James of the formand Its late and my two eyer oche and droop heavily, but every doday has gone to bed and the field is so clear for a mice chot that I can but improme it. part- pour sun radly anut- because they were my last - for a time of last, and this letter has something of their noture. I show not be likely & adden another & you for com months - perhaps year -

Spart letter "Bride next lottage", and Ine just finished a letter & I don't wont to go, andred it Mount mother, and have written the is so thoroughly burned over that I children a long letter their evening, I can't till one street from on other Sunday in the wend letter wenting day in that part of the lowe. but one promised & spend tomorrow Some of my relative Daw their home with Byron and Nottie, They are for down, wash and Ned were very happy and an pleasantly situated turned out of fooding places, but as heart could wish. Byon has They have found places & stop, or of presented me with a painting of White were breky in sovery their clothes. mountain scenery, we shall forth enjoy I am stoffing with may going that when thunking of the home away down in main. Come here lost Jurday and shall beare mext Junday, his Rhoader water that grave Jother gone me a fifty we and sail the 2/2t - one day dollar note this optimion, Sout you lotes than I thought. think the friends are kind I me? my thoffing a mostly done . 2 Ograni last from the for is intend to day what ofserver & shall med Sout you hundred dollar no insurance - and we think he was wonderfully fortunate. Harry you would mener know Portland of you come whom I unexpectedly, It is a scene of decolation which is truly heart seckening. I'm not been of

2281-41 pall mother as well as in many other. meeined. I too. am of the opinion that we can decide the time and blace of our redding better when we meet my & you - Lometime I am spaid I may not line to reach my home a felt stronger - perhaps the sea Voyage mill do me good. may devile lone . 2' shall tell you something interesting court her when I have an apportunity. "the by oce , I shall inguin into that young man, Jones Jud me inquaritive with all my other faulti; I must close. may good ingele keep you good night - Lawing &

Portland Me July 14th / 66 Saturday evening

My Dear --

It's late and my two eyes ache and droop heavily, but every body has gone to bed and the field is so clear for a nice chat that I can but improve it.

All my little pleasures for a week past have been sadly sweet because they were my last -- for a time at least, and this letter has something of their nature -- I shall not be likely to address another to you for some months -- perhaps years?

[side ways top of page; continued from/see page 4:]

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I've just finished a letter to your Mother, and have written the children a long letter this evening. Sunday is the usual letter writing day but I've promised to spend tomorrow with Byron and Hattie. They are very happy and as pleasantly situated as heart could wish. Byron has presented me with a painting of White Mountain scenery. We shall both enjoy that when thinking of the home away down in Maine.

Grandfather gave me a fifty dollar note this afternoon. Don't you think the friends are kind to me?

Byron's loss from the fire is about four hundred dollars -- no insurance -- and we think he was wonderfully fortunate. Harry you would never know Portland if you came upon it unexpectedly. It is a scene of desolation which is truly heart sickening. I've not been up

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past little "Birds nest Cottage," and I don't want to go. Indeed it

is so thoroughly burned over that I can't tell one street from another in that part of the town.

Some of my relatives saw their homes burn down, Wash and Ned were turned out of boarding places, but they have found places to stop, and were lucky in saving their clothes.

I am stopping with May Gosse --Came here last Tuesday and shall leave next Tuesday. Mr Rhoades writes that we are to sail the 21st -- one day later than I thought.

My shopping is mostly done. I intend to buy what dresses I shall need for next winter and upon that decision I had Byron write to Mr Rhoades for some money which he has sent. How much I shall spend I cannot now tell but will "confess" when I see you. Many thanks are due

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you, for your thoughtfulness in this matter as well as in many others.

Your letter of the 17th ult. is received. I, too, am of the opinion that we can decide the time and place of our wedding better when we meet.

I shall be glad when the partings are all over and I am fairly on my way to you -- sometimes I am afraid I may not live to reach my home --

I wish my health was better and I felt stronger -- perhaps the sea voyage will do me good.

May sends love. I shall tell you something interesting about her when I have an opportunity.

You never said anything about your "club" before, I shall inquire into that young man. You'll find me inquisitve with all my other faults. I shall ask all sorts of questions and expect them to be answered.

I must close. May good angels keep you -- Good night --

Lovingly Nellie --

[continued on page 1]:

Byron and Hattie send love. Hattie says you shall have a piece of the cake. I'll try and not forget to take it.

My trunks are full to overflowing but there must be room for a few things more.

Wash will go to New York with me. I mean to be there one day to see the town. Don't be surprised if you see me looking thin pale and homely.

Good bye