

My dear mother
Hallowell May 5 1814
By Captain Winslow I
send you a small Bundle - containing wear-
ing apparel &c &c - intended as evidences
of my Oeconomy - they should be most
thankfully recieved for I assure ye they
are most thankfully bestowd - for safe
keeping - the Corderoys you may pickle
till I return - Heaven only knows how
soon I may want to rebutton them
- I bought them for savings sake -
I wore them 3 weeks for the same
ason & 10 days since I left them
for no other - I knew If I wore them
a week longer I should be compell'd to purchase
a new hide - and that in Kennebec is
no easy matter - Oeconomy for ever!
these cheap - beautiful - interesting corduroys
cost me the sum of 9/ pr week for the
time I wore them besides sundry little bills
for baiting - boarding & repairing -
Now for something sensible
how do you do my dear mother? - you may
expect me in about a month & then serious-
ly I go to New York - this is not one
of my old stories - but at this moment
I am as determin'd to visit that city speedily

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
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Date: May 5, 1814

Description: John Neal letter to his mother

as I was last fall to visit this —
they tell ^{me} my sky-blue triangle is keeping
school — o Lord! wat) this world coming
to! — well — let Virtue shine and you'd
be fine — O my most respected mother
I have made very particular enquires for
a certain reprobate of yours who once came
to this part of the world as a writing
master — O! main I would not wound a
parents feelings unnecessarily — but — main
they do say here — "tis just as 'one is
brought up" — yes do what you will
in this witty town — run your nose against
a post — break your shins over a log of
wood — kiss a pretty girl — or make faces
in meeting — tis always remark'd — there!
"tis just as one brought up" — yes — now
theres my cousin billy a well meaning young
man but he has an odd way of expressing
it — fell in Love — poor soul! with a trim lassie
at his lodgings and tore himself away from
she with his eyes all bedew'd with — something
very like drops of brandy — the first salutation
that met the ears of this pathetic lad
was — tis just as one is brought up —
Enough! — now for 15 lines exactly
of as good sense as I can write —
the next page must good for that

as I was last fall to visit this —

me

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Sabbath before last the friends you mentioned
 visited this place accompanied by Edw^d
 Cobb — their reputation preceded them & the
 Hall they preached in was not large enough
 to contain all who would have attended —
 — the first was a tall young woman
 say about 26 with a very powerful voice
 her language was good — she breathed the
 purest sentiments of morality — the warmest
 benevolence towards Christians of every denomination
 and the most exalted charity — save some
 peculiarities of tone & pronunciation & the
 wrong application of a few words — and an
 intemperate loudness of voice her address
 was good — excellent in its kind — the
 next was an older woman and a more
 general favorite — spoke very fluently but
 in so monotonous a tone and with so little
 feeling I could ^{not} divest my mind of an
 unfavorable suspicion she had previously
 written it, and committed it to memory —
 she was too coldly correct —
 unhappily she twice repeated a quotation in poetry
 of some length — this I afterwards found was an illustration
 indiscriminately applied by both — Next
 came Edw^d Cobb his, was distinguished for plain
 temperate unaffected good sense — little warmth
 but impressive & serious — afterwards a prayer
 by the first friend — upon the whole they were
 much liked — Novelty has a certain charm that
 will render anything even Religion — even Quaker-
 ism attracting — Thine John Neal

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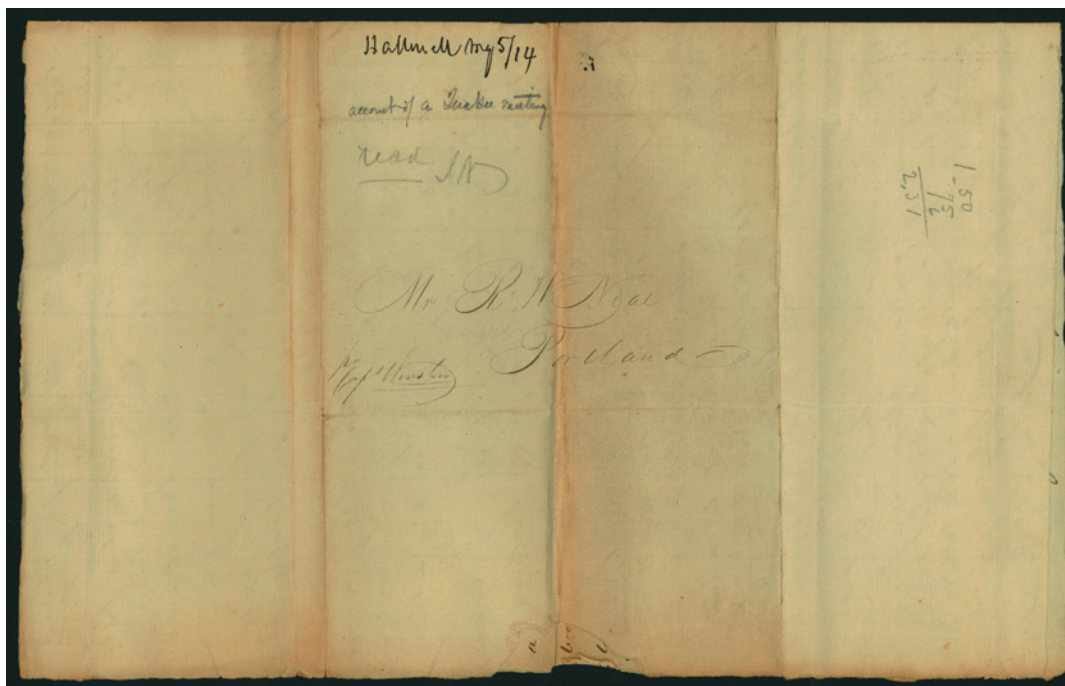
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John Neal



Mr R W Neal
Portland
pr
Capt Winslow