

A Letter from Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Jewett

[With envelope canceled July 9, 1901, 10 AM, Prides Crossing, Mass. on the recto and, on the verso, as received in South Berwick at 7 PM on July 9]

(in sleeve marked F-5)

[for more on Tosy, see Letters E-1, G-9]

Envelope (in ink):

Miss Mary R. Jewett
South Berwick
Maine

Monday night

[Embossed Letterhead:]

Pride's Crossing

Dear Mary

With all your affectionate care to keep the particulars from me, I happened to be at AF's when she got her mail and we sat down to enjoy your letter with others, and I learned about that poor naughty little Tosy!³⁵ I am so sorry for all the provocation and anxiety it must have been to you – but you would be reassured if you had seen the instant zeal with

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which A.F. sat down – without listening to the rest of the letter even – to write the telegram and then she skipped me right off in my chariot to the station to send it, hoping that you would have time to get the 6 o'clock train!! I hope that something better will turn up about it. I would have some doctor see the child, and be ready to say that it wasn't hurt much to prevent damages being exaggerated. I hoped that you had Dr. Sleeper, when I found a mention of him in my letter on getting

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home. If Tosy does have to come away I think it is lovely that he will have an aunt [i.e. SOJ] to come to – and he has always loved to go to walk with her, you know. While I think that he may like her [inserted] a [? – may be the carat for insertion] John and be in a good estate generally though I grieve to think of him.³⁶ It won't be parting with him as much as sending him off to some places would be, of course. and we must remember that Toesy [sic] is only a little dog after all, and won't feel

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all the feelings and think all the thoughts that we are only too ready to imagine. I told Mrs. Cabot about it -- and it was a vast interest: she doesn't care about dogs herself but she instantly took his part.

³⁵ Tosy, a dog in the South Berwick household, must have bitten a child – as is made clear in the context of what follows. For the importance of dogs and horses to the Jewetts, see Blanchard's *SOJ*, p. 117. See also Letters E-1 and G-9.

³⁶ A confusing sentence. It probably refers to the fact that if Tosy had to leave South Berwick, the separation from Jewett handyman, John Tucker, would be very difficult.

I was busy in one way or another all the morning with little vacations [?] of Emily Pierson as I told you, and then after luncheon I drove down to A.F.'s and we went out together to make a call at the MacMillans & on Madame DeArcos [?] and neither were at home. and then

[Cross-written on p. 1]

we came back to the house and I drove home via the telegraph office, we having found your letter. No more tonight for it is late and I must be off early in the morning.

With love
Sarah