

Bro. Pierce,
Standish March 28. 1823 —

I acknowledge with peculiar pleasure the receipt of your letter of yesterday, which your Father has this moment give me, because it offers increased evidence of a fact, not indeed doubtful before, viz. that those who best know Mr Longfellow have most reason ^{to view him} with the most respectful esteem — with feelings closely approximating to absolute veneration. — The stimulus intended, however, by your letter was quite unnecessary — Nothing can add to the ardent desire I am actuated with, for the election of Mr L. — but here I feel it a duty to partially suppress the ardour of my exertions — to temper my zeal with moderation — hoping by the appearance of listlessness to keep the enemy quiet, & to take them by surprise! And I hope you will not overshoot the mark in Gorham by too actively opening the electioneering campaign. — I have already spoken to trusty friends in different quarters of the town to see that the federalists are ready at their posts — I coolly set before wavering electors the qualities of the respective candidates — I insist upon the unshaken integrity the sound ability — the discriminating judgment & extensive information of Mr L. — as a corps de reserve & allude to the delicate health of Mr L. & insist upon the necessity of preserving to commu-

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Date: March 28, 1823
Description: Randolph Codman letter to Josiah Pierce on Stephen
Longfellow's election campaign

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And in more than one instance, I believe, my ex-
ertions have not been fruitless - I hope to give
evidence on the first Monday in April that
we are not insensible to the duty we owe to com-
munity in selecting for an office so responsible
as that of Representative to Congress a man uni-
ting in himself almost every possible qualification.
You will not forget, however, that we fight against
fearful odds - the enemy are 3 to 1 against us -
— you will hardly, I fear, decypher this
scroll - I have only 5 minutes allowed me to
write you, - As Mr Peabody is starting for Gorham
suddenly to witness, as he fears, the dying expirations
of the Parent of a most warmly esteemed friend -
Adieu - be watchful - be vigilant, & I have
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Yours Sincerely
Randolph A. L. Codman

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