

Bowdoin Coll July 10

Dear Harriet, In Fathers letter I promised to write you soon and am now going to fulfill my engagement. There is you know as I have often told you a great sterility of thought in College – that is of such as are proper to fill the pages of a letter. A student could write a sonnet, or a moral essay, but then these are more fit for a newspaper, than a familiar letter. But I expect the fault is with my want of inclination. I never find it a task to write themes or college exercises which are upon some subject, but to attempt to write three pages about nothing is a monstrous one. There is a subject now though, which will doubtly interest you. Some evenings since I went hear Mr Simeon a converted Jew preach. He was born in Germany, and was receiving an education under one of the Jewish Rabbis at the time of his conversion to christianity, which was (if I recollect right, about 10 years since. His object in travelling and delivering his addresses, is to collect money for the Jewish Colonization Society, to which Soci<sup>ety</sup>

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Maine Historical Society  
MMN #28379  
Date: July 10, 1825  
Description: George W. Pierce on religious convert, Jewish  
Colonization Society

I believe you belong. In his address, he briefly stated the objects and prospects of the society — gave a short account of his own life, and dealt with some eloquence and much of poignant feeling upon the condition of his degraded nation. He mentioned the proud privileges they had enjoyed, and the debt which we owed them for our moral institutions — he contrasted their present situation with that which they enjoyed in the days of Solomon; and closed with extolling the religious liberty of this country, which was the only one that turned about for the emancipation of Israel.

Mr Simeon is between 30 and 40 years of age, about the middling size — with a muscular frame — high forehead — black hair — dark brow and broad features. The expression of his countenance is rather good than great, <sup>not</sup> entirely wanting that cunning and slyness which we should expect to find in the face of a “money eating Jew. He told his story in a simple and unaffected manner — and the brokenness of his language made it appear more interesting than if related in plain English.

There are but few to whom I should have written so much about

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a converted Isrealite - but I knew that you were in love with  
all sorts of missions and religious societies, and so concluded that  
you would have nothing to say against <sup>a</sup> well-looking mis-  
sionary. Four weeks have gone and I have not heard one word from  
home. If it would not be too much trouble, I wish you ask Lewis  
or mother's adopted Riley, to write and let me know how the  
colts do. If our folks enquire after me tell them I am well except  
my eyes are rather troublesome. In 7 weeks you may expect to see  
me again for I shall not think of staying to commencement, un-  
less Daniel should come down to carry me home. Give my love  
to Mother and the rest of the family, Cousin R. included

S W Pierce

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