London June. 18. 1849 -My Draw Fatter I have been so very for weeks part, nevering to and for in that world of London that I alwort, at levies , began to pany myself a sort of wandering Sew and to fear that I should never again faid time to write to your - and I have now such a stock of things which might be communicated, that I hardly know where to begin -But I think you still feel enough kind in letest in sue to receive an-account first of lung own immediate concerns with willing refs -I have been constantly favored with very good health, my only personal discomfort having been the blistering of my feet, and occasionally getting so thed that I could hardly go to bed. I have found no difficulty and hardly any anneyance in the abandon ment of Tobacco, though I sometimes feet a linguing affection for my old companion my pecuniary arrangements are complete, but it is much more expension to live with comfort here than in America, and though I use all the Economy possible . I shall not stay so long pechaps in Sugland as I at hist andicipated. I have introduced myself to elle Bancroft. with received me holitely; and my hap-port I which I received at the A. y. Part. office ) is duly vegistered and certified at his office, so that I can vely on protection as an American of it is neareasy The present very distanced state of folitical affairs on the Boutenest; and then future uncertainty seem, at feit, rather forbidding as for us the conveniences of travelling are concerned; but I can told by those who ought to know, that I have little trouble to fear on that account Indeed, I already find lause Especially as I am an American. long day to thank god that I am now, and am to remain, a citizen of our land of liberty, and to be more and more fully convinced that we are the happiest people on the earth elly anticipations regarding the objects of interest here, were contrary to the usual course, les builtions then the reality; such has been the case, always, lota as Virgis found it, when people allow them selent "parva componere magnis". It is difficult at first to fully comprehen the vast extent of Loudon: one can rarely see the whole, and it does nor seem that there are miles and miles of beeil dings throughed with known beings on every side of one selling quietly in his own room.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through Maine Historical Society

MMN #31741

Date: June 1, 1849

Description: Josiah Pierce on visit to London

London, June 1st, 1849-

My Dear Father,

I have been so busy for two weeks past, running to and fro in this world of London, that I almost, at times, began to fancy myself a sort of wandering Jew, and to fear that I should never again find time to write to you — and I have now such a stock of things which might be communicated, that I hardly know where to begin – But I think you still feel enough kind interest in me to receive acaccount first of my own immediate concerns with willingness-I have been constantly favored with very good health, my only personal discomfort having been the blistering of my feet, and occasionally getting so tired that I could hardly go to bed. I have found no difficulty and hardly and annoyance in the abandonment if Tobacco, though I sometimes feel a lingering affection for my old companion – My pecuniary arrangements are complete, but it is much more expensive to live with comfort here than in America, and though I use all the economy possible, I shall not stay so long perhaps in England as I at first anticipated. I have introduced my self to Mr. Bancroft, who received me politely; and my pass-port (which I received at the N.Y. Post. Office) is duly registered and certified at his office, so that I can rely on protection as an American if it is necessary – the present very disturbed state of political affairs on the Continent, and their future uncertainty seem, at first, rather forbidding as far as the conveniences of travelling are concerned; but I am told by those who ought to know, that I have little trouble to fear on that account Especially as I am an American. Indeed, I already find cause every day to thank God that I am now, and am to remain, a citizen of our land of liberty, and to be more and more fully convinced that we are the happiest people on the earth.

My anticipations regarding the objects of interest here, were, contrary to the usual course, less brilliant that the reality; such has been the case always, even as Virgil found it, when people allow themselves "parva componere magnis." It is difficult at first to fully comprehend the vast extent of London: one can rarely see the whole, and it does not seem that there are miles and miles of buildings thronged with human beings on every side of one sitting quietly in his own room.

