

New York March 27<sup>th</sup> 1841.

Dear Friend,

You must have become fully satisfied, that I do not act upon the golden rule "return good for evil" unless, indeed, it be a good to make my letters scarce. Many a week, yes month, I waited after hearing that you had left gentle Saco's banks, & without a word to know the place to which you had fled. But at last, a letter came revealing your whole doings and the place of your present abode; that you had retired, for a time, from this great school of the world, in order the better to fit and prepare yourself for its thousand duties, if, in fact, you intend to let the light of your countenance be seen again among us.

The description of your journey through the towns of Maine mentioned, and particularly that relating to the scenery of the White Mts. was truly interesting. That is one of the pleasures of hope and anticipation with me, - a visit to those Mountains during the hot days of some July or August. We had a lecture before

Ex

the N. York Lyceum this winter from ^ Gov. Hill of N. Hampshire principally relating to those interesting objects of nature. He discoursed so finely upon the pleasures of a life in those regions and of New England generally that I almost began to be grieved that I had ever left it. It gave me pleasure to learn that you were contented and pleased with your school. You were always such a home body, that it surprised me to learn of your residing so far away from it. Your school, or similar ones, in that vicinity I have gained some knowledge of, from some young men, (fellow boarders) who formerly resided in Ogdensburgh in this State. They tell me that many young

[Written sideways at left]

do you intend to stay. Do you speak french altogether in the Convent? and how do you progress? I wish I was able to write you in french, it would be of mutual benefit to us.

Please write very soon Very truly Yours Geo. Woodman  
Direct Care of Messrs. Ward & Higgins  
8 Wall St.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 89843

Date: March 27, 1841  
Description: George Woodman wrote to Rebecca Usher about life in Maine compared to New York and urges Usher to visit as well as fills her in on activities of relatives and friends.



ladies from that place, go to the convents in and near Montreal, for  
the purpose of an education; and speak of them <sup>(the convents)</sup> as such, very highly.  
How far are you from Montreal, and are you near the St. Lawrence?  
I have always thought that part of the country, the valley of the St. Lawrence, would be a fine place to spend the Summer months. The scenery of that river, I have pictured, in my imagination, as rather romantic and interesting. The winters must be long and tedious - more so than in the Southern part of Maine - are they not? I find a great difference between New York and Me. in this respect. To be sure, we had a Snow storm last week, but almost every particle was melted the next day; and now the grass is fast beginning to show its green blades. You must return to Me. by way of this City - don't you intend to? Let me spare you its well worn & passing glance. The journey across Lake Champlain and Lake George and down the unrivalled Hudson would be very delightful and furnish a pleasing contrast to the Mountainous country of N. Hampshire and Vermont; besides it is a much easier route and quicker: less than twenty four hours are now required from this city to Maine. New York I am becoming more and more attached to. There are some things about it, that I should like to have remedied; but as a whole, it is an interesting place to live. All kinds of Society, all kinds of people, and all kinds of manners, customs and doings can be found here - as Bisset says "it is the head quarters of religion, virtue, morality, philosophy, politics, finance, rascality, roguery, Sin, wickedness and devilry." The location of the last several he places in Wall St. just where I happen to be located; wonder if I am affected thereby?  
The harbor and bay is very beautiful; - the heights of Brooklyn and forest covered hills of Long Island on the left; the blue hills of Staten Island in front, as if floating upon the water and on the left, the extended country of N. Jersey and Elysian fields of Hoboken present.

