

Friday - October 14th - 1844

Dear Father,

I reached B- on Tuesday about noon, in as good condition as I left, I believe. I found most of the students here, and that I had six lessons to make up. But I have now made them all up, and am almost settled for a new siege of study. The first thing I did was to move, then pay my bills and then get my books. One of the bills you gave me (of the Suffolk Bank, Boston) was a counterfeit. At least so said Mr. M^cKeen & Mr. Griffin. It was one of the three bills you gave me when I went to Portland to buy clothes. I shall send it to you, by the first fit opportunity, as perhaps you may remember the person from whom you took it. I was sorry, for now, 5 dollars is a considerable sum to me. The studies we are pursuing at present are Cambridge Mechanics, the German Reader, and the Satires of Juvenal. They are all quite pleasant to me. I like German very much. I received the cane & drawers by Charles. The new Freshman class numbers about 40 - of which number but about 30 are here. William is here, and rooms with a member of his own class, instead of Dunlap as he at first proposed. Frederick Fox his cousin is also here. Both are well and seem well contented; and they doubtless will remain so. It has been and is raining here today quite hard. And now I have rather a bad story to tell. Last night the pillars which support the dome of the Chapel belfry were sawed off and it was

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Date: Oct. 14, 1844
Description: Josiah Pierce on college pranks

pulled down. (The top of the belfry, not the belfry). When we went to prayers in the morning, instead of the well-known old belfry we saw nothing but a mass of ruins by the side of the chapel. Some persons say the chapel is improved by it - but at any rate it was a mean piece of business. Surely it could have been no sport, to have worked so hard as they must have done, and in the middle of the night too. There are but fellows in College who would be engaged in such an affair, and therefore the Government will probably discover the actors in it. I hope the story will not get abroad, for people may think all the students ~~appeared~~ and not knowing what an old concern the chapel is, may suppose the importance of the deed to be greater than it really is; and stories never lose anything by travelling - I hope you will send my clothes & watch as soon as you can with convenience. I room with Alden: he is a very agreeable chum, and it is a very pleasant neighborhood. I have no doubt I shall have a good time this term. All the fellows in our class ^(Zion) are steady, except the President, but they are at the same time, among the best fellows in College - One of our class has left, and a new one has joined, so that we number as we did before. Several additions have been made to the Sophomore Class - I recite to the same instructors I did most of the last two terms i.e. Profs. Smyth, Packard, and Goodwin. Charles and I have gone into Commons to board for a week, but after that time we shall leave and go to Mr. Fields, or Mrs. Pierce's, at which latter place they charge the same as at Field's. I do not like Commons very well; but if the food there is not so choice as at other places, there is much more fun. About 20 persons board there, among them are William and Frederick Fox. They intend to leave soon, I believe. The game of football has begun again, and they kick the freshmen and other greenhorn's most unmercifully - The other amusements of the students are at present principally

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these diversions much, for its "all work and no pay"
I suppose, now, there are many of my uncles & aunts at Joshua
I should like to be there, and almost wish I had staid—
Please give my love to them all, and ask Uncle Daniel to
carry a large portion of it with him to Michigan.
I shall hope to hear from you soon. And with much
love to all I am, as ever,
your very affectionate son—
Josiah—

P.S.
I will just mention, that William's chum is son of Mr.
Hezekiah Williams. Representative to Congress from the 7th district
whom you perhaps know—

Monday morning—
I meant this letter should have gone
on Saturday; but I have not been down town before, as I have been
somewhat busy. They have not begun to repair the church
on the hill yet; but the foundation of the Episcopal church is laid.
There is nothing new I have to tell you—

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