

2 Richmond Terrace.
Tunbridge Wells. England.
March 3^d. 1884.

My dear Aunt,

You and your brothers will have learned, before this reaches you, of the very appropriate and successful ceremonies at Westminster Abbey, on the 1st inst., when the Bust, in memory of your brother Henry, was unveiled in Poets Corner: but you all may also like to read the reports in the London newspapers of what took place, and I therefore forward herewith, yesterdays "Observer," and to days "Times," "Standard," "Morning Post," "Telegraph," and "Daily News" - With these

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Maine Historical Society

MMN #36122

Date: March 3, 1884

Description: Josiah Pierce on Longfellow bust ceremony

I send a ⁺hand-book of the Abbey, marking
in the plans (pages 24 & 119) the place of
the bust, at the corner of S^t. Benedicts chapel.

Its position is well chosen upon the tall
pillar at the Northeastern corner of the South
transept, looking towards the central point
of the church, from which, as well as from
the neighbouring aisles, and even the North
transept, it is clearly seen - The expression
is pleasant, natural, dignified: the likeness
seems to me remarkably good, and I hear
is so considered by your nieces & Mr. Lowell.

Attending the ceremony only as a spectator,
though I saw your nieces among the persons
nearer to the bust, there seemed then no

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opportunity for my seeking my first introduction to them, which however I hope may be obtainable after we go to town in April.

It was a deeply impressive ceremony to myself, and I think the many respectable and attentive spectators (Americans and Ladies, for the most part) felt proud and grateful, and humble too, for the deserved honour done to your brother - I wish you and your brothers could have been there, and many more of those who loved and knew Henry W. Longfellow not only as a poet but as a man, and I was very glad of Mr. Lowell's tribute to his nobleness of character.

Mr. Bennoch, in a brief conversation, seemed

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Mr. Bennoch, in a brief conversation, seemed

assured that the Letters of the Committee
would be disposed of as the family and the
Historical Society of Maine had requested;
but from a few words said to me by
Dr. Bennett, the Secretary, as to representations
made to him ^{by several Americans}, that Portland was a small
and ~~unimportant~~ ^{unsuitable} place ^{for deposit of these letters} I fear some farther
effort and inquiry may be desirable on the
part of the Poet's friends at home, to secure
the letters for his birthplace & our Society -

Renewing cordial congratulations & good
wishes on your birthday, with love from
us all, I am ever

Your affectionate nephew,
Mrs. Anne L. Pierce. }
Portland. Maine. } Josiah Pierce.

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