

Brunswick 31<sup>st</sup> October 1815.

Dear Father little did I think when I left you on Brunswick plain that it would be so long before I should write you, but circumstances have prevented my writing sooner. It is a true saying "that perils & want are more or less the lot of every person"; & I in my turn have been the subject of disease. Yes my dear father I have been very sick.

At first week I was in college I was attacked with a violent influenza, which was then & now is very prevalent here, it has confined very many to their rooms; the same week a scholar from Wiscasset, who boarded at the same house I did & who was in my class, was taken sick & in 2 or 3 days broke out with the measles, as soon as we knew what his disorder was we removed him from college to prevent their spreading, but it was of no use for he had already communicated them to all in our end of college who had not previously had them the number of us was six.

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
Maine Historical Society  
Date: October 31, 1815  
Description: Josiah Pierce about illness at Bowdoin College

In the mean time my influenza increased, but I still attended to my lessons & attended prayers night & morning though quite unwell, I endeavoured to throw it off by exertion but in vain I then left study & did not go to my meals, but my classmate Emery brought my victuals to the college, my roommate Lewis took all possible care of me as did also classmates Smith & Fessenden, but college is no place to be sick for though the students are very kind to one another yet they know not what to do & if they did they have nothing to do with; (this was the week [page torn] last) on Saturday I kept my room but took a profuse sweat. On Sabbath morning Mr Lewis urged me to send for a physician as he had done several days before, I declined sending for one, but he would have one & accordingly Dr Lincoln of Topsham came he gave me a portion of salts & ordered me to put my feet in warm water & drink warm tea & be sweated, but growing worse & having strong symptoms of the measles, Mr Fessenden & another classmate went to Topsham in the evening for the Dr. he came & gave his opinion that I should have the measles, & said I must be moved from college next morning, accordingly next day I was removed in a chaise to the house of Mrs Bailey I went to bed & the strongest teas were given me to drive out the measles, & at night I was broken out the next day I was very sick I had an extremely high fever & every part of my body was entirely covered with the measles, the day

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the next night my measles struck in & you can hardly imagine  
the distress I was in. but by great exertions they were got out again  
and the third day they returned, the next day my fever began to abate  
& I have been getting better ever since & yesterday I went out &  
to day have been able to return to college & resume my place. my eyes  
have been very much affected & are yet quite weak. During <sup>my</sup> illness I  
had a very celebrated physician to attend me & an excellent nurse.  
The students were remarkably kind I never was put to any trouble to  
get watchers for they all were willing to stay with me. I feel partic-  
ularly indebted to Emery, Lewis, Smith & Fessenden, Smith & Emery hardly  
left me day or night. Dr Lincoln declares he never knew but two  
persons to have the measles as bad as I had, & no one who had  
so high a fever with them, he thought I should be confined a  
long time, but He who giveth life & taketh it away even the  
God of might, put under me the arms of everlasting mercy &  
raised me to health, for which I know you [page torn] Him  
with me. I should <sup>have</sup> been glad to have seen you & had <sup>my</sup> mother  
to take care of me but I am glad she was not here for I would not  
have had her exposed to a malady that so greatly reduced her son.  
my expenses will amount to considerable, but I know not what, for  
my physician who came to visit me 13 times has not given me his bill  
neither has the woman when I was sick given me hers.

In my last Weekly Messenger is a Eulogy on Count Rumford pro-  
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was translated into the English papers & from them copied into the Messen-  
ger, it contains many things I never heard of him before. A week ago last  
Saturday General J. Brown the hero of the North, passed thro this town. Last  
Wednesday there was a Brigade muster here but being sick I saw none of it.  
I like College very well, the President is very far from being an austere man,  
he visited while sick both in college & after I was removed. I recieved a letter from  
Hannah last week who informed me you were writing me, but I have never  
recieved a line from you yet. do write next week, send it by mail, direct it to  
Bowdoin College Brunswick. Give my love to all our family & believe me your  
dutiful Josiah

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