

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
 Maine Historical Society  
 Date: March 5, 1822  
 Description: George Pierce on fire at Bowdoin College

Brunswick March 5<sup>th</sup> 1822  
Sic transit gloria mundi

Dear Brother

I will give you the correct detail of

ni

the bur<sup>g</sup> of the college the outlines of which you will undoubtedly have learned before my letter reaches you. It took fire about half after thre o clock yesterday in the after non in J Andersons & Mc Cle [page stained]s room while they were attending the musical lec- [page stained], most probably it caught by the fire snapping on to the bed or a [?] falling on the floor when they first perc- eived it in the adjoining room the fire had burst in to the garret severall attempted to enter the room but none succeeded except Tuto r Hale and he got his hair and eye brows considerably scorched, not many minutes after the fire burst out through the roof and windows now saving the engines had arrived but in a very few minutes all hope of <sup>^</sup> [crossed out] the building was relinquished, now they began to clear out the firniture in which they used not the least discrecion looking -glasses and chairs e were thrown out of the fourth story when th<sup>y</sup> dropped and hit the ground they were dashed to pieces however most of the books were saved except the Theological Library which perished in the flames; but in three or four rooms they lost every thing that they had except the clothes that they had on them Benj, Sanbourn lost all his firniture and

bed. it continued burning till six in the evening when the fire  
 abated and left the walls standing all except on the back side  
 they have fallen off as low down as the third story. the govern-  
 ment have obtained rooms for all the students in private  
 houses. Mr Melcher begins next Monday to repair it  
 and go on at the same time with the men on Professor Cleveland  
 said that they shall employ 50 workmen.

I will now tell you  
 a little about my own affairs our lessons are harder this  
 term than last however I am in perfect health and good spirits  
 one has entered our class and two the sophomore all are good  
 scholars. There are more than forty students medical studen-  
 ts a much greater number than was expected. nothing more of  
 importance has transpired this term except the Quacers came  
 down from Durham and charged the Medical students dug up  
 a corps in thier burying ground they declared that they would search  
 the old college but the students told them a good story about it  
 and they went home I will write you a said[?] composed by one of jun-  
 iors about it

Ye who oft have raised the dead  
 Ye who've snatched from worms their bread  
 Courage now or every head  
 Must hang on gallows tree

Now's the day now's the hour  
 See the wrath of Durham hover  
 See approach the Quacers power  
 Fines and infamy  
 Who would not a subject save  
 Who would not all dangers brave

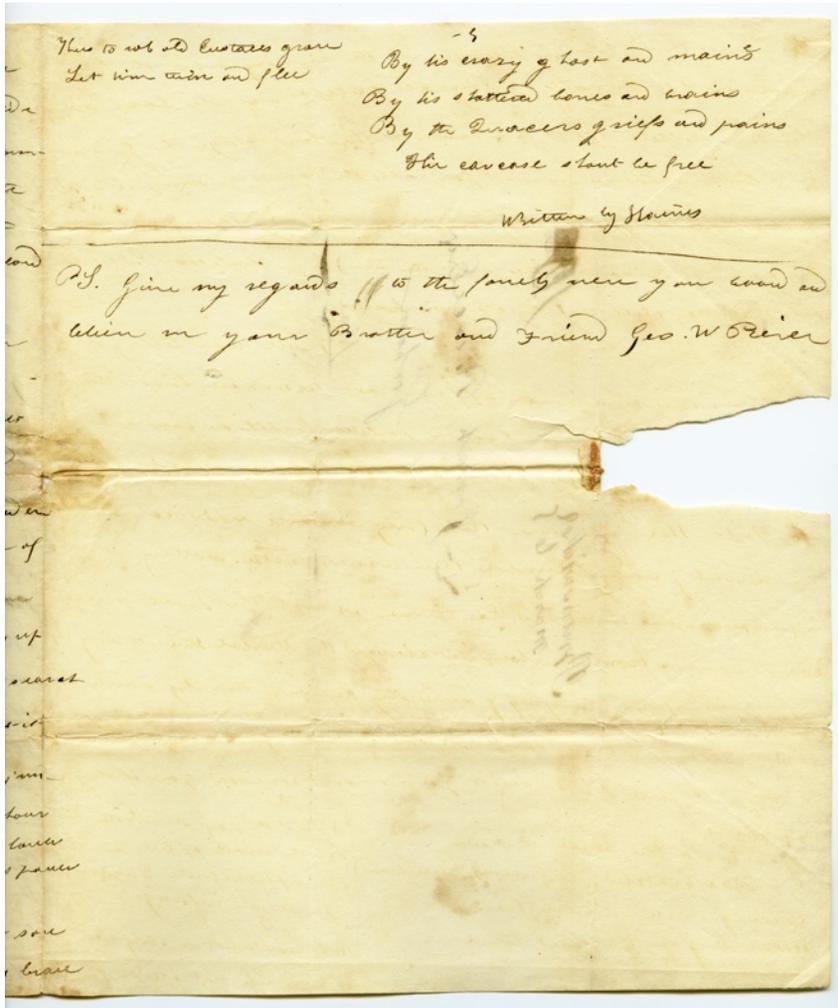
bed. it continued burning till six in the evening when the fire  
 abated and left the walls standing all except on the back side  
 they have fallen off as low down as the third story. the govern-  
 ment have obtained rooms for all students in private  
 houses. Mr Melcher begins next Monday to repair it  
 and go on at the same time with the men on Professor Cleveland  
 sais that they shall employ 50 workmen.

I will now tell you  
 a little about my own affairs our lessons are harder this  
 term than last however I am in perfect health and good spirits  
 one has entered our class and two the sophomore all are good  
 schollars. There are more than forty students medical studen-  
 ts a much greater number than was expected. nothing more of  
 importance has transpired this terme except the Quacers  
 came down from Durham and charged the Medical students dug up  
 a corps in thier burying ground they declared that they would search  
 the old college but the students told them a good story about it  
 and they went home I will write you a said[?] composed by one of jun-  
 iors about it

Ye who oft have raised the dead  
 Ye who've snatched from worms their bread  
 Courage now or every head  
 Must hang on gallows tree

A  
 Now's the day now's the hour  
 see the wrath of Durham hover  
 see approach the Quacers power  
 Fines and infamy

B  
 Who would not a subject save  
 Who would not all dangers brave



Thus to rob old Eustaces grave  
Let him turn and flee

By his crazy ghost and main<sup>s</sup>  
By his shattered bones and brains  
By the Quacers griefs and pains  
His carcase shout be free

Written by Haines

P.S. Give my regards to the family were you could and  
believ in your Brother and Friend Geo. W Pierce

- 3

Thus to rob old Eustaces grave  
Let him turn and flee

By his crazy ghost and main<sup>e</sup>s  
By his shattered bones and brains  
By the Quacers griefs and pains  
His carcase shout be free  
Written by Haines

---

PS. Give my regards to the family were you [?] and  
believ in your Brother and Friend Geo. W Pierce