It size is best perceived, (as are the magnitudes of its great orietedings) by referring it to some known space: its diameth is in each direction from 12 to 15 miles in length, and I accustom unjused to think of a similar extent of country near my own home and imagin London placed upon it - But continous lines of houses stace for a great distance along all the roads from London, and in three or four excession which I have made of 12 of 15 sailes from its city, it seemed as if I never was fairly out of it -

For some days after my arrival I was quite confused by the Strangers of weighting about me, the classless din and noise which never ceased till long after ruidinger, the crowds in the streets of bussies of continually throughy and changing people and carriages; and in the effort to keep my seases sufficiently about we to attend properly to my necessary matters of business, and to accustom sugself to the new ways + things around we I could observe very lettle clearly enough for recollection . After, however, traversing the cety pretty completely and fixing in my mind it prominent division and marked localities, I began my " Sight - Seeing - and though I have in this short line been through with nearly the whole round of the more world objects of interest here, yet I have tried to devote such a thorough and systematic attention to them as will leave the recollection of their feinly bijed in my men on for future pleasure and advantage -I could not give you a fair description of the many witeres true Unings I have seen , in the compass of a dozen Letter: but I may tell you where I have been - I have visited the Tower with its apociations of deeds of blood and violence, of long + said imprisonments, with its efficies of kings and warniors of ages lang past with the very armor which they wore of Julea Befor in her own rober, on horseback, with her strong variety & Energy of purpose well expressed in her face, with its repeatory auceur instruments of torture and implements of war, its glettering royal georgaws, the lumintenence of whose propersion has cost so wench blood; but I cared about nothing there so much as for the writing with a nail on the Stone in Sir Walter Raleiges I have clim bed the Monument, losing may Knowledge of the points of the compast & getting derry in the addent. Its size is best perceived, (as are the magnitudes of its great buildings) by referring it to some known space: its diameter is in each direction from 12 to 15 miles in length, and I accustom myself to think of a similar extent of country near my own house and imagine London placed upon it – but continous lines of houses reach for a great distance along all the roads from London, and in three or four excursions which I have made of 12 or 15 miles from the city, it seemed as if I never was fairly out of it –

For some days after my arrival, I was quite confused by the strangeness of everything about me, the ceaseless din and noise which never ceases till long after midnight, the crowds in the streets of business of continually thronging and changing people and carriages; and in the effort to keep my senses sufficiently about me to attend properly to my necessary matters of business, and to accustom myself to the new ways & things around me I could observe very little clearly enough for recollection – After, however, traversing the city pretty completely and fixing in my mind its prominent divisions and marked localities, I began my "sight-seeing" – And though I have in this short time been through with nearly the whole round of the more noted objects of interest here, yet I have tried to devote such a thorough and systematic attention to them as will leave the recollection of them firmly fixed in my memory for future pleasure and advantage -I could not give you a fair description of the many interesting things I have seen, in the compass of a dozen letters: but I may tell you where I have been – I have visited the <u>Tower</u> with its associations of deeds of blood and violence, of long & sad imprisonments, with its effigies of Kings and warriors of ages long past with the very Armor which they wore. of Queen Bess, in her own robes, on horseback, with her strong vanity & energy of purpose well expressed in her face, with its repertory of ancient instruments of torture and implements of war, its glittering royal gewgaws, the maintenance of whose possession has cost so much blood: but I cared about nothing there so much as for the writing with a nail on the stone in Sir Walter Raleigh's prison. I have climbed the Monument, losing my knowledge of the points of the compass & getting dizzy in the ascent.

