

Bar Mills, Aug 8th, 65.

Dear Mat,

We were delighted to receive your letter but have had stirring times since you left & could not answer before. We all went into Portland to see Gen. Grant. & shook hands with him at City Hall. Ellen urged me to go to Brunswick with May, but Mother would not consent on account of Mr Murry's contemplated visit so May went off alone Wednesday morning. About nine o'clock that same morning Sarah Vose recd a telegram from some Bath friends asking her to meet them in Brunswick that afternoon. So I persuaded the Consul to defer his visit till Thursday & decided to go. At one P.M. we were in the Cars, & soon on our way. I went directly

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Date: August 8th, 1865

Description: Rebecca Usher of Hollis, who had been a nurse during the Civil War, wrote to her sister, Martha Usher Osgood, describing her visit to Portland where she saw and shook hands with Gen. U.S. Grant.

to Gen. Chamberlains, & as Gen. Grant & his party were guests of Gen C - I had a fine opportunity to see them. The party consisted of Gen Grant, lady, four children, & staff Gov Washburn & wife Gen Ayrs & wife & Judge Rice Pres. of the R. Road. Gen. Grant is a silent man, talks very little & never because he is expected to say something. His face is as remarkable for ~~wh activity~~ ^{concealed} ~~feelings & emotions~~, as Mr Lincoln's was for ^{that it} ~~revelation~~. There seems always to be a screen before the ~~the~~ windows of his soul. You know there are depths beyond, but you cannot see the longing of the billows. Mr Lincoln's face was filled with varying expression. Tenderness, humor, pathos, dignity, & firmness. But Gen. Grant's is a study, a closed book. All the exercises were interesting including the reception at Pres. Wood's. I had the pleasure of

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meeting Capt. Mayo & Col. Starbird.
the latter called on me at Gen.

C's & said he should come to Hollis
soon. We had speeches from Peleg
Chandler, Prof. Packard, Prof
Harris of Bangor - Gens. Howard &
Chamberlain. Peleg Chandler said
Gen Grant, had the strategy of Na-
poleon, the daring of Marlborough,
the prudence of Wellington & the
valor of Frederick the Great. &
Gen. Chamberlain spoke of him
as the foremost man in all the
world. Fanny teased me to spend
the night, but I had promised
to go home in the first train
in the morning to meet Mr
Murry, so came in the Gens. spec-
ial car. Louis Pierce offered
me a seat by him & made himself
exceedingly agreeable. I arrived at
Judge Ware's at half past twelve
P.M. I never enjoyed anything so
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Louis was very hoarse & ought not to
talk - but I could not keep my tongue
still to save me, & he had to respond
occasionally, however painful it
might be. I did not know but I
should be the death of the poor
fellow - but talk I must. I laid
awake all night for fear I should
miss the train & came out with
a picnic of colored people. Found
Mr & Mrs Frost here. They came the
day before & finding no one at
home went to Salmon Falls till
evening when they returned & found
Mother & Jenny. Mr Murry & Annie
Shaw came at 12 - & they all
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Gracious Me! They threw us a beautiful bouquet at the Carll's & Em White gave us some refreshments out the window - dropped them into our cups. Mrs Robert Boyd & her mother from Portsmouth are ~~at~~ at Mr Carlls now. Sat eve - Mark came & I went to Salmon Falls with him next fore noon instead of going to meeting. They are all going to the Beach to-morrow excepting Annie & I who cannot get a horse. Mr Bartlett brought me last evening some Strawberry plants & I have been at work all day ~~trans~~ planting them - I put the Scot in the lower part of the bed by the arbor - & the Bartlett down by the shed. I am intending to garden this fine cool weather. Saturday Charles got Thom Guilford to help him clean out the cistern & just as they had both gone down into it to wash it out, there came

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Mother was pressed into the service.
The rain came down in torrents
but we succeeded in getting it
very nicely washed out & now it
is full of sweet water. I envy you
the days at Swampscot with the
Jewells & much more these moonlight
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Will get them in to-morrow.
With love to all the Jewells

Affec your Sister
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