

12 Beaufort Gardens, S.W.
London. July 23^d. 1883 -

My dear Aunt,

As Lewis may be absent from Portland,
I send the enclosed letters to you, for they
require immediate action.

Mr. Houghton left only on Saturday,
July 21st for Boston, with the letters: so
that this letter and enclosures may reach
you, I hope, before he has definitely
disposed of the letters, which I suppose
he will not do without consulting your
brother Henry's friends at home —

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

MMN #36241

Date: July 23, 1883

Description: Josiah Pierce on Longfellow bust letters

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He will very likely first ask the approval
of Henry's children, whom, I hope you
can persuade that it would be best to
leave them in the Poet's birth place, (where
a Poet's memory remains always most cherished)
and in the care of the Maine Historical Society.

Mr. Lowell & Mr. Bennock received
your brother Samuel's letter and my application
to them most cordially and with approval.

Although it was too late here, I trust
the request of the Historical Society, if
supported by your family, will be successful
at home.

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Mr. Bennoch informed me that
Mr. Houghton had given the assurance that
the letters would be most carefully bound
and preserved, if committed to his care
for the purpose for which he asked for them,
and I replied that the Historical Society
would also be sure to do no less —

Ever affectionately and faithfully yours,
Josiah Pierce.

Mrs. Anne L. Pierce.
Portland, Maine.

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