

Orion, Nov 29th 1840 -
Dear Hannah--
I cannot like you ransack the city to find a big sheet whereon to write the history of the Pierce family, but I have taken ^{the} largest our cabin affords, with the intention of writing to yourself Ruth and Anne and filling it as I find time to. I have much to say to all and you will easily conjecture not much leisure to use a pen - It is a long time since I have written a letter to any of my eastern friends, but you are long ere this acquainted with the circumstances that have prevented and your own kind hearts will readily attribute my long apparent neglect to the true cause - Your last letter mailed Nov. 14th we received yesterday and you may be assured that Daniel felt well repaid for his walk to Pontiac finding as he did letters from yourself and Josiah and Ruth and Elizabeth. Your continued remembrance and affection are truly comforting but that you should all have felt so much solicitude and unhappiness grieves us both - I will not say that we have not had many and severe trials, and been, I can not tell you how greatly disappointed, but you have I fear magnified them perhaps far beyond their reality and you have ~~to~~ again added to a string of obligations already too long - To say we thank you are cold words but I can not refrain from telling ^{our} hearts feel it most sensibly and that you may fully realize, that it is "more blessed to give than to receive" is our sincere prayer - you will know my Dear Sister that it is what (to us at least seemed necessary) that induced us to leave dear New England, and however grateful we may feel to our friends for their kind invitation to return and however much we may wish to, the expediency of the case must be considered with great deliberation - we have had much conversation upon the subject, and endeavour to look upon all that should induce us to return, and the reasons (if there be any) why we had better stay - if ~~the~~ we could act independently of our friends the case would be quite different - but Daniel will write more at fully to Josiah, I could say a great deal but time and paper will not permit - You will be glad to hear

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
Maine Historical Society
MMN #28421
Date: Nov. 29, 1840
Description: Francis Pierce to Hannah Pierce

Orion, Nov 29th 1840 -

Dear Hannah--

I cannot ransack the city to find a big sheet whereon to write the history of the Pierce family but I have taken ^ largest our cabin affords, with the intention of writing to yourself Ruth and Anne and filling it as I find time to - I have much to say to all and you will easily conjecture not much leisure to use a pen - It is a long time since I have written a letter to any of my eastern friends but you are long ere this acquainted with the circumstances that have prevented and your own kind hearts will readily attribute my long apparent neglect to the true cause - Your last letter mailed Nov. 14th we received yesterday and you may be assured that Daniel felt well repaid for his walk to Pontiac finding as he did letters from yourself and Josiah and Ruth and Elizabeth. Your continued remembrance and affection are truly comforting - but that you should all have felt so much solicitude and unhappiness grieves us both - I will not say that we have not had many and severe trials and been, I can not tell you how greatly disappointed, but you have I fear magnified them perhaps far beyond their reality and you have ~~to~~ again added to a string of obligations already too long - To say we thank you are cold words but I can not

refrain from telling ^ our hearts feel it most sensibly and that you may fully realize, that it is "more blessed to give than to receive" is our sincere prayer - You

was
well know my Dear Sister that it ^ what (to us at least seemed necessary) that induced us to leave dear New England, and however grateful we may feel to our friends for their kind invitation to return and however much we may wish to, the expediency of the case must be considered with great deliberation - we have had much conversation upon the subject, and endeavour to look upon all that should induce us to return, and the reasons (if there be any) why we had better stay - if ~~the~~ we could act independently of our friends the case would be quite different, but Daniel will write more at fully to Josiah, I could say a great deal but time and paper will not permit - You will be glad to hear

The Ague has left Daniel, and that he looks once more like himself - for you must know that the ague always with its work with peevish looks he has not yet his usual strength but has a great appetite and is busy from four in the morning until nine at night - I have eat with the family for more than a week and to day went into the kitchen to the great delight of the ^{children} - I have not had one professional visit from a doctor since the birth of the babe, and if I had not such a poor back should be remarkably well - Harriet says tell my Aunt Hannah I can get dinner alone, and that I take a great deal of pleasure in reading the Transcript and shall write soon - I had forwarded a your letter to Harriet just at home she returned the last of August with Fanny, at the time their about thought of visiting the East - Susan sends her love and says she is not she would love the baby as well as she does Georgie, and that she is just as good and as pretty - you will easily imagine that she is a great pet - Fanny says how I should have loved ^{to} have Aunt to tell me some of the long stories she used to at Baldwin - The poor child has had a long and tedious illness of seven weeks there was many days that it seemed very doubtful if she was spared to us - she masks ^[?] rather feebly but her animation is restored and she is just as industrious as ever - Daniel says I am a democrat and I cried for Old Tip - much to the amusement of the girls for he happened to cry when his Father read your message to him Susan took Georgie home with her - she goes to school and is just as she always is as happy as a bird - she has made 30 squares of patchwork learns to read fast - she is very fond of her Aunt ^{her} and Uncle and also of Sarah who seems very glad to have [^] again for a bedfellow. I am doing just as I always do scribbling on without knowing when to stop - goodbye my Dear Sister may the happiness you now enjoy be continued to you though the ^{of} remainder [^] life is our sincere wish. All send a great deal of love. Fanny - Dear Ruth Dec 3^d I have tried in vain to find a spare hour to finish this ^[?] but in vain, my spare hours are few and far between indeed I have felt as if I never should write another letter, and if you have any idea of the situation of my family for the last three months you will not wonder

