

Portland March 19- 1838

My dear husband,

A letter for you left this morning by Mr Coulbath - & you I hope it will arrive safe and sound - Stackpole called this morning & offered to take a letter - & I will let no opportunity slide - even if I write only a line - I am well & the rest of us are in usual health - It has been as wild as usual - this afternoon - She has taken in her head to scream - & she'll draw in her breath & scream out so loud that she may be heard all over the house - She occasionally sings a new long note - "a ba mam [?] [?]" - She admires to be in the entry - between the kitchen & parlour - she'll look up at the clock - & way up to the wall & then round the walls & her little face must look so cunning & bright - I wish you could see her - I think we ^ take at any more comfort in children while they are infants - than ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> infants more advanced period - children I think are rather troublesome at the best estate - they are always doing something that they ought not to - & then Parents must always feel more or less anxiety -

Sarah dined here today - She generally spends one day a week here & dines Sunday - John spends most of his time here - & goes home at night - Sarah looks pretty miserable & feels so most of the time, which is not very astonishing -

You asked me which letter I read Ma -? Dr Ticknors - She said she did not like those arrangements - they seldom ended well - & that if she must do something she should rather take in sewing than keep boarders as it makes a slave of a woman - & I think so to - if a family is by itself - if it wishes a little pe bit of fish for breakfast - it could be had - but where there are boarders, there are different dispositions to suit - & you must study to suit those - I think a family should be a little community by itself - it is a more natural state of living - Nothing more has been said to me about going to N.Y. than what I wrote you - they will not probably have any objection to my going on if you think you can possibly pay your way - At present they know - that while engaged in your studies it must be impossible for you to make any money - We must live upon hope - there is a prospect I think of your emerging at no very distant period - I was telling Sarah the other day (she having remarked that she felt low spirited) that after all her husband was better off than mine as he was not involved in debt - she said no - but that mine was doing something & hers was not - I wish John could get some employment - How^ there are now in the like conditions - I declare times are dreadful & I almost

Ms 124  
 28  
 Portland March 19 1838.  
 My dear husband,  
 A letter for you left this morning by Mr Coulbath - & you I hope it will arrive safe and sound - Stackpole called this morning & offered to take a letter - & I will let no opportunity slide - even if I write only a line - I am well & the rest of us are in usual health - It has been as wild as usual - this afternoon - She has taken in her head to scream - & she'll draw in her breath & scream out so loud that she may be heard all over the house - She occasionally sings a new long note - "a ba mam [?] [?]" - She admires to be in the entry - between the kitchen & parlour - she'll look up at the clock - & way up to the wall & then round the walls & her little face looks so cunning & bright - I wish you could see her - I think we take more comfort in children while they are infants - than are infants more advanced period - children I think are rather troublesome at the best estate - they are always doing something that they ought not to - & then Parents must always feel more or less anxiety -  
 Sarah dined here today - She generally spends one day a week here & dines Sunday - John spends most of his time here - & goes home at night - Sarah looks pretty miserable & feels so most of the time, which is not very astonishing -  
 You asked me which letter I read Ma -? Dr Ticknors - She said she did not like those arrangements - they seldom ended well - & that if she must do something she should rather take in sewing than keep boarders as it makes a slave of a woman - & I think so to - if a family is by itself - if it wishes a little pe bit of fish for breakfast - it could be had - but where there are boarders, there are different dispositions to suit - & you must study to suit those - I think a family should be a little community by itself - it is a more natural state of living - Nothing more has been said to me about going to N.Y. than what I wrote you - they will not probably have any objection to my going on if you think you can possibly pay your way - At present they know - that while engaged in your studies it must be impossible for you to make any money - We must live upon hope - there is a prospect I think of your emerging at no very distant period - I was telling Sarah the other day (she having remarked that she felt low spirited) that after all her husband was better off than mine as he was not involved in debt - she said no - but that mine was doing something & hers was not - I wish John could get some employment - How^ there are now in the like conditions - I declare times are dreadful & I almost

