



Ottawa, Mar. 16, 1866.  
 My Dear Miss Usher,

I am so much ashamed as I look over the date of your letter to think it should have remained so long unanswered. It was so warmly welcomed, and interested me so much, I thought I would answer it at once; but many reasons have conspired to prevent it. Do believe me when I tell you I am not wholly to blame for my neglect. I have a great deal of writing to do, and it is very difficult to write evenings, and now I am not in the

[Upside down at top of page]  
 I hope you will not treat me as I deserve, and keep me waiting months for a letter. Do you hear from Mrs Sampson, and what she is doing? I have had some very interesting letters from her. She is following up her army work, as you are probably aware by this time. Give my best regards to your mother and sisters. Be assured when I visit our State again, I shall renew my visit to you. Till then, let me hold a little nook in your heart as you do a large one in mine. Yours R.S. Mayhew.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
 MMN # 80973

Date: March 16, 1866  
 Description: Ruth Swett Mayhew wrote to Rebbeca Usher ,of Hollis, with whom she had served as a nurse during the Civil War about mutual friends, politics, and other issues.

army, I can not conscientiously write letters on the Sab. The days will soon be longer, and then I hope to do better. I think I have read your letter as often as once a week ever since I rec'd it, and each time I have read it with new interest.

Since I rec'd your letter, I have had a call from Sydney Morton, (H's twin) and his brother Willie. I was surprised you may be sure. I think W. a very interesting fellow more mature in appearance than either of the others. They are in Topeka in this State, and are expecting to remain there for the present. On their way out here they passed Harry on his way back to Maine from Minn. You may have seen him ere this.

I am sorry Ella Bacon was disappointed in her sea voyage, for

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I doubt not it would have been beneficial. Still, I firmly believe in an over-ruling Providence in all these things, and that if we could see with the eye of Omniscience, we should be fully resigned to every thing assigned us. I love to trace my Father's hand in his dealings with me.

You remember Capt Albert Thomas of our 2<sup>d</sup> Me. Battery, do you not? I have today heard of his death. He died recently in Roxbury, Mass. I have learned nothing of the particulars, though I am anxious to do so, and hope to soon. Mr. Hayes in one of his letters spoke of his having gone into business in R. In his last letter he spoke of you, and said he had heard nothing from you for a very long time. He presumed

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you had "found a man to carry on the farm", and it took you all the time to look after him.

And so, you had a part in the fair at Portland. We are thinking of getting a little entertainment of the kind here; and I wish you were near enough to lend us a helping hand, as I know you would be willing to do.

I have enjoyed the Winter here very much indeed. Every thing has gone smoothly and pleasantly, and my health has been perfectly good. And now we begin to realize the approach of Spring. For several weeks we have heard the birds singing on the prairies, the maples on the river bank are in blossom and the buds are swelling on all the trees. I think Spring on these beautiful prairies must be delightful. We ride a great deal, and I have been riding on horseback. What do you think of that? Don't think I am trying to be young, will you?

What think you of our President? Do you not often think of the remark you made in regard to him, on your return from Washington after the inauguration. I do. What a comfort it was to you, that "the Vice Pres. amounts to but little if the Pres. lives." My blood almost boils whenever I allow myself to think of him. Well, "the Lord reigns."

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