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Description: G.W. Pierce about Cincinnati

Cincinnati Jany 30. 1828—

My dear Parents,

The date of this will doubtless surprise you. I suppose you now think I am at St Louis, and perhaps will imagine I am wasting my time by spending so many days in this city. But you must know that Cincinnati is the very heart of the west. She commands the trade, the literature, and I had almost said the politics of all this country. Here I am every day meeting men; many of these young men like myself who came out for the purpose of exploring the land with a view to permanent settement, and who are able to give me all the information I desire. I am much pleased with Ohio. This is one of the most pleasant cities I have visited, indeed I think I may say I prefer it to all that I have met in my travels. If I remain in the West it will be here. Much conversation with gentlemen well acquainted with all this part of the Union convinces me that this city offers fairer oppertunities to enterprise, I mean of course, professional enterprise, than any other this side of the mountains. its for the South, like Arkansaw or Louisianna, it is death for a northern man to go there. He cannot often survive the climate. In the south you can make more money, but to rise in politics is less easy than here. But since I started from home, and have by reading & the conversation of many eminent men, informed myself of the character of different sections of the country, I altogether prefer the free to the slave holding states. So strong is my prejudice against them; so thoughoh fully am I convinced that their influence, once so powerful, is fast on the decline, and so inreterate are their feelings against all New England men, that I have made up my mind never to settle in a slave holding country. For my part I believe the South and West both hate New England. I speak, of course of the great mass of the population, not of the peculiar opinions of a few enlightened and liberal men. I frequently find it difficult to restrain my feelings of indignation, when I hear my native country so ill spoken of and so grossly slandered. If a horse breaks his bridle, or a boat runs ashore, if a boiler bursts or a stage upsets each

is a ganker trick. Aganker is a hoad time of reproach a kind of east affeltation for all that is mean or wicked. So is this feeling confined to the love define Intelligent new this they cannot dong the front facts of our history or the artispress of our present Character, tile humist themselves to be carried away on The several prejudice. I am prequently total by may of confliment That I do not look or behave like a Ganter. The this is meant for flattery to me it is most mortifying. The more I see of this tection of the county, its manners and institutions, the theopper are my feelings thrown back on New England. I am very glad and very proud that I was born thore, and unless the country this just her must is for letter than gentlemen her represent it, the probability is that I shall die There Is hower I wish our the map of the United States may eye turns incoluntarily toward N.E. I couly that at this moment I with the road behind me letter than the one before, but as I am out here I think it best for me to sien our the country as much a lies in my hour. I shall brotally new han auther apertunity. I have become auquainted with most of the sufficultial men of this, and any when received which kind alter tion. But in hourt of manners and information the quat men here are not equal to our great men, bu one heliget they are all ignorant, that is, her England. On monday I shall go aour to Louisville Rentuckey and ofter therding some days in that thate, I shall feelight go to Natches, and It Louis. dulife uncommonly print profests should open to me in Mifiestiffi a Mipouri, I shall come back this Indianne and Elemois, thus the offer fact of this thate to hew Gook, and arive in Portrand bonetime in afril a may. Amoning the gentleman of this plan I am most aggranted with the Blint the author of lunar moute and donne works of on the meeter for States Am alich is a schollen and a gentleman. In liteature he stands higher than any other mon on this like of the alleguaries. He has touched

is a yankee trick. Yankee is a broad term of reproach, a kind of cant appellation for all that is mean or wicked. Nor is this feeling confined to the lower classes. Intelligent men, this they cannot deny the proud facts of our history or the enterprise of our present character, still permit themselves to be carried away in the general prejudice. I am frequently told by way of compliment that I do not look or behave like a Yankee. Tho' this is meant for flattery to me it is most mortifying. The more I see of this section of the country, its manners and institutions, the stronger are my feelings thrown back on New England. I am very glad and very proud that I was born there, and unless the country still further west is far better than gentlemen here represent it, the probability is that I shall die there. Whenever I look over the map of the United States my eye turns involuntarily toward N.E. I confess that at this moment I like the road behind me better than the one before, but as I am out here I think it best for me to view all the country as much a lies in my power. I shall probably never have another oppertunity.

I have become acquainted with most of the influential men of Ohio, and everywhere recieved much kind attention - But in point of manners and information the great men here are not equal to our great men. On one subject they are all ignorant, that is, New England.

On Monday I shall go down to Louisville Kentucky, and after spending some days in that state, I shall perhaps, go to Natches, and St Louis.

Unless uncommonly fair prospects should open to me in Missisippi or Missouri, I shall come back to Indianna, and Illinois, thro the upper part of this state to New York, and arrive in Portland sometime in April or May.

Amoung the gentlemen of this place I am most acquainted with Mr Flint the authour of several novels and some works of on the Western Se States. Mr Flint is a schollar and a gentleman. In literature he stands higher than any other man on this side of the Alleghanies. He has travelled

theo all the West and Knows its Character. He is a great man, and diducting a little of inthestiation from his com. rations, they are rabuble, and to be ralied on. He is aditor of the Mestern Review. His time of ensu is much taken up but I always find him disengaged in the evening and Thend many hoppy hours in his company. I have sujaged the most excllent health are lines I left home, and am more in fine specits, and as fat or The bigs of Dhia which are such father than our figs of mune. No one has dirked me, or gouged out my eyes, I have not her asked to fight a deal , a white on any way during the whole wort. I have to be sun met with some gour adventures, which I hope with amount you when we are much again in that old chamber, which old and legly as it is, is get devened to me than a falace. I flatter my self, than when get back then will be no man in the State of main that will know to much about the nothing country I hope you are all rule, especially how Hamitan mother who were so ill when I left home. Gir my love to all my friends and believe we your offetinate for GuM. Pera

thro' all the West and knows its character. He is a great man, and deducting a little of inthusiasm from his observations, they are valuble, and to be relied on. He is editor of the Western Review. His time of course is much taken up but I always find him disengaged in the evening and spend many happy hours in his company.

I have enjoyed the most excellent health ever since I left home, and am now in fine spirits, and as fat as the pigs of Ohio, which are much fatter than our pigs of Maine. No one has disked me or gouged out my eyes, I have not been asked to fight a duel, or [?]kelted in any way during the whole visit. I have to be sure met with some queer adventures, which I hope will amouse you when we are met again in that old chamber, which old and ugly as it is, is yet dearer to me than a palace. I flatter myself, than when I get back, there will be no man in the State of Maine that will know so much about the Western country as I shall.

I hope you are all well, especially poor Harriet and mother who were so ill when I left home.

Give my love to all my friends and believe me your affectionate son

Geo W. Pierce