

Bowd. Coll. June 26. 1818.

Hon^d Father:

I was disappointed in not hearing from home, when the gentlemen of this place returned from court. Esqr Putnam told me, that he saw you, & that you were well. I hope you reached home safely. I have excellent health. Our College duties, altho' numerous, are not burdensome our studies are of the higher order, and such as afford much pleasure. We attend two Lectures a day; one in the morning on mineralogy, the other in the afternoon on natural & experimental philosophy, both are by Prof. Cleaveland and pronounced in that lucid, interesting manner for which is so much distinguished. I should never have believed without personal experience that a subject, so dry in appearance as mineralogy could have been made so very interesting. Prof. C's cabinet is a feast for the eye of science we have most beautiful specimens, from almost every kingdom & island in the world - their properties & uses - their geological situation & localities are all circumstantially pointed out to us at the lectures - The vulgar always wonder how

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Maine Historical Society
Date: June 26, 1818
Description: Josiah Pierce on graduation from Bowdoin College

The naturalist can find any pleasure in scientific pursuits - but it is I think, impossible for a person of much observation, not to receive satisfaction from the beauty, the regularity, & the consistency every where discernable in the works of Nature - hence I am not astonished when I see the botanist, the chemist, & the mineralogist, who has long followed one branch, to become at most enthusiastic in ^{his} favorite studies.

You have probably seen in the public papers, that Prof. Cleveland has been elected honorary member of the American Philosophical Society, and of the Wernerian Society of Scotland.

Our commencement parts are assigned - Smith has the first English Oration - I have the second - Emery has a Philosophical Disquisition "on Polar ice" - his ranks 2^d - mine 3^d - but there is no one but that would prefer mine - the class & the audience will I think it 2^d - I think my standing as determined by gov.^t is equal to Emery's - An English Oration is the highest name of any part - the orator has beside, the liberty of choosing his own subject and that we always consider a very desirable thing - Anderson comes next to me, & Fessenden next to him - I am pleased with my part, I would not change for any one in the class - indeed they have made but a

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single shade of difference between Smith & myself.
I am now, my dear Father, just reaching my college goal.
I feel as if I knew but little - I have only gained a
few principles on which I must hereafter raise
a superstructure, if I want to be useful, and I hope
utility rather than pleasure will always direct my
actions - My Academic and Collegiate life has been
very pleasant & as long as I live and retain my reason,
I shall look back on those days with delight - I
have abundant cause to be grateful to a kind
Providence who has granted me such great blessings
as health, & the continuance of my intellectual
faculties, & to you who have so liberally bestowed
on me, the means for obtaining knowledge - Accept
my most grateful thanks for all your favours.

I had a letter from Nancy the present week, &
think she shall be pleased with her situation - I have
engaged Esqr Perry to take six persons at commencement;
it is a good, still house, on back street - Vance will
accompany me home, we shall leave Brunswick Wednesday
morning Aug. 5th if no unforeseen accident prevent.
Write me soon, let me know how Ruth does, how the
boys flourish, your own prospects as it respect Lumber
and agriculture - Your affectⁿ son Josiah Pierce

P.S. - Give my love to Maria & the girls -
Did you take my first vol. of Virgil home? if not I
fear I lost it.

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