

Orion October 23, 1842

Dear Sister

It is with unfeigned pleasure that I have once more the opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of a letter from my dear distant sister - for you can little imagine how much anxiety & sorrow the thought that I had forever forfeited the love of one who ever has & still continues to share so largely of my heart's & sincere affection & especially when that person has so long & so invariably showne their affection by every means in their power & you will readily perceive how much the paine of such a loss must be increased when all the streams enjoyment have been dried up save those that flow from the fountain of relative affection - you say my sister that you have proffered to your absent brother every inducement that "sisterly affection could elicitate to urge his return to the land of his birth & the society of his relatives - Most certainly you have & to a much greater extent & with a self elevatedness far very far beyond that brother deserts - & most heartily most sincerely & I do trust with a deep sense of their value does that brother thank you however his conduct ^{may} have appeared to contradict the assertion - but there are reasons some of which I gave in

P.S. Josiah's answer to my last letter will decide whether I visit Maine the coming winter You do not know how much I wish to come

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
 Maine Historical Society
 MMN #28444
 Date: Oct. 23, 1842
 Description: Daniel Pierce to Hannah Pierce

My last letter which operated powerfully in my decision
to still try my home in the west - & could any thing have
induced me to have returned to America for a home again
most sure I would the kind entreaties of my affectionate
Sister & her more than generous offer of aid to further
such return have proved effectual - but I thought I was
acting for the best at the time I was on the road
of those for whom I am bound to exert all my powers
& time that reveals all things may yet prove that it
was for the best - You do not & I trust you never will
know by experience how difficult it is for one who by
the fetters of poverty is bound down to the present moment
to exert for that present all his faculties mental as well
as bodily to procure the common necessaries of life (to judge wisely
for the future - therefore my good Sister if I have erred
in judgement by deciding to live (or rather try to live) in
in this western wild - (for I will frankly acknowledge
that it was a grand mistake of mine coming out here
in the first place) I beg you will attribute it not to
want of affection for my dear brothers & sisters - not to any
deficiency of regard for their love & kindness - not to a
lack of sincere attachment or less regard for the pleasure
& worth of their society - but as I have said the difficulty
of judging wisely under the peculiar circumstances in which
I was placed - You ask me Hannah to forgive any & all
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My Last letter, which operated powerfully in my decision to still try my home in the west & could anything have induced me to have returned to Maine for a home again most surely would the kind entreaties of my affectionate Sister & her more than generous offers of aid to further such return have proved effectual – but I thought I was acting for the best at the time I mean for the good of those for whom I am bound to exert all my powers & time that reveals all things may yet prove that it was for the best – You do not & I trust you never will knowingly experience how difficult it is for one who by the fetters of poverty is bound down to the present moment to exert for that present all his faculties mental as well bodily to procure the common necessaries of life (to judge wisely for the future – therefore my good Sister if I have erred in judgement by deciding to live (or rather try to live) in in this western wild – (for I will frankly acknowledge that it was a grand mistake of mine coming out here in the first place) I beg you will attribute it not to want of affection for my dear brothers & sisters not to any deficiency of regard for their love & kindness not to a lack of sincere attachment or less regard for the pleasure & worth of their society – but as I have said the difficulty of judging wisely under the peculiar circumstances in which I was placed - You ask me Hannah to forgive any & all thing in your last to Harriet which may have affronted or soured me - offended I assure you I was not in the

slightest degree grieved I was but fare more that I should
 have given cause to so good & kind a sister to think me base
 & ungratefull - than at a few words inadvertantly spoken under
 the exite[^] of overwrought feelings induced by the disappointment
 of cherished hopes therefore I beg you will never say a nother
 word about forgiveness especially when there is naught to forgive
 As I have promised Fanny a part of this sheet I hardly have
 space to thank you for your kind & jenerous present & I know
 you will be glad to know it did us much good - The children
 all send much love to Aunt Hannah & their cousins I do
 not think there is a day passes but that they wish they could
 see you please give my best love to my Brother & Sisters
 & all their children - I am very impatient to hear from Josiah's
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 a new my best love to you & let me beg while [page torn]
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 small space Daniel has left me in thanking you for your letter and
 your kind wishes for us and our children - for which I sincerely hope
 you will reap a rich reward - Daniel health is slowly improving
 but I fear he never will be able to labor hard and our circumstances
 you are aware seems to make that necessary as much if we were in Maine as
 it is in Michigan - We have have the great blessing of healthy children
 the restoration Daniels health the continuance of my own and many
 continued comforts call[^] gratitude to God and I hope we are not entirely
 unmindful of them - the school we have been in for the last three
 years I hope will not be without ist effect or rather I should say
 without the effect designed by God for our good - I feel that this
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 [?] life is so short it is matters[^] where it is spent so the great end of exis-
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 God - A mothers cares and duties are the same every where and the
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Harriet and Susan are quite young ladies and notwithstanding they do not improve so fast as under more favorable circumstances they might yet as they have good understanding and [crossed out] a great love of reading the will pick up enough of book knowledge with the addition of good feelings and virtuous intention to fulfill the duties of life with acceptance to God Sarah Bowers and Geore Anne have been up and made a long visit of four weeks Sarah is one of the very best of girls- she lightned my cares and labors so much while here that I was quite recrusted[?] in health and strength has helped to fix the children for winter - I feel very anxious to hear from Josiahs children I do most sincerely hope they will be [?] to them — is Ruth still with you if s give her my best love and tell her we shall write her [?]

[address sideways in middle of page]
 Miss Hannah Pierce
 East Baldwin
 Cumberland C°
 Maine

[unreadable] all to Sarah and her children – I think you must enjoy having her children so near you is little Phebe as pretty as she used to be – how it makes me wont to see the children to write of them – Anne promised us a letter while she was with you but we have received none, Why is it I have sent her forty letters in imagination, perhaps she has done the same – but we would like some thing a little more substantial – Clara is two years old and you may suppose is a great source of amusement to us – I have just weaned her – I have been a day and night with some sick at one of our neighbors and my eyes are heavy. I fear you will find it difficult to read this [?] The children each send bushels of love to you and all Aunts Uncles an Cous

[written sideways]

[I hope Daniel will go east this winter I should be lonely indeed but I would not mind that I think the journey would do him good. - Yours with much aff---n Fanny