

Washington Dec. 13. 1828. Saturday

My Dear Parents I arrived in Washington last evening about 5 o'clock. Of course I have only had time to take a glance at the City, and just deliver a few of my letters. What I now write will therefore be little more than an account of my health and the manner in which I am settled here for the short period I may remain.

Ever after I left N. York I found the travelling extremely unpleasant. Much of the route was performed by night, and we frequently got out of our warm beds in the boats to take stages at various hours of the night. In this way I caught a cold, which was troublesome for a day or two, but which is now passing off. My general health is excellent.

On my arrival I called on Mr Anderson, and by his advice have taken lodgings at the hotel where I first put up. By a new arrangement among the public hotels, you can board this winter much cheaper than you can at a private house. I give about 8 dolls per week here, and this table is said to be as good as any in the whole city. The incidental expenses will probably amount to 3 or 4 dolls more. If I have a fire for any part of the day I have to give 50 cents for it. It is also customary to make calls in a hack, and you pay the servants for those numberless little offices which here it would be considered improper for a gentleman to perform by his own hands. Several distinguished men board here - Gov. Cass is among them.

By the politeness of Mr Anderson I have been made acquainted with two of the Missouri delegation. Judge Barton and Mr. Bates. This morning Judge Barton was so kind as to take me into his coach and ride round the City and over Georgetown 4 miles distant. He is from St. Louis and belonged to the Bar before he was

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sent into the Senate. He was very affable, tho' said to be uncommonly stern and cold in his manners. Of course we talked about the West. He is a man who has risen by his own exertions, and thinks that the west is the place for young men of enterprise ~~yo who~~ who are desirous of distinction. Our conversation, however, of rather a general character, and I have as yet had opportunity to make, ~~but~~ comparatively but few enquiries. When I become well informed of all the facts these gentlemen will be able to communicate & will take care to transmit them to you. I have no doubt from the kind manner in which Judge Barton treated me this morning, but what he will do his best to afford me the information I desire.

Congress adjourned on Sa Friday eve till Monday so I shall have had no opportunity to see them in session. Judge Barton went with me over the Capitol this morning, and had I room I should be tempted to expose to you some of the impressions I received from the examination of this magnificent edifice. But I have not now. I shall keep a kind of journal while here, and should I determine to go west send it to you by Mr Anderson on his return.

I have also called on Judge Woodbury of N.H. who treated me with great politeness. He invited me to call at his room at all hours, and promised to give obtain for me the privilege of The National Library while I remain here. He also told me whenever I wished to be introduced to any member of his acquaintance I had only to mention it, and he would be happy to present me.

As yet I have not seen any of the great curiosities, such as the President — Clay — Randolph or McDuffie. When I do I shall have sent to you whatever I see remarkable about them, or those impressions which they make upon my mind.

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While here I shall endeavour to write you often. But I beg you will
pardon me if my letters are not written with great neatness or bear
the marks of haste. I have many things to see, much to think of,
and more than twenty letters per fortnight to write. But my dear
parents I assure you my best thoughts and a part of my best
hours shall be appropriated to you. I will not fail while here to
write you often and freely and fully. To transmit to you my
feelings and occupations, the intelligence I may obtain, and the
prospects before me. Nor shall these communications cease should
I go beyond the mountains. I love you — I love you all — and I have
received to many pledges of your affection to doubt for a moment
but what you will always be interested to know where I am, and
how I am situated. If I leave you, not to return, it will be for
the most conclusive reasons, and a strong sense of duty.

Give my love to all the family, and beg that that great and
good Being who has preserved you this a long and happy life, may
watch over your son — that he, while moving in the splendid
and gay scenes in which he is about to enter, may not forget
the lessons you taught him in early youth; but always remember
that virtue and wisdom are only acceptable to God, and can alone
confer happiness upon man.

I am yours forever Geo. W. Pierce

P.S. Your letters will reach me sooner and more certainly
by directing them to Geo. W. Pierce at Gadsby's Hotel
Washington Dist. of Columbia — Do write soon —

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