

St. Petersburg, June 2/14, 1858.

My dear mother,

Your kind note of May 9<sup>th</sup> reached me a week ago, and it gave me much pleasure not only from its information of the well-being of all at home, but as a renewal of our correspondance. The distance between us and the voyage to pass it seem less than ever to me since my last journey. and I am glad that you have the same feeling increased since the visit I made you with so much facility. I shall long remember the incidents of that visit to America with the greatest satisfaction. It renewed my youth. No doubt you will be reminded by the date of today that it is the birthday of your eldest son. It recalls to me those which have gone by, and how for half your lifetime you have not wearied

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

MMN #31924

Date: June 2/14, 1858

Description: Josiah Pierce on married life

in parental affection towards me as each new year  
rolled by whether I have been absent from you or not.  
Thirty-one years do not seem a great age now to  
me and the future on no previous birthday was  
brighter or indeed so full of promise to my hopes.  
It is my desire to be a better man now that I  
am married - and my dear wife gives me all the  
encouragement possible towards fulfilling that purpose.

There is little as yet for me to tell you about  
ourselves - You have learned how we made our  
journey - with some discomforts from her seasickness,  
but with tolerable accommodations on the water -  
and with many enjoyments in England, refreshing  
our eyes by the beautiful verdure of the landscapes,  
and amused and interested by visits to famous places  
in the Babel of London, & last though not least to  
the stately and spacious York Minster - and to the  
ancient ruin called "Clifford's Tower" within York

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Castle. Enclosed are some English daisies which I  
picked for you on the greensward of the bank outside  
the moat at the foot of Clifford's tower - This old  
stronghold was famed in the Civil Wars, and like the  
"Good Lord Clifford" is mentioned I think in ballads  
which the girls may perhaps find in some of my  
books. "From town to town, from tower to tower,  
The red rose is a gladsome flower" - &c  
On arriving at St. Petersburg we were welcomed  
kindly by my old friends - and have been at several  
dinner parties, one of which Mr. Seymour gave to us  
in very fine style - Only think of delicious pineapples,  
oranges, apples, pears, cherries, raspberries, strawberries,  
pears, plums, &c at this season - We have been  
feasted several times on them - Sight-seeing and  
driving about in my own little carriage among  
the beautiful trees and villas on the islands, and  
making purchases of crockery, linen, glass, &c, &c,  
for housekeeping has also pretty fully occupied our time.

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I fear it will be two weeks before we get away from the Hotel where we now are most pleasantly situated it is true - but unsettled and living too expensively - Pattie has great judgement and good taste and is of a much more prudent & economical disposition than myself - and Mrs. Winam helps us about everything and do not doubt, that notwithstanding the obstacles of foreign things and a foreign language, two people never got more comfortably established in their first housekeeping than we shall -

But of all that hereafter - and believe my dear mother that though I love my wife more and more every day, yet I remain stedfast in the love towards my family which I always have had and which grows with years -

Your affectionate son  
Josiah.

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