

J. Pierce Jr
Oct 1. Private, to yourselves
1855

Portland. Oct. 1. 1855.

My Dear Father and Mother,

I have this morning written to the President declaring my readiness to accept the appointment he generously offers me. It has not been without much careful examination of my duty in the matter that I have made the choice - if I had consulted only my personal feelings, perhaps I should have decided otherwise, for I cannot but feel very sadly at such a separation from you and from others near and dear to me, and think of possible evils to you or them which my presence and

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Maine Historical Society
MMN #31748
Date: Oct. 1, 1855
Description: Josiah Pierce on diplomatic appointment

services might prevent or alleviate -
I honor my profession too, and although holding no very firm, certain or eminent rank in it, should willingly work forward slowly for its honors and its advantages.
But the opportunity for additional Culture, for enlarged and desirable experience, for a higher position among men, coming in this shape, with the advantages and pleasures of travel is too attractive to me to be resisted.
I do not look much for any pecuniary advantages - I should not expect many more from staying at home, and see no reason why I may not stand as well in that

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respect at the end of my term of office,
as if I had remained here - And it is
very possible that I may secure a
permanent position in the diplomatic corps
of my country, than which no official
position is more advantageous - and
I do not, on reflection apprehend any
grave, real necessity for my staying here
as an advantage to yourselves -
I believe you are and will be during
your lives above want, honored and
secure of respect and support from many
friends, and that I am indeed more
likely to be dependent on you as I
have hitherto been than of much
assistance - Besides my stay abroad
will not be long - I shall probably
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thirty years old, the period I have
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at a moments notice to fly to your
assistance if you call for it - I can
never for a moment neglect to remember
my life long obligations to you for your
constant tenderness and goodness to me.
And I do not anticipate any really
probable trouble to you or to myself,
from my choice, and therefore I have
made it, resolved of this at least,
that I will not, (as I hope you will
not) regret it, now it is made, but
only make it as pleasant and useful
as possible. Your ever aff. son.
Josiah -

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