The Ague has left Daniel, and that he looks once more like himself - (for you must know that the ague plays witch work with peoples looks) he has not yet his usual strength but has a great appetite and is busy from four in the morning until nine at night - I have eat with the family for more than a week and to day went into children

the kitchen to the great delight of the [^] I have not had one professional visit from a doct since the birth of the babe, and if I had not such a poor back should be remarkably well - Harriot says tell my Aunt Hannah I can get dinner alone, and that I take a great deal of pleasure in reading the Transcript and shall write soon. Mrs. Dow forwarded your letter as Harriot was at home, she returned the last of August with Fanny, at the time their Aunt thought of visiting the East - Susan sends her love and says tell Aunt she would love the baby as well as she does Georgie, and that she is just as good and as pretty - you will easily imagine that she is a great pet - Fanny

to says how I should have loved [^] have Aunt to tell me some of the long stories she used to at Baldwin. The poor child has had a long and tedious illness of seven weeks there was many days that it seemed very doubtful if she was spared to us - she masks ^[?] rather feebly but her animation is restored and she is just as industrious as ever. Daniel says I am a democrat and I cried for Old ^[?] much to amusement of the girls for he hapen ^{be}

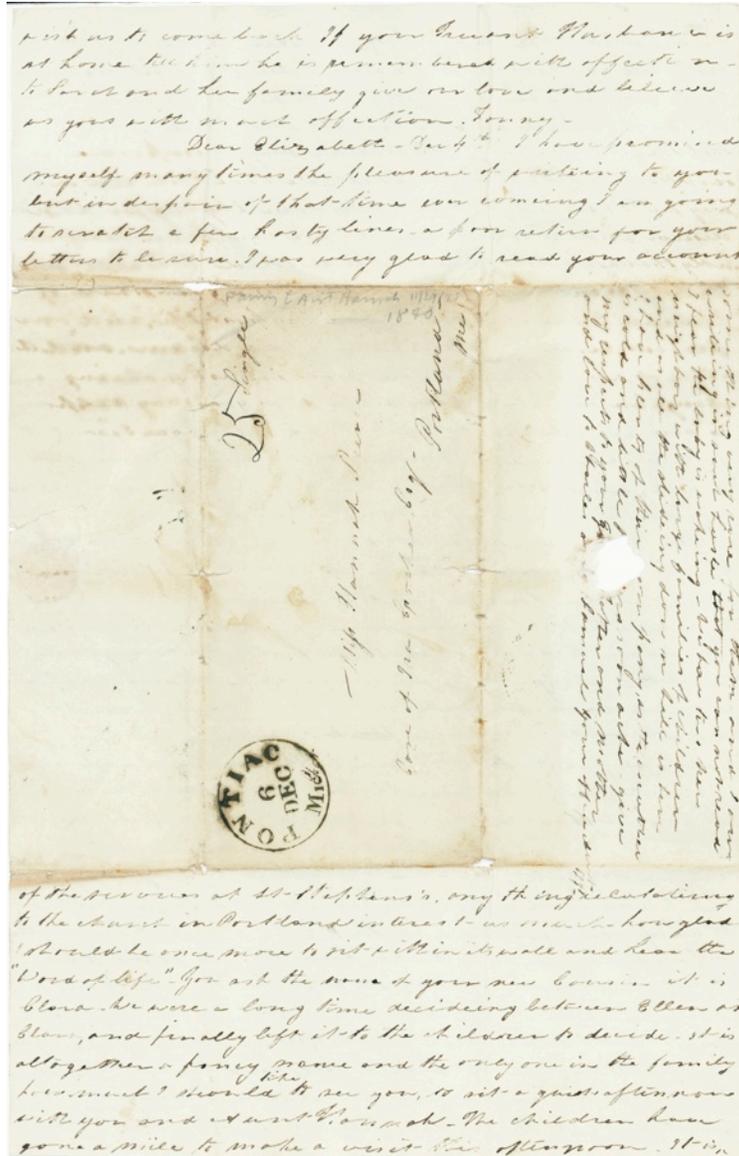
-ed to [^] crying when his Father read your message to him Susan took Georgie home with her - she goes to school and is just (as she always is) as happy as a bird - she has made 30 squares of patchwork learns to read fast - she is very fond of her Aunt ^{her}

and Uncle and also of Sarah who seems very glad to have [^] again for a bedfellow. I am doing just as I always do scribbling on without knowing when to stop - goodbye my Dear Sister may the happiness you now enjoy be continued to you though the ^{of}

