

89.9.1979

Dear Children,

19 July 1846

I'm in anticipation of find^g y^r box, about wh^{ch} you had previously written. I called at Saco depot yesterday, but came near a disappoint^t: as there is no express man, nor ex-office at Saco; & y^r captain of affairs had nothing to do with articles entrusted to an express. While talking quite loudly a young man arrived in waggon, & said y^r box had come, & was down town at Bank's tavern. I don't understand how y^r express is connected with boat & cars, & yet distinct & separate - must inquire & inform myself. I returned to Bank's & see^d y^r box safe & sound, & paid for. Rather better luck than with umbrella of Mr. G. of Um. it may be wise to speak no more - as it, & y^r inquiries are worn equally threadbare ere y^t. You understand well how to make y^r heart bound with joy & gratitude. May y^r best of blessings fall to your lot in return for your generous & affectionate contribution to remember & make happy your mother's approaching 80th natal anniversary. On y^r coming Wednesday you will have y^r before you, together with a specimen, we hope, of similar articles as y^r forwarded to us for y^r day, while our thro'ts are mutually fixed on her, who, under Providence, has been y^r head & arm, stay & staff of us all nearly half a century - & who, tho' often suffering from pain & debility, seems to lose nothing of mental brightness, animation & activity. Mrs. Storer enquired about you last week - of y^r senior health in particular - I replied - sick & well alternately - & wishing us "to live out a green old age". She tho't your wish wonderfully gratified in your mother's deep green. Reflect^o on y^r scenes thro' wh^{ch} she has past - & on what she now sustains, &

P.S. Louise wishes me to say how very thankful she is that Mary for y^r basket blocks - I think myself they will
 attract attention to her good name, wh^{ch} had long been forgotten.

have no little reason to be thankful to a heavenly Father who has
watched over her & all of us - & permits us still to enjoy together in yr. enjoyment
of his manifold mercies on earth. And yet it behoves us often to advert to such afflictions as
in your 400 psalm by Hawkesworth. "Yet a few years, or days, perhaps - so moments, pass in
"silent sleep - and time with me shall be no more". &c - On Friday last Mrs
Hatch, of whom we had both dream'd. & yr. day & night previous, call'd & pass'd yr. day.
- said she came on purpose to wash for us - but Mrs Finney had washed on Mon^{day}
previous, & your mother was under way for a no small ironing - but was over taken
by a severe attack of colic - nothing like it yr. summer. Mrs Hatch's com^{ing}
was very opportune - her attention to yr. mother was like a mother's to her
child - did all ironing & every thing else necessary - was remarkably kind
& pleas'd to come & take care of another any time if sick - or come to wash.
The circumstances fairly excited mother's gratitude - & rendered old impressions
quite oblivious. She warrs her faults - who has not? But she has judg-
ment, capacity, industry & ability for business found in only a precious
few, yr. go out to service. I carried her nearly home on chair - not only
thanked her for her kindness, but lamented her faults, wh. deprived your mo-
ther of yr. very assistance she most needed. She said she was sensible of yr.
& were she to return next season, believ'd she should yield up to feelings of yr.
moment. She desired me to say "she thot' much of you, tho' she had run
away". - Hitherto we have continued ^{to} milk our two cows - & take care
of yr. milk - but find^{ing} it of little or no use to enslave ourselves thus, we
gave yr. whole concern to business for 2 yr. butter. So you perceive I am
ridoting myself of a task not yr. less irksome by confin^{ing} me to yr. pail, & your
mother to yr. routine of pans. Notwithstand^{ing} I cleared yr. fields at
hoing - I cannot willingly abandon yr. in hay^{ing} - especially as Henry
is disappointed in a man to whom he had paid \$8 in advance to as-
sist in mow^{ing}. We are letting a part in shares. Mr. W. L. was thro'
before we commens'd. Had we as heavy a crop in prospect? we should

despair of it, and till a snow fall. But as our fields were much winter killed
we hope to get them in summer; & in season to pass a little time at Pitts.
You point us to yr. covers for convey^{ce}. Of course, if another goes - altho' we
have exchanged our old chair for another, & a remarkably easy one. ~~Down~~
yes, ~~own~~ ~~the~~ ~~propp~~, a very good family horse. The full strength of all your
old invites to Bangor, I perceive, is presented anew, & with fresh & addi-
tional vigor in your last. We thank you most cordially for so kind
surgent invitations, & sincerely regret it is not compatible with
our circumstances to gratify our own & your wishes yr. present season.

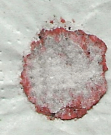
Say, with our compliments, to Mrs Perham, Mrs Strickland & Abner
of. they must compensate you for our unavoidable absence. How
important your neighbor Mrs Smith! And how wonderful yr. simi-
lar ~~casualties~~ ^{casualties} are not now frequent. What do we not owe to yr. author & pre-
server of life! - Our neighborhood has been not a little alarmed. Sagi-
tated till within 10 or 12 days last past. Sidney Burnham in yr. neigh-
borhood opposite us commenced a high handed career - first killing
father's swine, - next an attempt at our hens - which led to a skin made
with my self, it being in yr. door yard - next his father's hens - & ended in
taking away bars & fences to let creatures into corn &c &c. Complaint
was at length made to H. & C. S. Linnell, & they directed yr. officers to ar-
rest him - They had to break in yr. windows & with long poles make him
drop his ax, wh. they seized, & then grabbed & dragged him out yr. windows
& carried him to yr. house of correction at Portland, where he now is. -
tho' yr. great relief of yr. neighborhood. - We have had a good supply of straw-
berries - wh. lasted till yesterday - quite a supply of currants - & goose berries for 2 yrs.
Yes, Henry, all yr. Bangor trees are doing well - & we hope you will yet get
from yr. ~~as~~ ^{from} good plums in Dec. as grand-papa has at Bangor. The little folks here
are all well - yr. measles have been at Mrs. Chais, but not yet recited here. Cu-
riosity could not be suppressed till yr. box was opened. Henry had seen yr.

letter but could not imagine its contents - while I was dining, I directed
 him remove y^e cover. & open y^e box - & it did me as much good to see all both
 great & small gret find with a look & a taste as it does Mr. M^r. to see his friends eat y^e
 fruit of his garden. You see that to be dreadful good folks down at Bangor wish
 you lived nearer. - Weather is verie lly here as with you - rather dry of late -
 Mother is ill thurs Friday shewks her considerably - but to day she is quite re-
 vived - I cant ride so often as she needs, & dare not trust her alone. Hope to be more
 at home soon

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Bangor
 July 21

Mr James M Langhin
 Bangor
 Me



Peter Wiggins' Salt river letters were much H. liked to work. You see some funny
 stories y^e dont see us, & vice versa - probably. When you take up y^e pen you
 hold on to it like a stage. Write on them, we will read, but expect not to see them in cer-
 tain till Sep. - Unites love & friendly affection to all y^e household & friends of y^e same.
 Your affectionate parents A & M Tilton