

Portland July 6th 1866,
Dear Sister and Neice
you have probably ever then
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 benifit 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 hearts 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 of the suffering endured,

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destroyed or the suffering endured,

[written sideways]
Miss Hannah Pierce
East Baldwin
Me

[written upside down]
we were providentially 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

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the fire did not reach us, and suffered only
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