

Bangor, July 11, 1889

C. T. Libby Esq.

Dear Sir-

I have unrolled a palimpsest of more than eighty yrs. accumulation and given you of its contents a bountiful portion - no doubt very much of it of little use in your work - writing at various times, I penned what came to me without any consecutive plan. If you can glean from my labor, for it has been a tax on brain and hand, and aid toward your purposed work, I shall be amply rewarded - my only regret being lack of conciseness and method - but I have been fair and set down "naught in malice or extenuation" of good or ill. I look back with feeling of sadness on past scenes and events occurring those bygone days - that were indicative of the lower or animal side of human nature - we are simply animals until we develop our higher spiritual forces, latent in too many mortals - but with the poet Gray we will let such "In trembling hope rely on the mercy of their Father God". I have tried to meet your questions in some measure and trust you will consider it useless to draw further on my poor brain - it is now like an empty gourd shell. There were several quaint originals I dared not attempt to picture in person or speech - my 2d brother could have presented you their tout ensemble and vernacular too - both unique - Jon. Burnham, J. Shute and some Sam. in special form. The Graffams were singular families, both sexes - untaught in proprieties as well as the rights of neighbors to their possessions - Court records will serve yr. purpose with the latter.

Please give my love to Miss Thompson and say if she has not read "A Girl's Life Eighty Yrs. Ago" I wd. commend it to her. It consists of letters of Eliza Southgate Bowne pub. by her grand dau. in N.Y. You perhaps may gain some items from S. in those early days. Port. library wd. have it I shd. suppose and relatives of the S. family surely.

With regard,

yrs. garrulously

M.F. Tilton