



Bowd. College July 5<sup>th</sup> 1817.

Dear Father,

Months roll away, and we grow old without being aware of it. The stream of time bears us, whether we will or no, from scenes and society we love. 7 week have passed since I saw you and it seems but a moment. Another anniversary of our nations's independence has arrived, has gone. 41 years have elapsed since our seperation from G. Britain. The day was celebrated in Brunswick, by the democrats & a small number of the federalists. An oration was pronounced by a Lawyer O'Brien of this town, and one of the first graduates of this college. He spoke unfavourably of conmerce, & was lavish in his praises of Gen Dearborn. I went into the meetinghouse & heard the Oration, but did not join their procession — nor unite in their banquet I think I can express my gratitude for freedom as well in my study or in the woods as in a dissipated assembly. Upon the whole I do not like the manner in which

<sup>a</sup>  
our national festival is usu<sup>lly</sup> kept-- the common proceed ings in my opinion are not calculated to cement our union enlarge our political views--strengthen the sentiments of patriotism -- or increase our gratitude to the Author of our mercies. I dont know as I ever had your opinion of the manner of keeping independence among us.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
Maine Historical Society  
Date: July 5, 1817  
Description: Josiah Pierce on July 4 celebration in Brunswick

We have been very much engaged in reviewing the studies of the past year, this term. We also have much writing to do. My class began to write forensic disputes to be read before the Gov. & Students, ~~in a fortnight~~ since, we shall continue them till the last term of our Senior year— Our first one was, on the question, "Is Space any thing positive?" I had the affirmative one half the class write on one side and the rest on the other. The Prest. decides— Our Lectures on natural philosophy commenced this term, <sup>which</sup> I find very interesting. The more I look into the works of nature the more evidence I see of a first Great Cause, an intelligent designing Agent, & I firmly believe that "He fills, he bounds, connects & equals all." And I can no more conceive of a universal Providence without a particular one, than I can think of there being an army of a thousand men, without being made up of individual men; & as nothing was too small for God to create, so I believe that nothing is too small for him to direct, & that "not a sparrow falls to the ground, without his permission."

I wrote you a letter a week or two since in which I told you, that I should like to have a coat if convenient for you to procure one. Should by one, I think you had better get it made in Portland As for linings--buttons &c. are very high here. Mr Horn I believe has my measure.

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Write me as often as practicable— Let me know  
what are your prospects, both in lumber &  
agriculture— Corn in this vicinity is small—  
grain good— grass better than last year.—  
Commence<sup>ment</sup> will be in about 8 weeks— write  
me whether you shall attend, whether any one  
will come with you— so that I may procure  
accommodations— likewise write where you  
should like to put up; some have already spoke  
for entertainment at Mr John Dunning's.  
Give my love to Ma'am, Brothers & Sisters.  
May peace & health ever be yours in time  
& in eternity— Josiah Pierce Jr

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