

a mans heart my dear Sister — all hearts indeed
are unfeeling in some degree — & in certain parts untill
touchd to the quick by misfortune or happiness —
— misery & suffering will explore the mazes of
our bosom with a most persevering step — &
will always be effectual — but to the generous
heart there is no probe to its tenderest sensations
like happiness — it kindles a flame — a pulse —
a thankfulness, that makes your heart swell
like Benjⁿ Gages beef till it bursts the pot —
— This pulse — this flame loses nothing
by being ~~erased~~ divided — take a candle my
dear — light 10 others or Ten Thousand
other candles with it & the first still burns
in undiminishd brightness — so is little
flickering flame in our hearts — the breath of
happiness gives it existence — withdraw that
breath and it sometimes perishes — but sometime
too, it burns ^{on} with uncontrollable strength till
the whole soul is warmd with it & expands its
wings to embrace the hearts of all man
kind — — — — — light thousand. of hearts
& tens of thousands of sympathy & the brightn^{ess}
the warmth of the original is still unquenched
— state undiminishd — remember me to
George & Pamela — tell me how they come out
& tell them I am impatient to put myself to enter
in the same deicetful path — — — a path sprinkld
with rose leaves I confess but many a thorn is conceald
beneath their loveliness — glittering with gems — but
unsubstantial — Visionary — transient as dew drops —

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 2125, Box 1/3)
Date: 1815
Description: John Neal letter to his sister on love and happiness.

— a mans heart my dear Sister — all hearts indeed
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Tell miss Betsey Clarke that her ticket 6.13.g is a
blank — I would to Heaven it were the highest
prize — she richly deserves it, so ingenious — & with
so good a mind — tell her no don't tell her, but
were I her brother I could make her a better
girl in appearance than she now is — she appears
somewhat affected — but who is not so — we
are all more less deceitful, more or less affected —
— no habit of our body or mind — or tongue —
or manner or look but originally proceeded
from imitation — & what is imitation but affec-
tation — we see something we are pleas'd with
— & endeavor to imitate it — if we succeed it
becomes a habit — but as we are daily acquiring
those habits — & daily commencing new ones — we
are daily affected — I am sorry my
mother did not write me a word — but "little
Rachel" let me tell you — you must write
longer letters & more frequently — write whenever
you are in the mood but never write again
while in the vapours, if unhappy, always apply
to me — every wish should be anticipated if
possible — Be certainly gratified, as far as is
in my power — but indeed I believe you
give yourself a great deal of unnecessary
disquiet — married or not married I am
still your own brother my sister & your own
son, my mother — my fondness — or rather
my attachment becomes stronger every hour
— we are now too old to be fond — but still
can love most ardently, & most reasonably — & I

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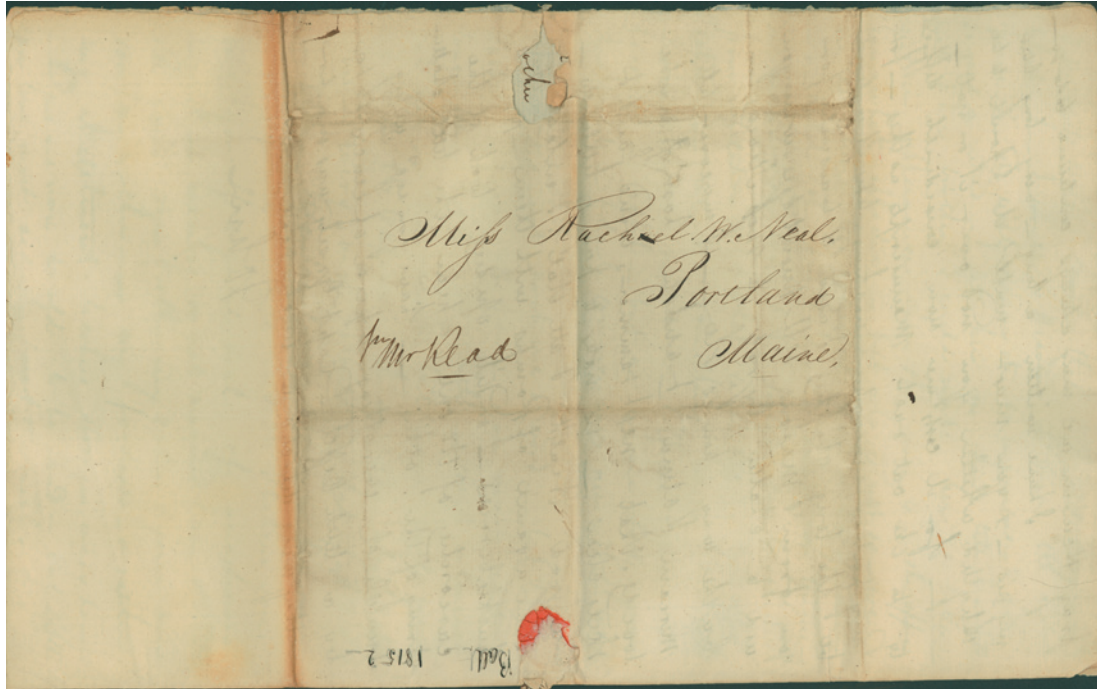
pray Heaven we may always continue to do so —
I have written a long — very long letter
my sis — & you must make it a point to be
delighted whether you nod over it or not —
— for it costs me now considerable difficul-
ty to eke out such Manuscripts as this — for
my part I remember nothing like it unless it
be the long chapters I used to transcribe for
you from Masons Self Knowledge, when you
us'd to chatter by rote to Miss Stevens —
by the way how is she — moreover tell
Miriam & Alma I a whole host of my be-
loveds, that next summer, wind fair, &
skies clear — no notes to pay & little do —
in Good Health & all that, I certainly
have a game of Romps with them — p
huckleberries — or kill spiders — look at the
curiosities of the one & hear the little chatter
spring of the others — have you rec'd a big
bundle of everything, a piece of linen & etc
by a little vessel — Capt. Greely was master
— they were directd to Uncle Neal —

John

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Miss Rachel W. Neal.
Portland
Maine
Pr Mr Read