



My Dear George, You have not favoured me with a line since June, tho' I have written twice, once while at Concord and again, I think in August, at any rate it was soon after my return from the South. Now, if I thought, you considered it enough to be bored with my prosing, without being teased & pressed for a reply, whatever interest I might still continue to take in your fortunes- in your clouds & yr sunshine, I certainly should be silent. I would not thrust myself before you.- but I believe no such thing. I only think, that thro' the hurry and perplexity of business, the rivalry of politicks perhaps and the calls of those nearer to you now and dearer than myself, the recollection of early intimacies does not urge itself upon you as formerly, exciting at one time, an involuntary laugh and at another, perchance demanding the tribute of a tear - The six months we lived together, I believe for a variety of reasons, will ever be considered as the most important period in my life, altho' we lived as it were alone, there was flung over our existences and almost continual excitement. You were always making the most of the present and looking, at the same time, with an eye of confidence upon the future, and from your high hopes, I derived something, which seemed to open, even to me, a prospect to which I had never before lifted up my eyes - But let all this hap-

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
Maine Historical Society  
Date: Jan. 27, 1832  
Description: Franklin Pierce on friendship with George Washington Pierce

Time works strange changes and you perhaps have long since viewed with indifference, incidents, which still recur to me with interest and with the same freshness as tho' they had been of yesterday. - I believe, I related to you in my last, so much as might probably be interesting of my journey to the South. Since my return, I have led a very sober one like another sort of life. Have been steadily at home and you know how it is here. With almost no society, a man has nothing to do (or should have nothing) but to read and reflect. I would that my industry enabled me to do this more effectually, for to say the truth, I am but an indifferent student - Oh! I must not forget my debut as a Military Man. In Oct., with three other aids de camp, I attended His Excellency at a splendid volunteer review in the West part of the State (at Kuni) and my colonelship, in behalf of the Commander in Chief, had an opportunity of addressing 16 Companies of Light troops. A finer day than that of the review never broke over the earth. The military display excelled by far any thing of the kind I had ever seen and the concourse was immense; almost the whole line was covered with carriages filled with Ladies. (not such as excited your mirth at Cork Muster) Some of the Companies had upon the field a full suit of Camp Equipage. That belonging to the Company commanded by Captain Wilson. (late Colo' Wilson and Speaker of the House in -28), was taken from the British during the late war. I believe my speech was well received, but I was more proud of my steed than anything else. He was a beautiful thorough bred horse of a cream colour with white flowing mane & tail. I should not be thus particular to any person other than yourself - What have you been about

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George, for the last year? Among other things, you should  
have been married. If you are so, you will please present to Mrs  
Pierce, my best regards. I trust you may make these acceptable, tho'  
I have not the honour of her personal acquaintance. I spoke of visiting  
Portland this winter, that journey is now out of the question. Can  
we meet at Boston, say 10<sup>th</sup> Feby. If business or inclination  
or both induce you to make the trip, so advise me & my presence  
shall not be wanting. We might unquestionably pass a few  
days there (24 hours in a day you know) very profitably. I am  
happy to perceive, that your Brother Josiah is a leading  
member of the Democratic party in y<sup>r</sup> Legislature. Have you  
read Clay's Tariff speech? I was never more disappointed than in  
its perusal. It was heralded by all the federal papers: its  
appearance here was anticipated by a thousand puffs. And  
finally came the naked production. the <sup>mighty</sup> effort upon  
which an immense audience hung in breathless silence!! Well what  
is it? If it be not really a very tame concern, then informing  
my opinion, have I been egregiously misled by my prejudice.  
Compare it with half a dozen speeches made on Footes resolution, and  
does it not in all respects sink into utter insignificance. — What  
do you think of the Bank question? I hope if a bill be passed  
upon the President at this time, rechartering the institution, with its  
present powers, he will place upon it his veto and I have no  
doubt he will. that firmness of purpose, which has characterized him at  
all times and in the most trying situations will not now forsake him.  
Have you heard from Walker within the last 8 mo's? He  
was in Philadelphia in June, but I could not find him  
there in July. I fear he will never succeed that nervous  
temperament will play the D—l with him. Hasn't it been  
D—ish cold "Down East" this winter. We were benumbed  
during the whole month of Dec<sup>r</sup> by an atmosphere almost constantly  
several degrees below 0 [page torn] Your ink however must have thawed out by this  
time and you will n[page torn] refuse to scatter a little for my benefit. How  
does F.O.&C stand aff[page torn]tier towards you now?  
I am as ever very  
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January 27, 1832 —

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