

Ms 124
41
N.Y. Dec. 21. 1838. Friday evening.

My Dearest Lucretia.

This week I found the box containing my coat, pantaloons & two nice shirts at Mr Cravis -- for which I am very grateful to you. The coat & pants are really much better than I expected - quite genteel with them I shall get through the winter very well - without getting any thing new. My old duds really come well in play - They last like the widow's cruse of oil. The shirts are beautiful ones - & specimens I presume of your handywork - & of your kindness for me far awa' - Thursday mor. I thought I would wear one of them & it fitted nicely all except the wristbands & bosom. The former barely met - I could not button them. & the top of the bosom was not hollowed quite enough - this consequence produced a large wrinkle - so you must not try to accommodate me with shirts again till you see me - in fact I caught along with what I have very well till summer - though my shirts want mending & stitching - I found comparing the new wristbands with the old - about 1 3/4 inches difference - but I don't wonder you erred on that side for I exaggerated perhaps the size of the others - "an inch on a man's [?] though makes a difference" - The neck is just right. - O to day I have met with a loss - My Suitout[?] overcoat - (the Lion Skin) was stolen from the office or I suppose - it's gone - & no one knows any thing about it. & that is the end of that - I shall miss the old thing in bitter cold days for it was warm though homely & a little the worse for wear. - The old cloak is left - Besides this bit of news - I have thought of going up town & taking the new little room alone that I had last winter with Marcher - I ascertained last night that it was empty - and

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 99341

Date: Dec. 21, 1838

Description: Kiah B. Sewall from wife on child-rearing, business prospects

It is after all the neatest place I have found in new York - I can prob-
ably get it low - & I wont have to far to face the cold wind in the
morning - it will be between my pupils - I shall see Mr. Lent to morrow
- he dont ask too much I shall go immediately - It will be very quiet
there - Marcher married the grown daughter in in Massilon Ohio.
So there is only Mrs. Lent & two other children - (The House is 244
Orange st. near Balch.) - If I go there I shall be comfortable - only
it will increase my expenses some - I shall be nearer John - too -
Thus you have a nother long chapter in my mode of living - I am
as busy in the office as ever -

As a last resort I have sent Joseph's best to Thurston to
go with the books - He says he can send it soon - I have not got
much business of late - When will Joseph come on here? But it is 11
& I must say good night - Adieu - your own affectionate Husband & a kiss for
dear Euny -

Sat. 3^d P.M. Milder weather - but as a necessary
consequence wet under foot. I have done nothing further yet about
moving - & am now undecided I fear - ~~It~~ it will cost too much -
I have nothing new to write - I have made several attempts lately to
call on Dr & Mrs Ticknor - without success - They are out - I
saw John yesterday - He has purchased some books for Joseph -
I shall send this to day if I can - Send me a Mirror occasionally
It is local news that I want - Sunday noon. Dearest Lucretia.
The last has been a stormy night - & the ground is now covered with snow
There is a raw cold wind - I have had so many fixings to do &
my own breakfast to get that I have not been to church this
morning - but shall go this afternoon - O, I have finally decided
not to go up to Mr. Lents. It would cost so much more & cost is

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every thing to me now - I have got along so far - & next week I shall
get some coal so that I can have a fire in my little room - & get
my own breakfast & have a warm place to spend my Sundays in -
when not at church, where I can read, & write to you - The
Holidays have come my little girls are desirous of having them to
themselves - so I presume after to morrow morning I shall not meet them
again till after the first of Jan'y -

My prospects are as good as I can expect, I have much
cause for thankfulness - especially for good health - I have had no
severe cold - nothing of the kind to trouble me except one which
affected my head chiefly, which - hot bath cured in 15^h - my chest
feels strong & well - & my physical frame is certainly vastly improved
since last winter - I attribute this to two causes, my mode of
living for some months past - & good boots - which keep my
feet dry - & I have sufficient exercise - I am in fact strong
as a boa constrictor. You may say, perhaps, on the whole it is the
result of my savage mode of life - I have thought much of late of
our keeping house next fall - & I doubt not we can find a nice
small house for 250. or 300. Dollars. - There is a friend of mine Dr.
Hazen - that I mean to move to build some part of the description
we want if I can. We can keep house just as cheap as we can board
with much more satisfaction - Although it is Sunday I cant help
speaking of this subject - If I had money I could buy a snug little house
and lot for \$4000. - but I have not - if I had I could not at present
hold property in my own name. - If your father would buy a house
here - such a small one as I could find - I would pay the taxes on it
& the interest on the money & keep it in repair. or if he would buy a lot of

