

New York Dec. 4 -  
My dear Parents, I left Boston last Tuesday morning at 5 o'clock, and arrived at Providence a little after 11. At 12 I started for New York in the Franklin Steam Boat. This was the first fine boat of the kind I had ever seen, and the examination of it, afforded me no inconsiderable pleasure. I cannot find space in a single sheet to tell you half I wish to, and such an unimportant affair as a Steam boat must not occupy more than a few lines. Suffice it to say that I saw the noble boat rushing forward in spite of wind and tide, I thought it the grandest monument of human genius, on which my eye ever rested. We stopped on our passage all night at Newport, and reached this city on Wednesday at about 12 o'clock P.M. During the evening I had an opportunity of witnessing one of the most beautiful phenomena of nature. I mean the luminous appearance of the waves by night. I was quite delighted with it, and although I had read many descriptions of this, it was more beautiful as well as different from what I had expected. It was not a general illumination of the waves, but only in spots, as if the stars had fallen down to earth in the white foam, or as if sea nymphs were following in our track, and now and then lifted up their bright eyes to gaze at us through the deep waters. — The view of New York by night, glittering with its thousand gas lights was also an imposing spectacle. — When we arrived at the wharf I engaged a Negro Porter to carry my baggage to Baker's. He started off with it on a dog trot, and I, like Crausa, but with better luck; held on to his coat tail, and arrived safely at my present quarters. This Boarding House is celebrated throughout the United States for its commodiousness, and the wealth and fashion that continually throng its numberless apartments. It is furnished in a most magnificent style, and its wines, spirits, and cooking are all leagued in strong ~~and fine~~ conspiracy against the virtue of temperance. To day is the New York Thanksgiving, and so I do not go out to deliver my letters of introduction, when I have so done I will finish this letter and tell you how I like my new acquaintance. —  
But let me return a moment to Boston. I found no one there who gave me the slightest encouragement to stay in that city, unless I was able to live for several years without sufficient practice to maintain myself. Nor did they speak favorably of the West. All advised me to

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Maine Historical Society  
MMN #28281  
Date: Dec. 4, 1828  
Description: George Pierce on lack of job prospects

prosecute my journey, and make up my mind from observation. Though perhaps I ought not to tell you of it, for you will use it as a new argument against my making any attempt in the West, all my friends, advis'd me to come back to New England and open an office in Portland — Mr George Mason, who resided a year in the West, gave me several letters to distinguished gentlemen in that part of the country. How much I owe to the Masons! Indeed my dear Parents, next to you, and my brothers and sisters, I love this excellent and kind hearted family. I think they are my sincere friends, and the thought gives me an exulting pride and a happiness which I cannot express.

Monday Dec. 8. As I arrived here Thanksgiving day, I did not deliver any of my letters till Friday. Then I called on Dr Dellafield, Mr Fessenden, and a Mr Lyons to whom I had letters. All the gentlemen treated me with such politeness, and thro' their kindness I have seen the principal Shows of New York. The Museums, the Churches, the City Hall, the Hospitals, and Colleges. It cannot be expected that of any of these I should give you a description. Indeed it would weary me to tell you one half I have seen, and you would be so tired by the recital. The most interesting, tho' the most melancholly of all my excursions was that to the Bellevue Hospital. There it was that the dearest friend I ever had — indeed I shall never find such another, — fell a victim to that burning ambition and noble enthusiasm, which must have led to that high distinction, which was his idol as much as it is mine, and without which I should have loved him less, tho' it carried him down to an early grave. As I stood amidst the unfortunate objects which once, so lately were the objects of his care, while they told me how kind and devoted he had been to them, while his better physicians acknowledged his genius and worth, and all seemed to remember his loss with that mournful regret which merit alone can leave behind; I almost thought that Mason had died at the very hour most favourable to his happiness and fame. His name will not pass away, but tears will long water it and keep his memory green and fresh in the eyes of men.

I have made such enquiries as circumstances permitted as to the prospects of a young man in my situation, who should establish him-

prosecute my journey, and make up my mind from observation. Though perhaps I ought not to tell you of it, for you will use it as a new argument against my making any attempt in the West, all my friends, advis'd me to come back to New England and open an office in Portland — Mr George Mason, who resided a year in the West, gave me several letters to distinguished gentlemen in that part of the country. How much I owe to the Masons! Indeed my dear Parents, next to you, and my brothers and sisters, I love this excellent and kind hearted family. I think they are my sincere friends, and the thought gives me an exulting pride and a happiness which I cannot express.

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self in this city. I do not think them so favourable as even those presented in New England. Had I begun to study my profession here it would have been different, and I wish the moment I left college I had been so lucky as to come here. But now I should be obliged to study three years before I could begin to practice, and I should find it difficult to support myself during this term.

I must not forget to tell you that I, by a fortunate accident became acquainted with one of the friends of Col. Burr, and was by him introduced to this extraordinary man. I was much disappointed in the personal appearance of Aron Burr. His countenance when I saw it, showed no traces of a high spirit fallen, or the soul of a great man ~~wreathing~~ writhing under the tortures of disappointed ambition. Nothing, was there, in the carriage or demeanour of the man to tell you that he was unfortunate, and I believe the imagination of those who have undertaken to describe Burr, have invested him with an appearance such as they thought he ought to exhibit from his extraordinary fortunes, rather than to transcribe the plain reality. His manners are dignified and courtly, and there is an unquenched flame in his matchless eye such as well becomes the daring man who aspired to be the conqueror and sovereign of a great empire. I conversed with him, perhaps 20 minutes, and in some future letter I will present you with whatever might be thought characteristic in his conversation.

Tomorrow I start for Philadelphia, where I shall spend a few days, and then proceed directly to Washington, where I see they are already at work. Mr Fessenden has been very polite to me I took tea on Saturday evening at his house [page torn I saw Miss Griswold. We had an interesting time in talking about gawky men &c — they were all very well and I was much pleased with Mrs F. —

Give my love to the girls and remember me to all who may enquire. I am in fine health and spirits your affectionate Son George —  
P.S. Do write me soon and direct to Washington, so I may find a letter there on my arrival I am anxious to hear from poor H — I have not as yet lost anything — not so much as a handkerchief —

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