I have visited old quild hall with its images of gog and Magon, and its Court of the Lord Mayor & alderman in their trivelled ropes of another age: the Lord Mayors house with its magnificent appointments - the fine Rayar Exchange of stone 1808 by 175 feerthe Bank, massive & fortified, covering 8 acres of ground and Employing 800 clerks - the vast Docks, 100 acres in extent, with their in meuse and Seemingly - encloses warehouses, and great line mall, one of which into which I went, and which is full of Port wine alone is about Il acres in Extent, holding 17000 hipes -The Tunnel, and the magnificent bridges which went be seen to be appreciated " - Sir John Sounds Unselm, where among many other wonderful and interesting works of ancient and worder act is the celebrated Egyptian sarcofhagus of alabaster, found by Belsoni, the fewer in the world - the British Museum, that in mense collection of all things, which, as even the discription books do nor pretend is describe, how can I - I can only say, that I was occupied with delight and wonder from morning till locusing, in going through only 4 of its rooms. ( of course I have not finished seeing it get.) The collection of paintings & statuary in the rooms of the National Julling and the Royal Academy, where are the original works of Raphael, Rubens, Rembrand, Titrain, Guido, Clande, Murules, Loganta of all the great painted \_ a celebrated show Meadam Tupands was work figured, which are really life like , of the twest distinguished characters of the present century, and correct like refer & the florions old treatminster abbey, grand and solemn luvingle in itself as a fine old Gottul cathedral but with this distinction of an allogether eclipsed by the honor of its illustrious dead -Westernister Aall, where was nursed and grew wite the strength of manhood our noble laws; which has been the theatre of the display of human point and intellectual greatures since the time when Richard 20 feasted 10.000 persons there , bown to the present: where Blacke's eloquence Theore along the town traveled lost in the train of Adastings - where charles 1" was condrained to die-When Queen Carolin was tried - When Gothe + Bacon & wans held + Hale, and the many often legal sages medetated & walled: with handly

I have visited old Guild-hall with its images of Gog and Magog, and its Court of the Lord Mayor & alderman in their taselled[?] robes of another age: the Lord Mayors house with its magnificent appointments – the fine <u>Royal Exchange</u>, of stone, 308 by 175 feet – the Bank, massive and fortified, covering 8 acres of ground and employing 800 clerks – the vast <u>Docks</u>, 100 acres in extent, with their immense and seemingly-endless warehouses, and great wine-vaults one of which into which I went, and which is full of Port Wine alone is about 11 acres in Extent, holding 17000 pipes – The <u>Tunnel</u>, and the magnificent <u>bridges</u> "which <u>must</u> be seen to be appreciated" – Sir John Soane's Museum, where among many other wonderful and interesting works of ancient and modern art is the celebrated Egyptian sarcophagus of alabaster, found by Belzoni, the finest in the world – the British Museum, that immense collection of <u>all</u> things, which, as even the description books do not pretend to describe, how can I – I can only say, that I was occupied with delight and wonder from morning till evening, in going through only 4 of its rooms. (Of course I have not finished seeing it yet.) The collection of paintings & statuary in the rooms of the National Gallery and the Royal Academy, where are the original works of Raphael, Rubens, Rembrandt, Titian, Guido, Claude, Murillo Hogarth & all the great painters— a celebrated show "Madam <u>Tussauds</u>" Wax work figures, (which are really life-like) of the most distinguished characters of the present century, and correct likenesses & the glorious old Westminster Abbey, grand and solemn enough in itself as a fine old Gothic Cathedral, but with this distinction

character as a monument of the altogether eclipsed by the honor of its ^ illustrious dead — Westminster Hall, where was nursed and grew into the strength of manhood our noble laws; which has been the theatre of the display of human pomp and intellectual greatness since the time when Richard 2<sup>d</sup> feasted 10,000 persons there, down to the present: where Burke's eloquence echoed along the carved & arched roof in the trail of Hasting's – where Charles 1<sup>st</sup> was condemned to die – Where Queen Caroline was tried – Where Coke & Bacon & Mansfield & Hale, and the many other legal sages meditated & walked: with hardly

