

Dear Brother
I have so many correspondents, that I am not able to answer the letters of any one as soon as they are received. But if some of the family hear from me as often as once in two weeks, I presume it matters little to whom the letter is directed.

It gave me pleasure to hear of your success in business, and the happiness you seem to enjoy in your family establishment. The more I think of it, the more I am satisfied that you are very fortunate in choosing Gorham, to commence doing business in. I wish I could see some opening equally favourable for myself. There is none now, but two years may make a change in many parts of our State. The great increase of lawyers & the actual decrease of litigation offer but poor encouragement at best.

You speak in glowing terms of my superior advantages. They are indeed superior to those to be found in our own State, but they are only of a professional nature. Perhaps I am not inclined to take all the advantages my situation offers, for introducing myself to literary men. But if I should permit myself to visit in town, I should have to neglect my books. I have but a short time to stay, and I deem the acquisition of legal knowledge of much more importance than the transient acquaintances I might gain by making calls & attending parties. I occasionally see Misses Bancroft & Cogswell & call once a fortnight at Judge Howe's and this makes up the sum of my visiting. The Law Students, to be sure are sociable, and coming as they do from almost every part of the United States, I think I have received some

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Date: August 6, 1826
Description: George Pierce on law school

valuable fact from their conversation. As the 1st of Sept. vacation commences & as I shall before that time have copied all the lectures I shall return. During the five months of my stay I have read half a volume of Coke, recited Stearns on Real Actions, Dowel on Contracts, and am now in the first volume of Chitty's Pleading. I do not say but I might have done as much in Portland, but I will venture to say that I should not have. Where I shall go on my return home, or whether I shall come back here, will depend, of course upon the advice & opinion of my friends. It will cost more to live here than in Portland; and less than either would support me well if I should go into your office. I hope it will not be long before we shall have an institution in Maine similar this. I am certain it would be profitable & it will be the only way of keeping our law students in our own State. Mr Longfellow is perfectly qualified to take charge of a law school, and all the Cumberland bar would countenance it. He intimated something of the kind to me last winter & I hope he will proceed in it.

I met Miss Sedgwick the other evening at Judge Howe's, the writer of Redwood & several other Tales. She is perfectly amiable in her appearance & talk, and one would never suspect her of being one of the "invariable genus" She is an old maid, and not one jot of beauty, tho her countenance is neither very ugly nor void of expression. She looks like a shrewd thinking woman, with a little slice of the sarcastic about her. I heard no one attempt to compliment her

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upon her reputation, nor did she herself seem to be thinking anything about it. I have been introduced to several such characters, authors I mean since I came here. — I have had an opportunity of hearing Mills make a speech. He by no means answered my expectations, I have heard Greenleaf, [?], & Longfellow each make better arguments at our bar. I am certain the Cumberland bar is much superior to this.

Gov. Strong has two sons living here who are married, they are rich & of course respectable, they live entirely secluded & neither visit or receive company. One of them is a lawyer & a great special pleader; the other does little more than oversee his agricultural affairs. Give my best regards to my friends & remember me kindly to Evelina. I am &c yours — George W Pierce

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