

St. Petersburg, Sept 11/Aug 30/, 1858.

My dear father,

Your letter of Aug. 7th reached me yesterday, having been delayed only a few days by the stoppage of the Europa steamship. It gave me, as it always does, much pleasure to learn of the continued good health and comfort of yourself and our family, and to be assured of your kind remembrance: and I am happy to say in return that my affection and interest for all of you and your concerns at home is undiminished by time or distance. You ask how your letters should be directed to me. Please send them, in future, simply addressed to me "Care of Winans, Harrison & Winans, St. Petersburg, Russia" - Say nothing about Alexandroffsky simply write St. Petersburg. If you choose to put on the top of the letter, the words "By Prussian closed mail," they may come a day earlier - I believe you need not pay the postage at all - and I would rather pay it. I am very anxious to have letters come regularly from home, though I do not feel like writing long ones myself, having very little to communicate, leading

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MMN #31925

Date: Sept. 11/ Aug 30, 1858

Description: Josiah Pierce about employment

as I now do a very regular and uniform life, free from remarkable incidents or adventures. In response to your desire to learn something of the nature of my employment ~~here~~, I very willingly undertake to explain it, although the mode of doing business here is different to that in America, and the same occupation as far as it could be the same would not place a person in the same position in the two countries - My duties are something like those which Mr. Barnes, at one period, performed for John M. Wood. Our firm has a contract, as you are aware, directly with the Government, for keeping in order the moving machinery (Locomotives, Cars, &c) of the Railway between St. Petersburg and Moscow - This Railway is Government property - It is 400 miles long, has two tracks, is very fully equipped, and all its Engines & Cars are made in one place, namely at our Works, and after one pattern - All the Correspondance between the Government and the firm is in writing: and so extensive an undertaking requires, as you may well suppose, a vast deal of Correspondance. On the part of the Government this is conducted by a branch of the "Ministry of Ways of Communication & Public Buildings," which is termed the "Department of Railways." A division of this

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Department, subordinate to it, termed the "Railway Management," has charge of what in America devolves upon the Superintendants, Engineers, Conductors, Station-Masters, &c -

Now I am consulted by the firm on the questions of importance which arise between them and the Government, often draw up letters addressed by them to the Department, and sometimes go with Mr. Whistler (a member of the firm) to talk personally with the officers about our business - Although this does not take up all the time during which I am expected to be in attendance daily upon the business, yet it disposes of it so fully that I have little leisure for other matters - You will easily perceive that the legal effect of what may be said or done by the firm needs to be taken into consideration frequently, and this occasions frequent reference to me - In America, I should be called their "Counsel" or "Consulting Attorney" - but here where the legal profession does not exist, where the lawyers are mere notaries, and usually great rascals and imperfectly-educated men without position or influence, where no arguments are made in the Courts, every case being submitted upon the testimony taken in

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writing, such a relation as that of legal advice has little meaning or honor attached to it.

You rightly suppose that I was very sorry when Col. Seymour departed. He left S^t. Petersburg on Wednesday, the 13/25th August, to go home via the Volga River, Astrachan, the Transcaucasian countries, Constantinople, Italy, &c - I accompanied him to Moscow and then bade him good. bye. He was going first to the fair at Nijni Novgorod. Thank you for your attention to the payment of my note at the Canne Bank, ^{which note, properly cancelled, please hand to Lewis.} I enclose my note for \$500. for the land, and desire that a deed may be made out for me; if the deed has ^{not} been already made and recorded, I should prefer to have it made directly to me, unless it is very clear that its delivery could not be so perfected - You may deliver the deed to Lewis to be kept for me. I think you had better relieve yourself of your note to Charles by endorsing to him the one I now send, and taking up yours, if he will consent -

I was interested in your account of the Commencement: but feel bitterly opposed ~~opposed~~ to the perversion of the College, founded and supported as it has been, to sectarian uses - and think the State Government ought to interfere if this ruinous course cannot be otherwise prevented. Pattie is very well & sends love to you all, as does - Your affectionate son, Josiah -

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