4 any alteration probably in its structure or appearance during that time. I visited the courts of Queens Beach, Lord Danna presiding of Excheque with Chief Baron Pollock at its head, of Bournon Pleas, and the Vice Chancellow count - The Lord Chancellor Cottenham was unwell and I did not see him - The Court rooms are Smaller than ours, with Seals and wains cots of oak of high ceilings - The Judges Sit on a high plat form each with a little Separate clerk before him - The clerks Sit just below them, in front; and below them on the ground floor, with their backs to the Judges and their faces to the barristers sit the the attorneed - The barristers in their benches, ranged one above another as in an ampi theatre. One perhaps a little more dignified than one consellors, but them is not more of the dignity them depreses at a Law teem of our supreme Court - The Judges appeared even less grave than ours; some of them munching that cuit -The attornies wiere neither wis or gowns - Their honors wore larger wigh, the sergeants, next in size with a little honorary postra friezeling of the have those of the counsel and lastly of the clearly of our or creed, who performed the duty of our or fing. Theriff in court work gown without wight These decorations (or disfigurements, if you please) of the outer man don't seem to one to give any additional dignity from of the weales low, looked a little like fores, with their thin sharp faces, thin and Colorless, neering out from the stiff hair -In examining witnesses or making their arguments, the countel adopt a manner which I have never seen with us; they attempt by expressions of countenance which I suight almost call grainaces. to manifest contempt, incredulity, sympathy or tithe feelings in a bly wanted manner. Of course, I can tell but little of the true worth of things I have observed so hastely; but I thought, that I knew gentlemen at our Cumberland bar, who would come off very creditably indeed from a contest with the Healunista Hall lawyers whom I heard a lend that our judges would suffer no dishower from a comparison with their Lordships here-The courts are generally surve orderly, as the "oi nolloi", the outer barbarians are made to feel an inferiority and to keep at a distance;

4) any alteration, probably in its structure or appearance during that time-I visited the courts of Queens Bench, Lord Denman presiding; of Exchequer with Chief Baron Pollock at its head, of Common Pleas, and the Vice Chancellors Court – The Lord Chancellor Cottenham was unwell and I did not see him – The Court-rooms are smaller than ours, with seats and wainscots of oak & high ceilings – The Judges sit on a high platform each with a little seperate desk before him– The clerks sit just below them, in front; and below them on the ground floor, with their backs to the judges and their faces to the barristers sit the the attornies – The barristers in the their benches, ranged one above another as in an ampitheatre, Are perhaps a little more dignified than our counsellors, but there is not more of the dignity that appears at a Law term of our Supreme Court– The Judges appeared even less grave than ours; some of them munching biscuit The Attornies wore neither wigs or gowns – Their honors wore wore the

larger wigs, the Sergeants, next in size with a little honorary extra & silk gowns

frizzling of the hair ^ then those of the counsel and lastly of the were graduated in size and embellishment — clerks ^ – the ushers or criers, who performed the duty of our deputy-Sheriffs in court wore gowns without wigs-

These decorations (or disfigurements, if you please) of the outer man don't seem to me to give any additional dignity. Some of the wearers even, looked a little like foxes, with their thin sharp faces, thin and colorless, peering out from the stiff hair —

In examining witnesses or making their arguments, the counsel adopt a manner which I have never seen with us: they attempt by expressions of countenance which I might almost call grimaces, to manifest contempt, incredulity, sympathy or other feelings in a very marked manner. Of course, I can tell but little of the true worth of things I have observed so hastily; but I thought that I knew gentlemen at our Cumberland bar, who would come off very creditably indeed from a contest with the Westminster Hall lawyers whom I heard = and that our judges would suffer no dishonor from a comparison with their Lordships here —

The courts are generally more orderly, as the "oi wolloi", the "outer

The courts are generally more orderly, as the "oi wolloi", the "outer barbarians are made to feel an inferiority and to keep at a distance;

There appears to be a general similarity in disposing of the cases after they are once brought forward: the procliminary arrangements are very slow; they have much the advantage of us in method and system but probably one proclice is quite as convenient and answer the ends of justice as well as theirs.

I have had some conversation with several gentle men connected with the law; but have formed no acquaintance with them, and probably shall not have, as I have not yet had, time to do so - I hoped to have placed ungself in a legal alteraphene by getting lodgings in the Ilmphe - but the roomes there are not leased for lef them had a year. It is very pleasant to strok among the quest tome had a year. It is very pleasant to strok among the quest courts & grounds of the Ilmphe and the other I had - the building are ancient. There are pleasy street some formains to; he carriage suter there - it seems strange to hear your own foot fall, after being in such a bustle as your have left: and it is like being in some old suchanted city, where all animation is suspended, but every thing is stell fit for habitation.

