to No. S. Perio rolles E. L. Provie. Golam, Maine, Unites State of Sweeter 4. Polarbing Rustia . February 2, 1856. My dear fracts. The Mane while left accertion on the 29 th of January brought your letter of the 19th January, which I receive the day before yesterday I was glad to lower by it that you had not my long letter written down after my must here. The some mail trought dewis letter which told an of your renewis suffering + illness, and you will believe I sweet sincelely sympathered with you and hope for your tecovery. I am sony that I cannot write a long letter today : browings prevents it . I have so much on my mind to describe to you that I should not know where to stop . but I done my you have seen notices in the journals of some events have which have been attended with sund ceremonial diplay - I have seem the reter of marriage, Soptimis & francials - have attended Court on Several gala occasions - and dines to drupped at the Empures table - have been at the Opera + ballet a French Theate to in the evening - com extending a making choice of my circle of agreeable acquaintances - do all my duty , as well as I know how, as Secretary of Lyotion - have posen the tip of me can - have slit down the is - lills am studying French & Russian - and have a rule, to much

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

MMN #31865

Date: Feb. 9-21, 1856

Description: Josiah Pierce on diplomat service in Russia

To Hon. J. Pierce & Mrs. E. L. Pierce. Gorham, Maine. United States of America.

St. Petersburg. Russia. February 9/21, 1856.

My dear parents,

The steamer which left America on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January brought your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> January, which I received the day before yesterday. I was glad to learn by it that you had read my long letter written soon after my arrival here. The same mail brought Lewis' letter which (Father)

told me ^ of your renewed suffering & illness, and you will believe I most sincerely sympathized with you and hope for your recovery.

I am sorry that I cannot write a long letter today: business prevents it. I have so much on my mind to describe to you that I should not know where to stop, but I dare say you have seen notices in the journals of some events here which have been attended with much ceremonial display — I have seen the rites of marriage, baptism & funerals – have attended Court on several gala occasions – and dined & supped at the Emperor's table – have been at the Opera & ballet & French theatre &c in the evenings – am extending & making choice of my circle of agreeable acquaintances – do all my duty, as well as I know how, as Secretary of Legation – have frozen the tip of one ear – have slid down the ice- hills — am studying French & Russian – and have a rule, too much

been confined to the home with a feveril cold, from which I have fully accorded - am now very well total and the days fly part very birthly in my regular bray office - but my happiest moments are r-have been there in which I write the love their theore, and their dwellings, and the reads or these such many happiest dwellings, and the reads or these such matter of thair differ - If I can serve my country in any valuable manner while in this occupation I shall be contented and termine in it as long as it is good for me or my native loud. It is little that I can do, and I have little responsibility daws the constant exercise of predences and that retends,

I am sorry on the whole it wrote to you about develing me money; but I that dave, I trust, everyth, to cleve all may liabilities which you have guaranteed, before fully , even if Lewis does not cottest everyth for that purpose, as I hope he may - as to what the Rikelo, owe me of course he should retain my attorneys him on all the paper or accounts of theirs, he, as my agent, has in his hands, air appropriate it accordingly -

I would not contest with Lumby, but make the best dellement you can - you can regoliate, undoubtedly, in a perfect,

neglected, of reading the Bible and some <u>law</u> daily – have been confined to the house with a feverish cold, from which I have fully recovered – am now very well & stout[?] and the days fly past very swiftly in my regular way of life – but my happiest moments are & have been those in which I recall the well-known forms & faces of my kindred & friends at home, and their dwellings, and the roads & streets and matters of daily life – if I can serve my country in any valuable manner while in their occupation I shall be contented and remain in it as long as it is good for me or my native

now

land. It is little that I can do ^ – and I have little responsibility save the constant exercise of prudence and that reticence & self-control which I have not hitherto learned.

I am sorry on the whole I wrote you about sending me money; but I shall save, I trust, soon enough to clear all my liabilities which you have guaranteed, before July & even if Lewis does not collect enough for that purpose, as I hope he may – As to what the R. R. Co. owe me of course he should retain my Attorney's lien on all the papers or accounts of theirs, he, as my agent, has in his hands, and appropriate it accordingly –

I would not contest with Quimby, but make the best settlement you can – You can negotiate, undoubtedly, in a perfectly

Sout let your pecaning complication fact you - feeting wont help
them. Hery must be quietly and gradually understed some other
wang - This letter you are is mainty adduted, in breing reputs
to father - Mother may not find much that is interesting I few may books may be lost in Postland if my mount is not put
in them. I would willing, pay for a min copper plate for printing
labels, in the most elegant clear style of round hand, to be parted
in them. I won't begin to get downer that or G.R. Davis to get such a
plate made, and have the printing down a funce know that I have just
this moment escence here good letter of the 17th January, and
that I contain sety think of her with great respect to affection;
and feel many her to the house where I have lived the last
five years - and that I wish here to write they often to and
free want for and weer, I have to write they often to and

I suffere Lewis goes to the Rifle leaps dances - If I did not know it to be of the highest importance for lim to be very economical, I stronted larnerely desire him to form may old company - I wish he would tell Caps their that I should like to be write them boys "a few days" "a few days" a few days" - I wish he wight upon the uniform I were if he can get one few in exchange. I if he joins the Company, tell him never by any means to take any other rank than that of a private.

civil and kindly way with his lawyer.

Don't let your pecuniary complicities fret you – fretting wont help them. They must be quietly and gradually untwisted some other way – this letter you see is mainly addressed, in business respects to father – Mother may not find much that is interesting – I fear my books may be lost in Portland if my name is not put in them. I would willingly pay for a nice copper-plate for printing labels, in the most elegant clear style of round hand, to be pasted in them. Please ask Lewis to get Lowell & Senter or G.R. Davis to get such a plate made, and have the printing done –

Please let my dear Aunt Anne know that I have just this moment received her good letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> January, and that I continually think of her with great respect & affection, and feel many ties to the house where I have lived the last five years – and that I wish her to write very often to me and not wait for answers, & send my love to all my friends who care for it.

I suppose Lewis goes to the Rifle Corps dances – If I did not know it to be of the highest importance for him to be very economical, I should earnestly desire him to join my old company – I wish he would tell the Capt. Marr [?] that I should like to be with them boys "a few days" "a few days" – Lewis may have all my rights upon the uniform I wore if he can get one free in exchange, & if he joins the Company, tell him never by any means to take any other rank than that of a private.

I know was to warm during a counter as I have been throughout This one, in the may, & equally of continuous heater, beauer here-The weather is now vay fine - the sky clear - the mow very light, five or try willes only , on the ground - we have 20 degree of part recoveredly, and the winds are very priving -With all this cold, cholera still prevails to the extent of So or be uported acco, from week to week -I am obliged to close my letter here to way a dropatel : and with much love to all at home, and constant hopes for the lase and comfact for your declining years I remain your efectionate down for the P. 1. I coulese dome Russian law collars for mother and the girls-

I never was so warm during a winter as I have been throughout this one, in the snug, & equally & continually heated, houses here – The weather is now very fine – the sky clear – the snow very light, five or six inches only, on the ground – we have 20 degrees of frost occasionally, and the winds are very piercing – with all this cold, cholera still prevails to the extent of 50 or 60 reported cases, from week to week —

I am obliged to close my letter here to copy a despatch: and with much love to all at home, and constant hopes for the ease and comfort for your declining years

I remain your affectionate son

Josiah -

P.S.

I enclose some Russian lace collars for mother and the girls –