

20 Jany 1845

Dear children:

Sir Everard Waverly of Waverly Honor, was not one of those illimitable correspondents whose manuscripts covered a large sheet of paper so as to leave no room for the seal; but his letters always breathed ye spirit of kindness and affection. While we accord to you all ye honors of ye first corp corps of correspondents, we are compelled to add your legitimate title and claims to the other also. When I last wrote we were just emerging from a dark cloud, and we are now happy to say that it has wholly past over, and that we are all pursuing ye ever tenor of our way in good physical powers, and a lucid mental horizon.

We thank you for your kind sympathies, for ye interest you express for your mothers improvement and ye account of your Merry Christmas spree. To ye tittle Bangoreans it must have been a been an original and unique exhibition. It was not our good fortune to participate in their delight with ye sight of good fruits from the lesson, not only of that day, but of every day.

When Mrs. Abbott produces that same rod, committed to her trust, next Christmas, I shall feel proud to hear my little grandson say, "It is not the worse for wear", Thanksgiving day, Christmas, New Years day and ye two Jany birthdays celebration being past there seems to be an inkling for the 2nd and 22nd of July at Scar. With ye smiles of Providence such a family convention may be effected to our individual delight and honor. I have lately written to Willm. but did not suggest ye subject. If sleighing holds I expect Henry will visit him this winter, and then negotiate ye meeting with him and his. In the meantime you will not forget to remember what a drawback on ye pleasure of enjoyment ye delinquency of any individual of ye family at Bangor will prove.

I said much to William on ye subject of Homoeopathy of which have become amateurs. I wish not to throw cold water, but would caution against enthusiasm in theory and speculation on all subjects. My confidence in the old school has been so much shaken that I have concluded the community in 9 times out of 10 would do better without a physician, by their own timely care and nursing, and thus save ye expense, and avoid ye nauseous and revolting dose. In fact I have seen these, who have been in the habit of constantly doctoring for their complaints, and get no better, throw all over board and enjoy good health. Yet ye physician is a good, especially if he understands our maladies and ye nature and effect of medicine. You speak of ye necessity of a minute and acct. of symptoms to be given to Hom. practitioners.

This is also necessary in ye old school, altho I suspect they see more of ye malady by their own eyes, or guess it from ye pulse than by ye patients recital. Youdeal in specifics, well, I read your directions to your mother, and desired her to take ye powders for such and such specific feelings I dont know if she does. I only know she is better, and says she has not so much burning in abdominal region. She is now taking snother. God grant it may be better still. If yourself and Dr. Gallup were at her back, I do not see why she might not be as well as ye rest of us cheating years. Am i a homoeopathist now?

You wish H. to consult Dr. Clarke. "The whole need not a physician". No doubt he might receive benefit as well as you if he had faith. My own complaint is still a trouble but faith is too feeble to generate a resolution. I am afraid of laughing at ye Dr. too and thereby disarm his medicine of all potency. But to be serious, I think we have less reason to sport with Hom. in such hands as Clarke than Allo. in any hands.

If Willm. answeres my letter before sending this I shall have something to add, probably his views of ye new school. We have received 3 Registers this month, in envelope of one learnt "all well". As soon as our dignitariēs come down to 5 cents ye "monthly miscellany" may be issued semi-monthly and be no tax on such generous and prolific editors. Adar street need not despair of celebrity in its day if its occupants put for their strength in weilding of pen. The ___ingmental complexion of ye young scion, I perceive, bids fair to furnish his full proportion to topics to be noted, and they are always welcome and interesting to us. When he assumes ye pen for himself I suspect we shall need one for you, at least to come over to Macedonia, to hell us. Say to Miss Ewen I shall be forth coming tomorrow?

We have been quite full of gentle snowstorms this month, but a rain yesterday, took away most of it. Today however had added enough to renew the sleighing if it is followed with cold. Mother has not been out but will soon. At Portland Friday I saw only Bathshe, Mr. and Mrs. were dining at Judge W. all well. As you no doubt have seen in the paper Mr. Cushing in a few months has been round the globe and been successful in his treaty with China and thus acquired great honor to himself and benefit to his country.

In 65 days he crossed ye Pacific ocean Macao in China to St. Blas in Mexico thence to Vera Cruz by land. F. Webster is looked for now by way of England.

His father goes again into the senate J. Fairfield too. Texas must be added before 4 of March or never. If not admitted, I think ye tariff will remain untouched and ye country at rest, Polk and old Jackson too.

The railroad from Portland to Montreal I fear will have to yield to its more powerful competitors at Boston, and go from Concord N.H. to Montreal. Many, very many will regret such an issue. Enough has been said however and enough has also been seen in other states, to have aroused ye energies of Maine and induced ye government and capitalists to enter on contemporaneous public improvements. But no, wait they would, until the other states had recovered from ye exhausted strength and with superior power stand ready to grasp our main privilege and convert it to their own benefit. If such consequences follow ye tardiness of Maine, however deeply lamented, ye obloquy and disgrace is all our own. Such will always be ye result while we cling to ye 5th teat.

Willm. Burnham has moved his residence back to Saco. Our neighbor Osborne has exchanged his farm for one in Limington, moves this week or next. A Mr. Staples who married sister Chase's sister is to occupy ye Osborne place. William Donnell is trading in ye late S. Milliken's store. Nabby is at Patty's John Fenderson has buried his wife out of sight, consumption. The Methodist preacher Harriman also buried his wife at Buxton this winter. We have not heard whether Parson Bradley has buried his - but we have seen his marriage to Mrs. Codman of Gorham and learn and learn that she has taken him home. The kitchen wights listened and heard her say she did not feel older than 18 and he said he felt no older than 16. What a progeny may spring up!

Postscript Wednesday:

We passed yesterday very pleasantly at Agnes and learnt yt Mrs. Cumston is at Portland. I must try to see her. I have kept this in hope of a letter from Willm. If I find one at ye office to - day I will say so and extract some of it's contents to fill this vacancy. But will first secure room to assure you of our united and best wishes for your health and happiness.

Affect.

N. Tilton

Scarborough Jan 30th
Mrs. James McLaughlin
Bangor, Me.