

Portland July 6<sup>th</sup> 1866,  
Dear Sister and Neice  
you have probably seen this  
heard of the terrible conflagration which has visited us!  
it is impossible for me to describe the scene,  
the fire broke out on the fourth, about four O'clock  
and burned with unabet fiery for fourteen hours,  
it is supposed that it occurred by the firing of crackers,  
it was a dry hot day; some of the fire engines  
were out of the city, a great part of the fire men  
gave an fearsome execution, it took in a very  
combustible part of the city and before it could be  
arrested had almost all the lower part of the city  
in ruins, every bank, every printing press every lawyer's  
office in the city is burned eight Churches and dwelling  
houses and stores innumerable, it is said that there  
are eight thousand people without a home or a shelter  
you can judge something of the distress and confusion  
that a bound, the sidewalks are literally covered with  
furniture, and thousands of people walking about with  
not a bit of air. every house that is left is crowded, the  
namely the city is doing what it can for the relief of the  
sufferers several places of deposit have been opened where  
cached provision is sent and a committee appointed to  
distribute them to the hungry multitudes. every family  
takes in what they can Mrs Kidder has six, they are respectable

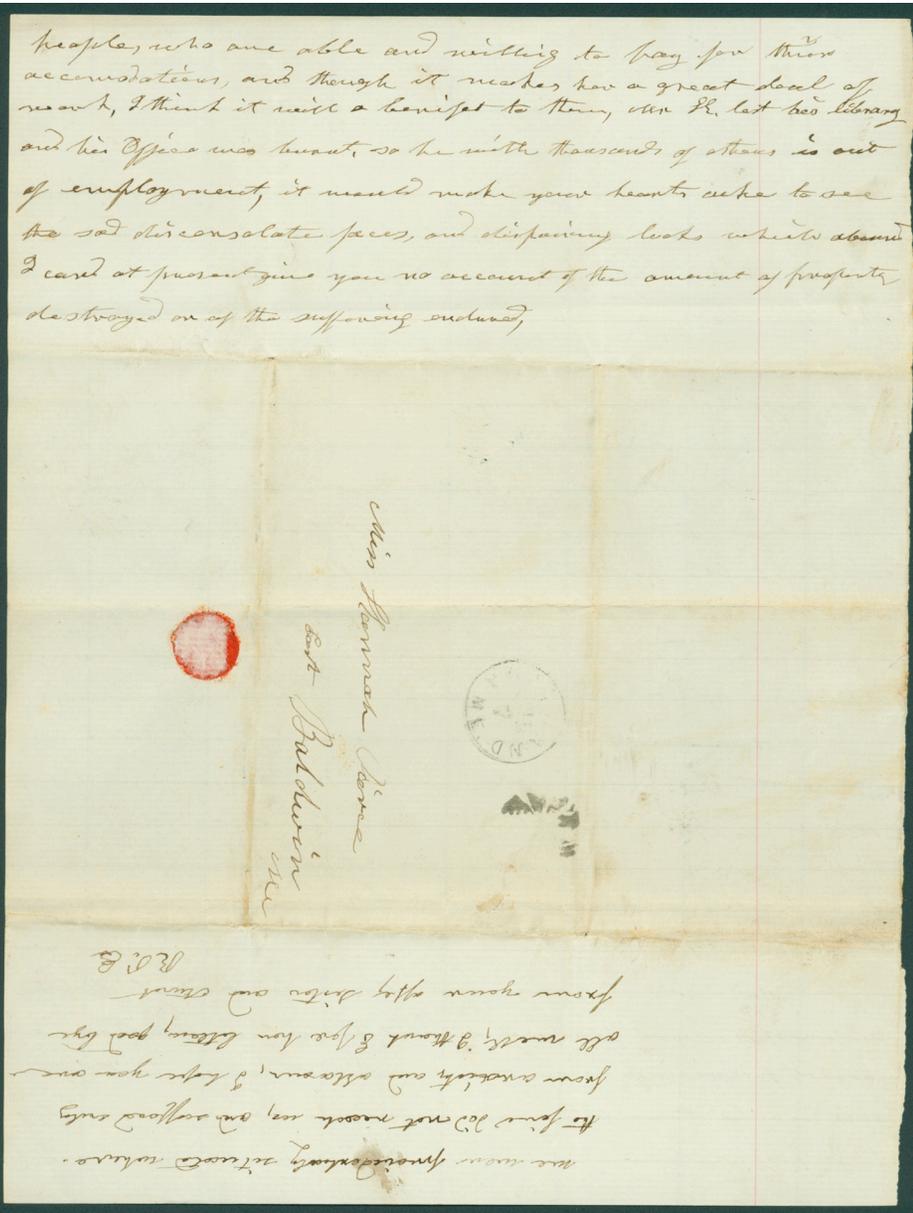
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MMN #36128

Date: July 6, 1866

Description: Ruth Pierce Crocker account of Portland fire



people, who are able and willing to pay for thier accomodations, and though it makes her a great deal of work, I think it will a benifet to them, even H. lost his library and his Office was burnt, so he with thousands of others is out of employment, it would make your heart ache to see the sad disconsolate faces, and despairing looks which abound I can at present give you no account of the amount of property destroyed or the suffering endured,

[written sideways]  
Miss Hannah Pierce  
East Baldwin  
Me

[written upside down]  
we were providentialy situated where the fire did not reach us, and suffered only from anxiety and [?], I hope you are all well, I thank E for her letters, good bye from your affec Sister and Aunt

R.P.C