

St. Petersburg, <sup>12</sup>/<sub>24</sub> December, 1857.

My dear Father,

I have to ask you and Mother  
to accept, for my interest and perhaps <sup>for that</sup> of all  
others connected with me, the possibility of my  
remaining in Europe five or six years longer.  
A proposal has been made to me by the  
firm of Winans, Harrison & Winans, (the Ameri-  
cans who are managing the Moscow Railway  
at a great yearly profit), to remain with them  
to write their important correspondence with the  
Russian Government, - for which they offer me  
a salary of \$6000. per year - This seems  
to me a much more advantageous position  
than any I could attain on returning now

I wish you all a Merry Christmas!

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Maine Historical Society

MMN #31900

Date: December, 1857

Description: Josiah Pierce on job in Europe

to America, without money and without business.  
Half of that sum I should hope to save yearly -  
I think I could be sure of laying by a third -  
It would be necessary for me to keep house by  
myself, with two or three servants, and to have a  
horse. A few of my present expenses would be  
diminished but some would be increased, as the  
circumstances would require me to maintain a  
respectable position in style of living -

I have not yet accepted the proposal -  
They have given me until the middle of January  
to consider it - and if then adopted it will not  
probably go into force till April, perhaps later -  
An application has also been made to the President  
for my appointment as Chargé d'Affaires to Persia,  
regarding the success of which I care little, but

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Still, if the appointment should be made,  
might listen rather to ambition than to profit,  
and choose it in preference to the place here.  
As to remaining here longer than Mr. Seymour's  
incumbency of office, as Secretary of Legation, -  
that is quite out of my intentions.

I need not tell you that I long to  
see my family and home again - you may  
be sure of that - but I feel no right of  
that gratification if it is to be purchased at the  
cost of relinquishing my only sure present prospect  
of gaining a competency for future years -  
If I can return at the age of 36, with from  
ten to fifteen thousand dollars of my own earnings,  
it appears to me I ought to wait for that -  
and can then, on solid ground, start in life again  
at home with much better chances of success.

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The year will slip quickly by, and I see no reason to fear changes meanwhile at home which would make me necessary there - and at last I can be among my friends, with <sup>an</sup> independence for myself and aid if wanted for them.

It is my duty to inform you of this possibility - and I now do so as soon as it has a settled form, but you perceive, before it is at all a certainty: and I must add that I wish nothing said of it outside the family, and no mention ever made of the Charge'ship till you see it in the journals - But will you and mother give me, as on other occasions, the expression of your ever kind, considerate and sensible parental counsel, and tell me frankly your own wishes, in this matter - and I shall receive them thankfully, respectfully and deferentially - Probably I shall not recur again to the subject till it is settled = but next week hope to answer the letter from home of Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, just rec'd. and with love to all, remain your aff. son, Josiah.

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