But abound the courts of your own peculiar branch of the law, the exclesions their courts in Doctors Bourmons, things are dark and glooney, but we in thereing - I went there the other day, and going into the Aleraeds office, looked over some ancient books, the records prior to 1630, for the name of Peirce-

I only Ex con inect the books for this country of for Devous him .

It was then recorded, that one "Richard Peterse, was standed been of King Richard II, at Boswork field, and then lost a legge, but lived wany years after." and a coat of arms and a number of generations were there in recorded of the Peterse Jamily, until the days of John Piterse, gentleman sewer in ordinary to Charles I. Who had two soms John (about whom nothing particular was said) and Richard who removed to Northeellaton.

Whether this leg-lefs Preise was my ances for or not, the inquiry is booklef, and I shall not continue it: but I shall long remember the old dark I desald college. it ancient books and quaint couring in wood over the fire black to black warns cor-

There appears to be a general similarity in disposing of the cases after they are once brought forward: the preliminary arrangements are very slow; they have much the advantage of us in method and system, but probably our practice is quite as convenient and answers the ends of justice as well as theirs –

I have had some conversation with several gentlemen connected with the law; but have formed no acquaintance with them, and probably shall not have, as I have not yet had, time to do so — I hoped to have placed myself in a legal atmosphere by getting lodgings in the Temple — but the rooms there are not leased for less than half a year — It is very pleasant to stroll among the quiet courts & grounds of the Temple and the other Inns — the buildings are ancient. there are plenty of trees, some fountains &c: no carriages enter there — it seems strange to hear your own foot fall, after being in such a bustle as you have left: and it is like being in some old enchanted city, where all animation is suspended, but every thing is still fit for habitation.

But around the courts of your own peculiar branch of the law, the ecclesiastical courts in Doctors Commons, things are dark and gloomy, but are inviting — I went there the other day, and going into the Heralds office, looked over some ancient books, the records prior to 1630, for the name of Peirce — I only examined the books for this county & for Devonshire — It was there recorded that one "Richard Pierse, was standard bearer of King Richard II, at Bosworth Field, and there lost a legge, but lived many years after." And a coat of arms and a number of generations were there in recorded of the Pierse family, until the days of John Pierse, gentleman sewer in ordinary to Charles 1. who had two sons John (about whom nothing particular was said) and Richard who removed to Northallenton —

Whether this leg-less Pierse was my ancestor or not, the inquiry is bootless, and I shall not continue it: but I shall long remember the old, dark Heralds college. its ancient books and quaint carving in wood over the fireplace & black wainscot-

I have seen some ested scene's of out-door excitence too -On Widnesday of last week I attended the Jamons Epson races, on the Derby day, which is considered a national festival -From an illustrated paper which I send you, can be obtained a tolerable idea of the locut. The account therein is supposed to be given by a French Nathonal - quand s man, was has visited England, like ungrelf, for the Eight . All classes of society were then in thousands - and all seemed excited & deeply interested -On the celebration of the Queen birth day, a very great humber of the notility & foreign ambafractors, all in george and covert drefued. attended her leve at St. James Palace. as un sight by old brit brilling. I saw many of the brill lanth . Irefeel court, as they got out and in Their handsome carriages (attended by servante in living + having beautiful horses - Two or three regiments of brooks, for and horse were in attendance - but that did not prevent the Queen's being shot at. that afterwoon - The crowd in the Parks was very great -The Parks at this season are Extremely beautiful; and when they are filled with well dreped people, a notice is posted at the gale that no others are allowed to sale, as is the case on every pleasant after woon or great occasion. The scene is very interesting -They are planted with works trees, and have fine gravelled walks, and are surrounded by handsome and stately buildings Look on the map of London. Hyde Park is 395 acres in Extent: on Sunday after noons, the broad path from Ay & Park corner to Readington gardens is so crossded with carriaged, horse men and people or foot, that it is difficult to more: 50,000 persons are frequently seen here - Regents Park occupies 360 acres -I saw the Quean, Prince Albert, and the Eldert fithe Prince and Princefor a day or two after she was shot at -I was not wuch affected: very few of air "Smart" Youke girls would not to as well or better - Her paint bounet appeared to year adoptinger. The seems very kopular if we may credit the news hapen. but then were no very astonishing Exprepsions of