remainder [^] life is our sincere wish. All send a great deal of love. Fanny - Dear Ruth Dec 3^d I have tried in vain to find a spare hour to finish this ^[?] but in vain, my spare hours are few and far between indeed I have felt as if I never should write another letter, and if you have any idea of the situation of my family for the last three months you will not wonder

and amidst the buz of half a dozen children I will
try to tell you how glad we were to see your writing again
how grateful your sympathy is to us, and to thank
you most sincerely for your prayers and kind wishes
that the dispensations of Providence may be improved as
our Merciful Father designed. We have been led in a
way we know not but we still have blessings we do not
deserve and mercies for which we can never be suffic-
iently thankful. Our sick are restored to health, and
the babe is well and good, and she is a great source of
pleasure to the children. ~~and~~ My past life, and our
present circumstances seem like a dream, and the
state of uncertainty we are now in as to making a
change in our place of residence is as you may suppose
is very perplexing. When I think of the ague I want to
go to New England I should regret leaving Susan very
much, and now that I am not very strong it seems
a most tremendous undertaking with the case of a
little [page torn], but could it be made plain to us what
the [page torn] of duty [page torn] I would not shrink fr[page torn]
any fatigue however great it might be pray [page torn]
my dear Sister that we may be guided by divine
wisdom, to do what shall be most for our good
and His glory. There are many and strong ties that
would draw us back to our first and dearest
home, and it is hard ~~for~~ very hard for New
England people to conform to the customs and put
up with the privation that all new settlers must -
to know what it is to live in the West one must try it -
there can be no way of knowing all the difficulties
in the way of living and bring ^ up a family of children
in this new country with ^ something to begin with -
unless you have been on the spot - Daniel has written
to Josiah and his letter has been laying some days
for the want of an opportunity to send to the office -
it was my intention to have written a few lines to
Anne but I must defer it until an other time give
my love to the dear child and tell her I have received
her last letter and will write as soon as possible -
give our love to Calvin, tell we thank him for

and amidst the buz of half a dozen children I will
try to tell you how glad we were to see your writing again
how grateful your sympathy us is to us, and to thank
you most sincerely for your prayers and kind wishes
that the dispensations of Providence we may be improved as
our Merciful Father designed - We have been led in a
way we know not but we still have blessings we do not
deserve and mercies for which we can never be suffic-
iently thankful. Our sick are restored to health, and
the babe is well and good, and she is a great source of
pleasure to the children - and My past life, and our
present circumstances seem like a dream and the
state of uncertainty we are now in as to making a
change in our place of residence is as you may suppose
is very perplexing - When I think of the ague I want to
go to New England - I should regret leaving Susan very
much, and now that I am not very strong it seems
a more tremendous undertaking with the case of a
little [page torn] but could it be made plain to us what
the [page torn] of duty [page torn] I would not shrink fr[page torn]
any fatigue however great it might be pray [page torn]
my dear Sister that we may be guided by divine
wisdom to do what shall be most for our good
and His glory. There are many and strong ties that
would draw us back to our first and dearest
home and it is hard ~~for~~ very hard for New
England people to conform to the customs and put
up with the privation that all new settlers must -
to know what it is to live in the West one must try it -
there can be no way of knowing all the difficulties
in the way of living and bring ^ up a family of children
in this new country with ^ something to begin with
unless you have been on the spot - Daniel has written
to Josiah and his letter has been laying some days
for the want of an opportunity to send to the office -
it was my intention to have written a few lines to
Anne but I must defer it until an other time give
my love to the dear child and tell her I have received
her last letter and will write as soon as possible
give our love to Calvin, tell we thank him for



wish us to come back If your Truant Husband is at home tell him he is remembered with affection – to Sarah and her family give our love and believe us yours with much affection. Fanny-

Dear Elizabeth – Dec. 4th I have promised myself many times the pleasure of writing to you but in despair of that time ever coming I am going snatch a few hasty lines a poor return for your letters to be sure. I was very glad to read your account

[address sideways]

25 Single
Miss Hannah Pierce
Care of Ira Crocker, Esq -
Portland -
Me

something very rare for them and I am writing in such haste that you can not read I fear the baby is waking – We have two new neighbors with large families of children and as all the sliding done on hill is here I have [?] of their [page torn] pony, as the weather is cold and little [page torn] soon ache give my respects to your [paper torn] Father and Mother and love to Charles and Samuel your affec[?]

of the services at St-Stephan's anything [?] to the church in Portland interest us much – how glad I should be once more to sit within its wall and hear the "Word of life" You ask the name of your new Cousin it is Clara- We were a long time deciding between Ellen and Clara, and finally left it to the children to decide-it is altogether a fancy name and the only one in the family like

how much I should ^ to see you, to sit a quiet afternoon with you and Aunt Hannah- The children have gone a mile to make a visit in the afternoon. It is