

Washington, March 14, 1853.

My Dear Father,

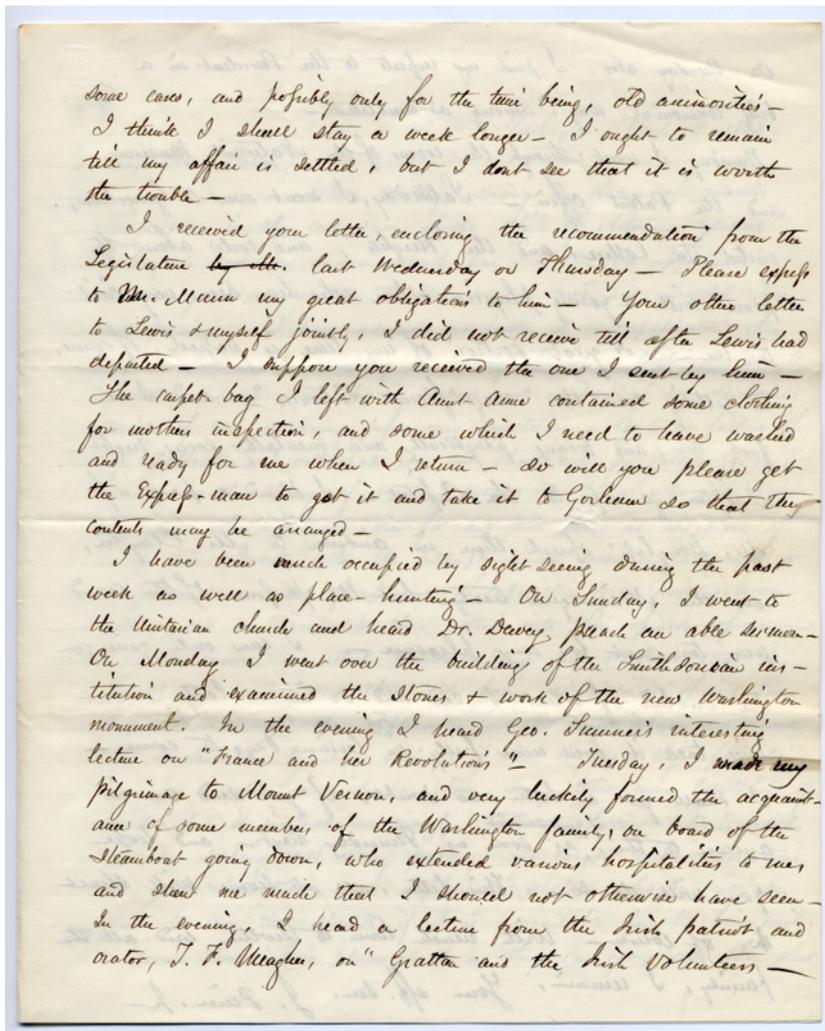
While waiting, among a throng of anxious office seekers, in the ante-room of the Office of Attorney - General Curling, to seek an audience with him, I take the opportunity to write you such a letter as the uncertain time and unsettled ideas will permit— I have advanced no farther in my application than when I last wrote, excepting in having obtained a little more strength of recommendation, and having passed over a part of the doubtful period of time interviewing before my rejection — As to a failure of my application, I anticipate it, and shall not be grieved for it, excepting by the shame of meeting people at home who all know very well what I have come for and will sneer at my want of success and attribute either the attempt to an error in judgement or the failure to a want of approval of capacity — or a recognized incompetency, and so incorporate those notions into their opinion of me —

The rumor's say that President pierce has declared that he should not make more than one foreign appointment of importance from Maine— and the applicants for the large places are thrown into consternation by it— Perhaps, if that is true, my application, being for a rather inconsiderable place, may have more likelihood of success — but it is probable enough, that our fellow-citizens, who now are seeking with strong pushing, and earnest recommendations the great Consulates, and diplomatic stations abroad, will be glad to turn their strength if it is unavailable for the first wish to secure them inferior places such as they can get, and then shut