I have seen some noted scene's of out-door existence too — On Wednesday of last week I attended the famous Epsom races on the Derby day, which is considered a national festival – From an illustrated paper which I send you, can be obtained a tolerable idea of the event. The account therein is supposed be given by a French National-Guards-man, who has visited England, like myself, for the Sights. All classes of society were there in thousands—and all seemed excited & deeply interested— On the celebrations of the Queens birthday a very great number of the nobility & foreign ambassadors, all in gorgeous court-dresses. attended her levee at St. James' Palace, an unsightly old brick building. I saw many of the brilliantly dressed Court, as they got out and in their handsome carriages (attended by servants in livery & having beautiful horses—Two or three regiments of troops, foot and horse were in attendance – but that did not prevent the Queen's being shot at, that afternoon– The crowd in the Parks was very great – The Parks at this season are extremely beautiful: and when they are filled with well-dressed people, (a notice is posted at the gates that no others are allowed to enter) as is the case on every pleasant afternoon or great occasion. the scene is very interesting they are planted with noble trees, and have fine gravelled walks, and are surrounded by handsome and stately buildings – Look on the map of London. Hyde Park is 395 acres in Extent: on Sunday afternoon, the broad path from Hyde Park corner to Kensington garden is so crowded with carriages, horse men and people on foot, that it is difficult to move: 50,000 persons are frequently seen here—Regents Park occupies <u>360</u> acres — I saw the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Eldest Little Prince and Princess, a day or two after she was shot at – I was not much affected: very few of our "smart" Yankee girls would not do as well or better. Her pink bonnet appeared to great advantage. She seems very popular if we may credit the newspaper – but there were no very astonishing expressions of

loyally that I saw. on account of her Excape from apapination -The three first days of this week were the "Whitsuntide Holidays"and as then occurred the facuous Greenwich fair I went to see it -It was a most curious affair - multitudes of people were them. showing the most reproactions belowing - I was much interested in the Hospital & the old pensioners - Punch & Judy were Ex hibited among other ancient and national acuasconcett in The streets: and I had my fortune told by a veritable old Juply in a red clock. I went on Wednesday to Hampton Court Patan, Gad dinal Wolleys residing, a wood orligateful spor the Palace having many rooms felled with the Just and most valuable perintings of the old master and the back & grounds being laoob interesting -But it would be in vain for me to go on. I unget write a week of what I have seen and not tell you all; but I show be ready to answer all questions when I get lead - After a few more days of riding on outribus. and sailing on steam boats, and walking till I am ready to Drop with fategine & starting & gazing at Every them, here. I shall start a a limited the theroigh great Britain of whice I will farther inform you -I hope you received my letter Delat the 18th with Please write volumissionaly - Give my warm regards to all my friends & love to the family and believe we Ever your affectioner som

after all

loyalty ^ that I Saw. on account of her escape from assassination — The three first days of this week were the "Whitsuntide Holidays"— and as then occurred the famous Greenwich fair I went to see it — It was a most curious affair = multitudes of people were there, showing the most uproarious hilarity — I was much interested in the Hospital & the old pensioners — Punch & Judy were Exhibited among the other ancient and national amusements in the streets: and I had my fortune told by a veritable old Gipsy in a red cloak.

Bus I went on Wednesday to Hampden Court Palace, Cardinal Wolseys residence, a most delightful spot, the Palace having many rooms filled with the finest and most valuable paintings of the old masters – and the park and grounds being most interesting –

But it would be in vain for me to go on. I might write a week of what I have seen and not tell you all; but I shall be ready to answer all questions when I get back— after a few more days of riding on omnibuses, and sailing on steam boats, and walking till I am ready to drop with fatigue & staring & gazing at everything here, I shall start on a limited tour through Great Britain of which I will further inform you —

I hope you received my letter sent the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. Please write voluminously– Give my warm regards to all my friends & love to the family and believe me

Ever your affectionate Son Josiah Pierce. Jr.