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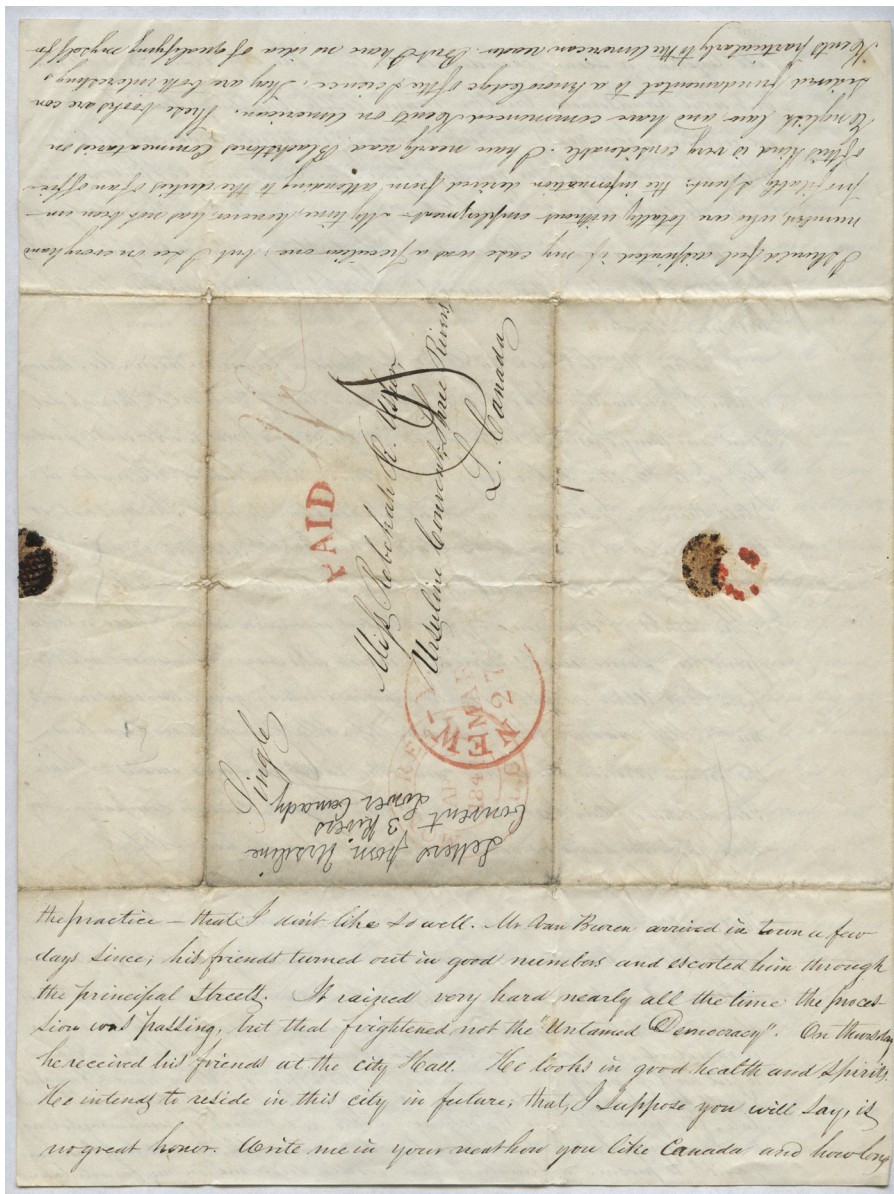


all together, a scene exceedingly lovely. The city, itself, is well laid out and handsomely built; many costly buildings have been erected within a few years. But enough, you must come and look in upon us, and judge for yourself of our city. Catherine Coffin's marriage with Moses Wentworth Son of Eben: you, no doubt, have knowledge of, they were married in December. What strange things take place. who would ever thought of that union? She appears contented and happy in her new situation.

Brother Wm left here in Decr to spend a few months in Me. through whom I frequently hear from that quarter of the world though seldom any thing of much importance, in the way of news. He will probably go to Boston before long to continue his studies, Horatio is still there. Susanna is yet at Lexington though she does not attend the school, owing to the state of her health, which is not yet good, but much better than last summer, when in Me. She thinks of commencing her studies again in May. I rec'd a letter from her some weeks since in which she says, "I have rec'd no letter from Mr. Usher as yet. Nearly all you wrote in your letter was news to me." Miss Harriet Stevenson and Miss Abby Prentiss have been here, the former during the winter and the latter for some weeks. I have seen neither of them but once, and then I met them in company. They look just the same as ever; but at first I hardly knew Miss P. Her father has just left her and is now in search of other business. Her cousin Henry remains here. R. B. Harmon has been in the city since Sept. last. Waterhouse, who married Mr. Bradbury's daughter of Salmon Falls is about to remove here. Stephen Brewster moved to this city in Decr about which time Mrs. Eaton's death occurred, occasioned by small pox or varioloid. I have seen Cornelia but once since. She then appeared to feel her loss much. I am now in the office of Messrs Ward & Huggins 8 Wall St. where I have been since last July. Mr. W. is a brother of Samuel Ward late of the firm of Prime, Ward & King. Little did I think of remaining so long in a law office, but the times have been so unfavorable, that it has been impossible to procure a situation that would suit me in my favorite business.

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I should feel dispirited if my case was a peculiar one but I see on every hand numbers who are totally without employment. My time however has not been unprofitably spent; the information derived from attending to the duties of an office of this kind is very considerable. I have nearly read Blackstones Commentaries on English law and have commenced Kents on American. These books are considered fundamental to a knowledge of the Science. They are both interesting Kents particularly to the American reader. But I have no idea of qualifying myself for

[address sideways]

Single

Miss Rebecca R. Usher,  
Ursuline Convent, Three Rivers,  
L. Canada

the practice — that I don't like so well. Mr. Van Buren arrived in town a few days since; his friends turned out in good numbers and escorted him through the principal streets. It rained very hard nearly all the time the procession was passing, but that frightened not the "Untamed Democracy". On Thursday he received his friends at the City Hall. He looks in good health and spirits. He intends to reside in this city in future; that, I suppose you will say, is no great honor. Write me in your next how you like Canada and how long