



12 Beaufort Gardens, S.W.
London. Feb. 21. 1884.

My dear little Aunt,

You gave me great pleasure by your kind good letter of New Years Day - the best of it being that you were so bright and well when you wrote it - and the assurance that you did not forget me, as I do not forget you -

I hope this may reach you in time to add my assurances of affection and good wishes to those you must have from all who know you, on your birthday which I believe will be March 3^d - May

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

MMN #36242

Date: Feb. 21, 1884

Description: Josiah Pierce to Anne Longfellow Pierce

you have many more years of comfort and
happiness in your venerable old home;
where certainly I hope to see you again
as you so kindly wish - and to present to
you my wife and little daughter, to know
what the welcome is under that hospitable
roof, such as that you have given to my
boy Joe lately - It was like praise from
Sir Philip Sydney to have your approval
of him - and I am very glad if he can
make himself acceptable to my relations
and friends at home, and that he was
so kindly received by your brother Alex.
and his family, whom you know I always
esteemed, and beg to be remembered to -

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Please give my best regards too, to your
brother Sam^l. and to Nan Sanborn, if they
are still with you = and pray offer to
good Mrs. Gilman my sincere sympathy
for the great loss she has sustained - The
kind and worthy gentleman, the faithful
and honorable friend and physician, must
be missed greatly in Portland, and by all
his friends, and everybody, (even his horse,
(if I may recall such a proof of his gentleness,
was his friend); and the Dr. and Mrs. Gilman
were always so courteous and kind to me,
that I felt sincerely attached to them, and
have always cherished their feeling. I know
this has been a sad grief to you, and

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this has been a sad grief to you, and

that you must have had the most tender sympathy with those who have been so near and dear to you for so many years. I hope Mrs. Gilman will stay in Portland, and perhaps that her daughter may come to live there -

I am very sorry indeed that we have not yet seen your nieces. They will have on their own account, and their fathers, a hearty warm welcome from everybody in England, and if they choose very distinguished acquaintances: but when we return to London, about Easter, I do hope we may see them & be of some use to them

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2.

Residing in the country, as we do for most of the year, prevents us, if nothing else did, from taking part in the very stirring life of London, and I fear I am becoming too indifferent to the charms of society, and that my devoted wife accepts the situation and indulges me too willingly in my habits of a book worm: but we try to give some hospitality to the friends from home who are so good as to come to visit us, and nobody will be more welcome than your two girls -

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I am very sorry indeed to learn
from a letter just received by my wife
from Emily, that Lewis's children
have been so ill, and glad that they
are now better.

In our present home at Tunbridge
Wells, not now the gay watering-place
dear to ladies of Queen Anne's reign,
and to Dr. Johnson & Thackeray, but
a very quiet out of the way town, full
of Dissenters and the Salvation Army,
we have been obliged, on account of
a prevalent scarlet fever, to keep away

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this winter from concerts, &c. on
Dorothy's consideration - This young
Lady is really worth taking care of.
She is very clever and ingenious,
a great coquette, and already too
fond of gentlemen - I think she
will be capable of taking good care
of herself, and willing to help others -
She is very strong, has very red cheeks,
and decided will - but is really a
very good little girl, though we do
not whip her much, and ^{she} begins
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not whip her much, and ^{she} begins
to say her prayers -

Mr. Houghton ought to deliver the letters
regarding the Westminster Memorials of
your brother Henry, to the Hist. Society;
He obtained them, as a publisher,
before the wishes of those most interested
in them were known, and it will
be wrong for him to dispose of them
as he pleases - I am sorry my
well-meant services, and those of
Mr. Lowell, were a little late, but
think the preferences of your brother's
family, if strongly continued, will
secure the letters for our old Society.

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3.

Trying lately to employ some idle
time in filling up a manuscript book
with such notes as were in my hands
of my family and their relatives,
the memoranda which I collected
about my Uncle George, when I
had the happiness to be living in
your house, for Mr. N. Cleaveland's
History of Bowdoin College (which
are used partly in Prof. Packard's
History of the College) were duly
entered in my records - You will
perhaps remember something about it.

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perhaps remember something about it -

These poor notes I did not like
to destroy - Although they are not of
further use, may I send them to you,
to look at - and then burn up, if
you please - I hope they may bring
back some pleasant memories -

It is difficult for me to see that
it is nearly thirty years since I gathered
these notes of such an active and
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but they are still fresh to myself,
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family, and yourself, and of all
I have heard of them -

Perhaps you and I will not walk
again to Rocky Dundee as blithely
and easily as you have done -

I already feel old, and am lame,
and use a stick for walking, being
nearly 57 years of age - but I can
go over the grounds in memory -

I think my Uncle Georges description
of Fryeburgh, in these notes, is charming,
and quite as good as anything from
Walter Scott.

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It is not from want of affectionate
remembrance of my friends at home
that I do not write more frequently.
They often come to my thoughts, and
castles in the air of seeing them again,
and being young once more at home.
Please give my love to my ^{Harriet} aunts,
and to my cousin Hattie Bradley,
and to Lewis and his family, and
believe I shall turn up, as Dickens
would say, in an agreeable and
sudden way, on you all, & believe
me always, faithfully & affectionately,
Yours, Josiah Pierce.

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remembrances of my friends at home
that I do not write more frequently.
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Harriet

Please give my love to my Aunt ^
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