

St. Louis March 17. 1869  
Dear George  
It seems to be one of the infirmities of our nature that those less favored in life should have something of jealousy and envy of those more favorably conditioned. They become suspicious that they are not treated with the attention and consideration to which they are entitled, and if they can perceive any grounds on which to rest their suspicions, they dwell upon them until they become real grievances occasioning their dissatisfaction and unhappiness. I am sorry to believe that this is nearly the condition of Leonard and his wife. They urge me very strongly if I ever return to Portland to come to their house. And assign among other reasons, that I have never slept under their roof and surely, if ever I sat at their table. Seem to think that this shows a disposition to undervalue them; and although there is no such disposition, yet it operates to make people think so. They wish to have that impression removed; and I think my residence in their family would have the effect to do it; and that it

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
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Date: 1869

Description: Ether Shepley wrote to his son George F. Shepley of Portland about his decision to live with another son, Leonard, upon the elder Shepley's return to Portland.

would be of advantage to them and to their children giving them more consideration in social life. Although I do not consider these views correct, as they have these impressions, the removal of them would seem to contribute to the happiness of the family. My residence in your family can be of no advantage. If I might in his family occasionally hear disagreeable remarks, they would have <sup>to</sup> little effect upon me, ~~and~~ to occasion any serious discomfort; and even if sometimes annoying I ought to be willing to bear something ~~if~~ if I can contribute to their comfort and relief. These are the principle reasons that induce me to think that it is best for me to go to them <sup>for the summer</sup> ~~for the summer~~ on my return to Portland if I should live to return. I might hope also to remove any disaffection existing between the children and ~~of the two~~ families of my sons. Do not for a moment think that any disinclination prevents my coming to your house. From you and your children I have never received any thing but kindness and love. You have all manifested a desire to promote my happiness as well as that of your Mother. For all of this I am

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truly grateful and you cannot know how much  
happiness I have derived from it. I cannot now expect  
to be other than an inconvenience, but your love is  
strong enough to grateful even for that according to  
Nellie's letter urging me to come to you. John has  
been very busy in the absence of [?] at Washington -  
Learning that he was to argue to the jury a case of much  
importance I went into court on a trial for the first time  
and make a speech much to my gratification about which I  
will tell you more when I see you. Ms C. has been  
so unwell for some days that she has not left her  
chamber - is now better. I propose to leave here  
for P. during the last week of this month, but have  
not decided upon the route or the day, and do not  
wish give my attention over my arrival. I propose  
to call and see Mrs Daley at Boston whose husband  
has so recently deceased. John and family are  
as well as usual. The Lord preserve and bless  
you all. I expect to be often and much at your  
home when able to walk out. think I have made  
some progress towards my final home since I left you  
and hope it may be ordered that I shall die under  
your roof

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