discharged that is [page torn]-nclly VIZ Spewd — me at Hallowell — Some time since deliverence — much as I itched faugh! — to scribble — not to write you a deny myself the satisfaction & whistle mum! — good — Pathetic too! —

Now I ask you would you take the trouble to read 2 or 3 pages more — If I would take the ditto d—d ditto to write them? —

Journal

Novr 1st Eod — 9 o'clock-- Stiff Breeze dead ahead, weigh'd anchor, & bumped thwack! plump against Union wharf — Sarboard side —

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
 (Coll. 2125, Box 1/2)
 Date: Jan. 10, 1873
 Description: John Neal letter to sister

Wind — Slackend — Squally aboard of two cats &
& a boy — Shifted W- 1/2 W — up foresail
mainsail — topsail — Jib and away we went
breasting the mountain surge boo! — untold
that night under Great Sebeg — mightly
pleasant — crept into the Cuddy or cabin, stow'd
previously with all the instruments of torture the
most ingenious cruelty could devise for a
Sleepy man — cats & Boy excepted — well —
crept in head first & crept out — as Bears
come down a tree — viz you know how —
Breakfasted on the Back of a whale — on all
the riches Earth Heaven & Hell — sea-air
& Bradford could produce — crept tongue —
lice — one of Noahs chickens 2 hairs a piece —
a cup of "pea Kaffee" as the Lady of de house
call em — & a Ram cat — or rather the Ram
Cat Breakfasted on us — got most miserably
scalded — turnd 3 Somerseltes pretty expeditiously —
cried waugh! & went crack! thro the window
Result unfavorable — that night
being tuesday laid too under bare poles — wind
& tide against us — ax Geo. Warren with my
compliments to explain that — under the lee
side of a Wharf — half way up y^e Kennebeck
Slunk ashore & squeesed with most ambrosial
ardor — a cows udder — for some supper — Lodged
with a Mis S — at Mis S's I mean — who kindly
counted her teaspoons — & Lock'd me into my room
— rose arly — & with a nail fastend her out — jumped
out of the window & got aboard —

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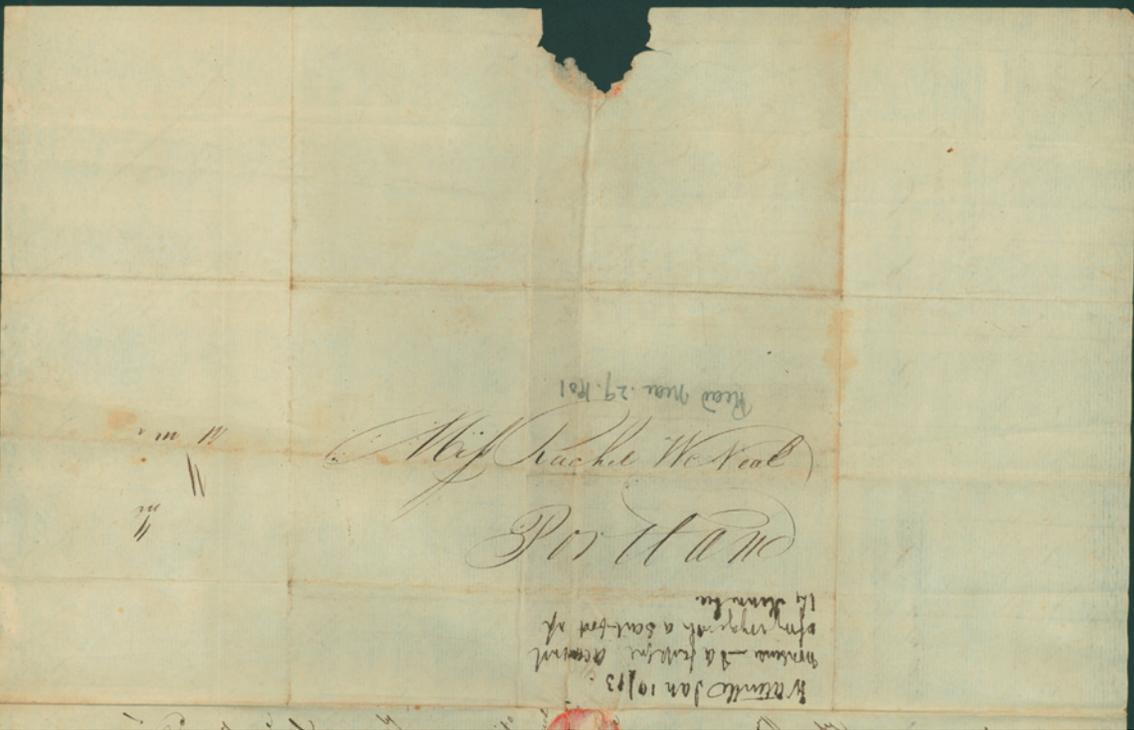
viz

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at 10 was at Bath — saw among other friends
doctor Hobbrook — his pretty wife & a Bouncing
Boy — a tremendous reward for their patriotic
exertions — two whole years — “Keep it up!”
said I — heard em praise R & c — Bad them god
Bye — & off — all that & the following day
working our way up river — grounded some
10 or a 12 times — out one night more with
our boat literally tied to a tree — next day
at 12 thursday walk'd 2 miles & found help
out Hallowell — thank Heaven! —
Mans life the poets say is only a Voyage —
God grant — I wish this may not be an Epito-
me of mine! — Never before did so fervent
a prayer Escape my lips — was at [Missing]
but a few weeks taught writing & drawing took [missing]
Indian Ink Likenesses — from thence went
to Norridgewock 45 miles “up river a piece” as they
say here — did well — you have a woefull Idea
of eastern manners, Eastern farms — Eastern Beggary
&c — But let me tell you we eat white
Bread here when you cant get Brown — plenty
of — \$4” corn 60^{cts} — the Building farms re so
Superior to my Expectations that I delay d writing —
dreading lest my Enthusiasm should tempt me to
exaggerate when I first visited this o party — now serious-
ly I declare windham - Gorham or Falmouth can
not produce in an average half as good farms as
the folk cultivate here — had another large
school at Canaan I am now at Waterville —
is Rockwell in Portl^d —? good Bye J. Neal

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J. Neal



Miss Rachel W Neal
Portland