

Sunday July 27th 1845

Dear Parents

I again take my pen in hand with pleasure to address a few lines to you. It has been longer since I wrote my last than I intended it should be but you must excuse me as my time week days is almost entirely taken up with work I received a couple of papers from home last week — tell Robert I am much obliged to him for them and he must send me some more. My health never was better in my life than it has ^{been} since I have been here — the work agrees with me first rate and I like it well. I have not had a touch of homesickness yet although sometimes when I see the steamboat train of cars go by I think I should like to be in them. I expect now to come down home the last of September or first of October. I received your letter two days after it was written — on opening it I was very much surprised to find such a present as I did — it was what I did not dream of but it came very acceptable and if my health is spared you shall not be a loser by it — I can never express my feelings as I thought of it afterwards and thought how many dark cold nights you had to work to earn it while I was fast asleep — but thanks heaven there are other days coming. This is one of the pleasantest places I ever saw there is more beauty in one street here than there is

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 79285

Date: 1845

Description: James Hunt wrote to his parents in Bath about his job and his prospects working for the Russell Walker foundry in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

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in the whole of Bath. The railroad bridge
across the Meramack is the greatest curiosity I
ever saw excepting the Essex bridge two miles above
which is ~~is~~ about one hundred and fifty feet long
supported entirely by chains fifty ^{feet} above high water
mark — it is ~~is~~ built so that I can stand ^{on}
end of it and jump up and down and shake it
the same as you could take your hand and shake
a rope and still large double teams come across
it with two tons of hay with perfect safety. I am
at work at present on the same floor with Seth. I
am going to try to get all the insight I can into
the business in three months and if I find that
I can mould pretty well I shall just take French
leave and clear out for Portsmouth or somewhere
where I can do better. The fact is if a green hand
goes into a shop he is always a green hand till he
clears out somewhere else and it dont suit
me very well to have all hands singing Hunt
do this & Hunt do that and as I agreed for no
stated time I mean after I learn enough to
be off where I can hire out as a ~~second~~ second
hand and if I can only just do what I hire
for it is none of their business whether I have
worked five months or five years. Charles Robinson
has been to work here about eight months and
now he puts up as much small works as any of
the first hands and they arnt paying him

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but about half as much. Give my best respects
to Joseph & Reuben and their wives tell them
I wish they would send some papers or something
Give everybody a dollar who inquires for me. Last
Sunday evening as Cyrus was filling a lamp with
what they call burning fluid while the lamp was lit
it caught fire and before his mother could put it
out it burnt his face some and burnt his left
hand so that in ten minutes his hand was a solid
blister — the next day the doctor took every night of
the skin off of his hand from the middle of his
wrist to the tip of his fingers. — I have set up with
him three nights this week — but his hand is getting
better now. Tell old Grandmother & Grandfather that I
often think of them & uncle Nicholas and all the rest of the
folks. H Hunt is quite a common name up this way
I have got acquainted with families already — one
of them came from Brunswick. I wish you to write
to me and let me know how you get along and
what you are doing. I want you to have some
ballasting to do when I come home — for it seems
to me now that I could take hold with a good
relish & get a load of ballast or put up a
hedge stake. Tell Billy & Margaret & Frances that
I havnt forgotten them. I have written all I can
think of so I believe I must bid you good night
and go to bed
Good Night
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