

Dec 1, 1865
Friday evening Dec. 1. 1865
My dear Sister Hannah,
I received with much
pleasure your nice & valuable present of stockings
by Nancy P. Sanborn. Accept my thanks for the same
& Evelina (my wife) also wishes to send her thanks.
She has found it very difficult to obtain suitable
stocking yarn. Nancy has knit me one pair, the last
month, so that now with yours & Elizabeth's good
work, I am well supplied.
It was very kind of you to knit for me, with your
many cares & infirmities of eyes & hands; and I value this
last work highly & gratefully. I never forget your many
acts of sisterly kindness in former days - those nice
shirt bosoms, of so much nice work in them, that you
made me, when I was a young man, & had no wife or daught
ers to care for me. The many good & warm mittens and
stockings you furnished me in bygone days. All
are remembered with gratitude, & should be glad ever
to remunerate you; but there is little that I can now do
for you or others, I can only return good wishes and
thanks for favors received, and pray God to give you
health, comfort, & happiness in your declining years.
We are all pretty well at Gorham & my wife & Nancy
send much love to you & all at your house.
We heard from Ella a few days ago. She was well & happy.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
Maine Historical Society

Date: Dec. 1, 1865

Description: Josiah Pierce to Hannah Pierce

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We are all pretty well at Gorham & my wife & Nancy
send much love to you & all at your house.

We heard from Ella a few days ago - she was well & happy.

I know you take and interest in my children's affairs - & are glad to hear of their well being - and honorable standing in life. & I have the belief that all of them stand well among the people where they are - George has lately been elected a councillor (The higher Legislative branch) of Arizona. Lewis has just been chosen a member of the Board of Trade in Portland, & Clerk of our Rail Road Company. & Josiah has arrived at nobility in Russia. I will copy part of his letter to me received yesterday.

"Dear Father since I last wrote you the Emperor has conferred Knighthood on me. I have received the badge of the Order of St. Anne of Russia, a pretty red cross, to be worn at the button hole of the left breast next to the top but one, with a lighter coloured red ribbon. It was forwarded to me by a letter (autograph) from the Prime Minister, Prince Gortakacoff, who said it was given as a token of the Emperor's particular good feeling." "The Order of St. Anne is a high respected order of Knighthood & a distinguished and valued honor here." (that is in Russia. Sir Josiah adds "I shall not parade my honours, but bear them meekly, only on fitting occasions"

Now this Knighthood would be useless & absurd in Republican America, but not so in Europe - it will there give Josiah high distinction, and access to persons of rank, which he could not otherwise have. & on all great public days and

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Gala days - it will give him a good position and seat - where he can better see & hear, than in the untitled multitude. At any rate, it is a high distinction for a young American. And I believe no one from New England has been knighted - since Count Rumford was by George 3^d of England. Sir William Pepperell was some years before - He & Admiral Tate - who was knighted in Russia - 60 years ago are I think the only persons, from Maine, who ever were knighted. I think the Russian Government think Josiah will remain at St Petersburg hereafter - perhaps he may. Josiah sent love to all of your household & regards to Mr Boothby. I should not have written so much about this - matter of Josiah's to any one, but a member of our family.

I shall write you when I can, but I am quite unfit to go & see you & sometimes I fear I shall never visit dear old Baldwin again, but whether I do or not. I shall ever be your affectionate brother

Josiah Pierce

Our brother George, if living would have been 60 years old tomorrow Dec. 2^d.

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