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
 MMN # 98900

Date: March 19, 1838

Description: Lucretia Day Sewall to husband on separation

shudder when I think of the very poor people - & what they will do -  
I have been altering a little frock for E to day - enlarging it - She is  
going abroad soon - Mrs Adams wants us to come up there & pass the  
day - & Aunt May Quimby likewise - & her little cloak & bonnet are both  
done - & all ready for an excursion - I suppose we shall get started in  
a month or two - I don't care much about taking her out - but I am  
so importuned that I can't help going to some places - She is so good now  
that I don't think she will be much troublesome - She's a good natured  
little thing & Joseph tells her she's pretty tough - she bears so much shaking  
Joseph will put her above his head & she'll slobber all over his face  
sometimes, but he don't seem to mind it much - It makes me laugh  
when she throws up her milk on John - it distresses him so - & he'll  
make so much scrubbing & wiping - but it don't seem to deter him  
from taking her though - but he wears his old coat - He got  
her to sleep this <sup>morning</sup> while I was out in the kitchen making some  
cake - she sits very well on the floor now & flourishes her play-  
things - with a great deal of earnestness -

Mrs Wheland has a daughter - & did I write  
you that Mrs P. O. McLellan has a son - She says she thinks of  
calling it Alpha - Omega - She may call it Alpha - but had better  
wait a little while - before she uses the Omega -

Tell Lucy Hudson she must pick up all the ideas upon edu-  
cation that she can - & please to give me the benefit of them - Give my  
love to her & Mrs Balch - I want to see them very much -

I dreamed of you the other night - excepting that - I have  
not for a long time before - I wish I could - If the dreams are pleas-  
ant I admire to dream of absent friends -

Do you remember what a time I had when the great doll flew  
round the room?! It is after nine o'clock - My going to bed  
time - & I must bid you my dear husband - good night, - good  
night - good night - think of me - dream of me - & write to  
me - & in <sup>all</sup> aspirations let me still be with you -  
ever yours - Lucretia -

shudder when I think of the very poor people - & what they will do -  
I have been altering a little frock for E to day - enlarging it - she is  
going abroad soon - Mrs Adams wants us to come up there & pass the  
day - & Aunt May Quimby likewise - & her little cloak & bonnet are both  
done - & all ready for an excursion - I suppose we shall get started in  
a month or two - I don't care much about taking her out - but I am  
so importuned that I can't help going to some places - She is so good now  
that I don't think she will be much troublesome - She's a good natured  
little thing & Joseph tells her she's pretty tough she bears so much shaking  
Joseph will put her above his head & she'll slobber all over his face  
some times, but he don't seem to mind it much - It makes me laugh  
when she throws up her milk on John - it distresses him so - & he'll  
make so much scrubbing & wiping - but it don't seem to deter him  
from taking her though - but he wears his old coat - He got  
morning

her to sleep this ^ while I was out in the kitchen making some  
cake - she sits very well on the floor now & flourishes her play-  
things - with a great deal of earnestness -

Mrs Wheland has a daughter & did I write  
you that Mrs P.O. McLellan has a son - She says she thinks of  
calling it Alpha - Omega - She may call it Alpha but had better  
wait a little while - before she uses the Omega -

Tell Lucy Hudson she must pick up all the ideas upon edu-  
cation that she can & please to give me the benefit of them - Give my  
love to her & Mrs Balch - I want to see them very much -

I dreamed of you the other night - excepting that - I have  
not for a long time before - I wish I could - If the dreams are pleas-  
ant I admire to dream of absent friends -

Do you remember what a time I had the great doll flew  
round the room?! It is after nine o'clock - My going to bed  
time - & I must bid you my dear husband - good night, - good  
night - good night - think of me - dream of me - & write to  
me - & in [?] aspirations let me still be with you -

ever yours - Lucretia -