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I could get a small house built on it - that would just suit us - but this I presume could not be done at present. -

In regard to our little Eunice I fear the family handle her too much so they not - if so she will be like a pet kitten spoiled. You must have a special care that she does not become too independent - naughty. @ What would I not give if you were with me here - ^{my} snug accommodations - what satisfaction & happiness should I not enjoy - But the time that separ

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[Sideways in center]

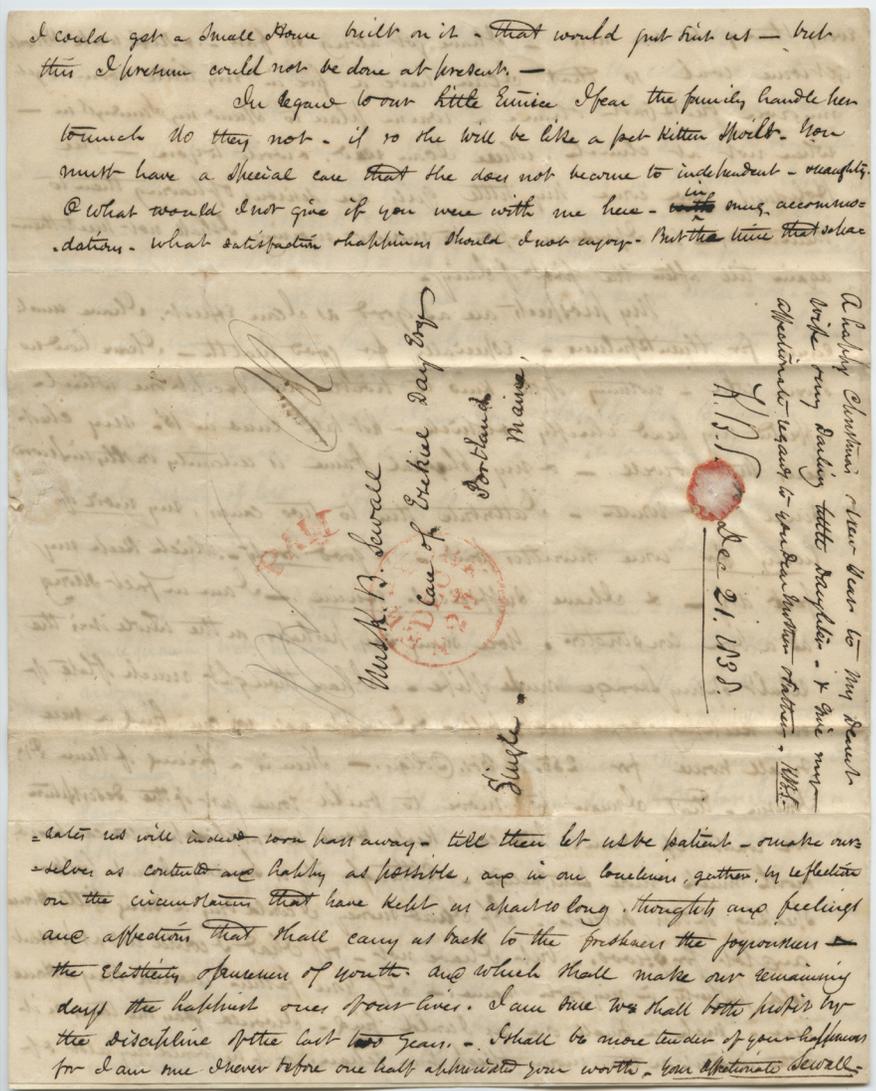
Mrs. K.B. Sewall
Care of Ezekiel Day Esq
Portland
Maine

[Sideways beneath address]

A happy Christmas & New Year to My Dearest wife & my Darling little Daughter - & give my affectionate regard to you Dear Mother & Father K.B.S.
K. B. S. Dec 21. 1838

[At bottom]

=ates us will indeed soon pass away - till then let us be patient - & make our=
=selves as content and happy as possible and in our loneliness, gather, by reflection on the circumstances that have kept us apart so long thoughts and feelings and affections that shall carry us back to the freshness the joyousness - the elasticity & pureness of youth. And which shall make our remaining days the happiest ones of our lives. I am sure we shall both profit by the Discipline of the last two years. I shall be more tender of your happiness for I am sure I never before one half appreciated your worth. Your affectionate Sewall.



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