

Baltim<sup>o</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1815. my dear Sister will believe me when I say I am extremely disappointed at the result of my scheme <sup>to be</sup> to spend this winter at balt together — Indeed I had calculated on this so fondly — with such solicitude - no scheme was thought of for our amusement during this inhospitable season. but she was still considered a forming part — every frolic every conversation party on Tea Squall — the Theatre, the houses of my acquaintances & my friends were all to be open to you — a new world — you were to participate in all my enjoyments — yet with all these gay warm hearted anticipations with all these favorite schemes in which my sister had become a principal subject completely blasted — tho every arrangement I had for her reception [?] I did believe a few weeks since I should not be happy till she did arrive. so intimately had the house incorporated in all my dreams of enjoyment.

Yet still my dear Sister — Still the more I think of it the less inclined I am to regret the disappointment — you will not accuse

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(Coll. 2125, Box 1/3)

Date: Dec. 8, 1815

Description: John Neal letter to his sister.

me of unkindness — some sisters might  
but you know the heart of your brother —  
& my reasons for not replying are these first  
— I may as well begin with the best — first  
then it was impossible you could come over  
the manner proposed "and what's impossible  
can't be you know — next you would have  
had a most uncomfortable jaunt of it 600  
miles at this dreary season with strangers —  
Meeting strangers we it could not have  
been pheasants — next spring or rather  
say about next July you shall see me  
Heaven willing — about you 500 miles nearer  
I could n't see you before — every day some  
note of mine becomes due — there is a great  
pressure for money & no business doing - goods  
falling &c — so that I am perpetually employed  
about July I repeat you may  
think of seeing me. I shall go to New York  
before spend a week & if living things meet  
my expectations after visiting Litchfield — I shall  
go to Portland. take you with me. return to  
New York. present you to my future wife  
& then away for Baltimore —

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& visiting strangers so it could not have  
been pleasant — next spring or rather  
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Thanks giving day — about a dozen Yankees met & ate pumpkin pies &c for the honor of New England — to preserve order & keep all quiet I was elected President — & a most peacable time you may be sure we had — now for my dear Mother — in all these plans of which my Brain has given such full & pretty specimens you have not been excluded — but the fact is this — I fear we cannot live together happily & I do not know that Rachel & myself can — at any rate it is easier trying the experiment with her now — but at some future period &c as soon as you will consent to shake off all your cares about that infernal School & go ~~to board~~ I entreat you to do so & then say an another where I embrace you in the Spring if you can consent to leave all your present acquaintances & Relatives for your only Son — if you will then come by the Eternal parent of mankind I will try to make the remainder of your life comfortable & happy — you must & shall live in the Bosom of your own family & mine — Think of the second my dear mother — I am sanguine in the belief

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that I can find a mother & a wife whose interests  
& happiness shall be so blended that we can all live  
a steady unruffled life — be not alarmed I am serious  
a wife. I must & will have if possible within a twelvemonth  
for a very good reason I can afford such an appendage — write soon John



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[sideways]

Miss R W Neal  
Portland  
Maine