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Maine Historical Society
MMN #31745
Date: Mar. 14, 1853
Description: Letter on diplomatic appointment

me out - A great many politicians from Maine are here - viz;
Ex. Gov^r Hubbard, Dawes, Anderson, Dunlap -
- Nathan Clifford - Bion Bradbury - John D. Mc Crate - G. F. Shepley -
W. P. Smith - H. Strickland - Geo. W. Stanley - N. L. Woodbury -
Geo. F. Emery - L. D. M. Sweat - Jno. M. Adams - B. F. Cummings -
O. L. Sanborn - E. Carter, Jr - more than I can name - Fifty
known to one person, were counted up by one man, day before
yesterday - Probably there are more - The Wild-cat element
predominates - as you may be assured, it does at home - but they
get mixed up very much here - Our Congressional Delegation
can't or won't agree about recommendations for & distributions
of the local offices - They had a meeting on Saturday, but
came to no conclusion - There is a great deal of talk,
and very little of certainty or knowledge in it - Some States
are in a worse quarrel than ours - The delegation from
one State had an assault and battery at their meeting on
Saturday - However, the appointments are to be made in-
dependently, whenever it is worth while, of the recommendations
of the Congressmen - so the New York Herald says, and among
all its gossip, I think there is more truth about its news
than can be found elsewhere - We rely upon it here almost
wholly, - certainly more than on any Washington paper - to
get information of what is going on in this city, and we
usually get the intelligence printed sooner by it - I mention
this, that you may refer to the Herald for any Washington affairs -
- No appointment from Maine has yet been made, I believe -
The expectants grow awfully anxious and are reconciling, in

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some cases, and possibly only for the time being, old animosities - I think I shall stay a week longer - I ought to remain till my affair is settled, but I don't see that it is worth the trouble -

I received your letter, enclosing the recommendation from the Legislature by Mr. Mann last Wednesday or Thursday - Please express to Mr. Mann my great obligations to him - Your other letter to Lewis and myself jointly, I did not receive till after Lewis had departed - I suppose you received the one I sent by him - The carpet bag I left with Aunt Anne contained some clothing for mother's inspection, and some which I need to have washed and ready for me when I return - so will you please get the Express-man to get it and take it to Gorham so that the contents may be arranged -

I have been much occupied by sight seeing during the past week as well as place-hunting - On Sunday, I went to the Unitarian Church and heard Dr. Dewey preach an able sermon - On Monday I went over the building of the Smithsonian institution and examined the Stones & work of the new Washington monument. In the evening I heard Geo. Summer's interesting lecture on "France and her Revolutions" - Tuesday, I made my pilgrimage to Mount Vernon, and very luckily formed the acquaintance of some members of the Washington family, on board of the steamboat going down, who extended various hospitalities to me, and shew me much that I should not otherwise have seen - In the evening, I heard a lecture from the Irish patriot and orator, T. F. Meagher, on "Grattan and the Irish Volunteers" -

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On Monday also, I paid my respects to the President in a brief ceremonial way, among a multitude -
Monday I went through the rooms of the National Museum, and the Patent Office - Saturday, I went over to Georgetown, visited the College, and the "Heights", and rode about the place with a young physician there who has been very civil to me - A great portion of my time is passed, of course, in getting over the "magnificent distances" - and I am foot-sore, and weary physically and mentally, every night - I often go up to the Capitol - I heard a part of Mr. Douglass' speech there in answer to Mr. Clayton, on the Nicaragua treaty, but the pressure of the crowd was too great for any pleasure - I can only give you the outline of what I see and do in a letter - but will talk it over more fully in leisure days to come - I shall get a letter, no doubt, if you send one in answer to this, ^{if you send it} as soon as Thursday next - and hope you will do so - This letter, all at home will share in, of course - With much love to Mother and all the family, I remain, Your aff. son. J. Pierce. Jr -

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