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Maine Historical Society
Date: Oct. 10, 1815
Description: Josiah Pierce's description of Bowdoin College schedule

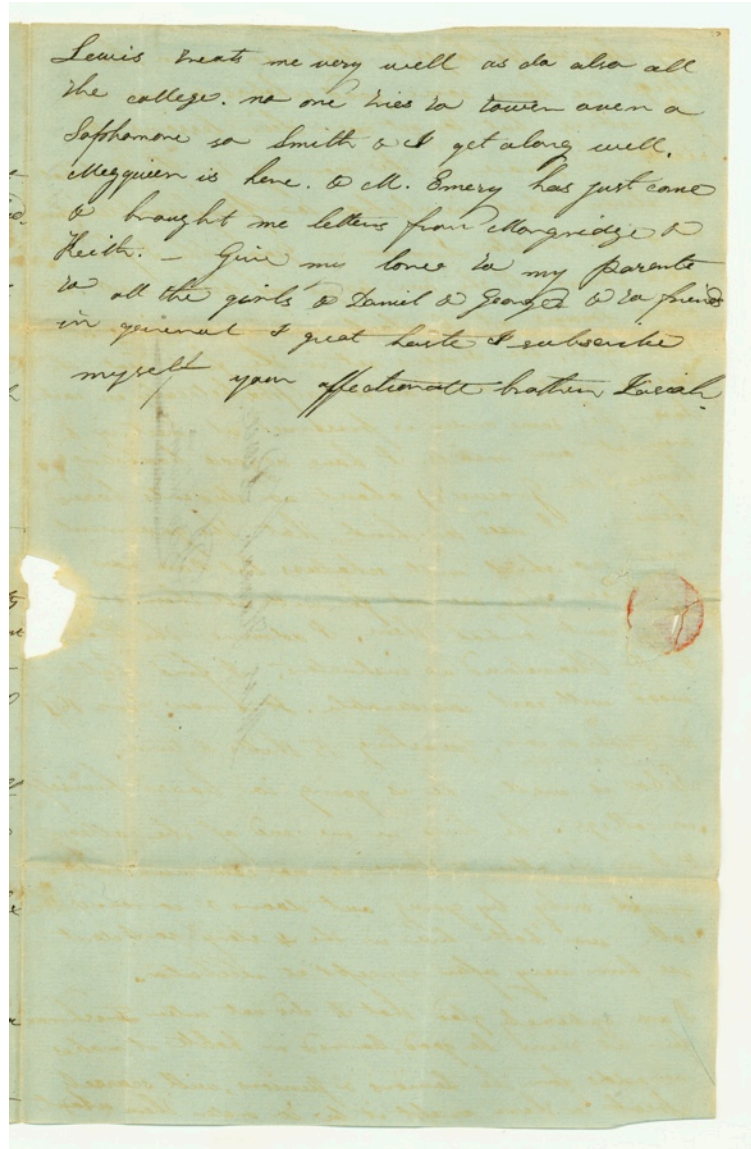
Brunswick 10 Oct. 1815

Dear Sisters

An opportunity now presents itself of conveying a line as far as Gorham by Capt. Codman's favour who is now in town; but at present I must be brief or I shall miss sending it. — Amid the tumults noise & exercises of college (all of which a novel to me) I do not forget my dear sisters, brothers & parents, for the recollection of them is a great source of felicity to me. I often stretch my eyes to the West & strive in vain to fix them on the mountains that rear their heads in ~~their~~ my native town; but no mountain or hill is to be seen in that direction I have been here one week & have just about got settled, I think I shall like a college life tolerably well, though it is entirely different from any school I ever saw before, imagine to yourself a motly group of young men, some possessing no property & some 70 or 80,000 dolls some modest, some disipated, some praying, some swearing, & damning the government, some studying others playing, & you will have some idea of Bowd. College; and yet I am told that the state of morals was never so good ^{in this college} as at present & that it is much better than at Harvard.

My class is the largest that ever was in this college we have some good scholars & some care for nothing but to get over their lessons. We recite in Horace in the morning to Prof. Abbot at eleven o'clock in algebra to Professor Cleaveland at 4 P.M. to Tutor Lamson in Geography. I find it takes almost all the time to get my lessons well. We attend prayers at 6 o'clock morning & evening in the chapel, the Seniors set in the first seat the Juniors next, & so on, all set alphabetically in each class, the same order is preserved at meeting & even at our meals. I have a good boarding house (Mr Growse's) about 20 students board there. I used to think that the government were too strict with scholars but I am now convinced they are not for with all their severity they cant control them. I admire the President & Mr Cleaveland as instructors. I find that wood will cost considerable. It is now from 15 p to 3 dols a cord, reaching 15 schills a time. Seba is well, he is going to board himself in college, he lives in one end of the college & I in the other & there is no communication except only by going out doors & so round the coll. we both live in the 4 story so I don't see him very often except at recitations. I am extremely glad that I did not enter Freshman for let them be good, learned or polite it makes no odds for the Seniors & Juniors, will scarcely speak to them except it be to order them about.

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Lewis treats me very well as do also all
the college. no one tries to tower over a
Sophomore so Smith & I get along well.
Mecquier is here. & M. Emery has just come
& brought me letters from Morgridge &
Keith. - Give my love to my parents
& all the girls & Daniel & George & to friends
in general I great haste I subscribe
myself your affectionate brother Josiah