Col. Patrick Guiney Letters

Special Collections

9-9-1876

Letter to Louise Guiney, 1876 September 9

Patrick Guiney

September 9. 1876.

Thank you dear. The natural as-
pect of the morning was not very
pleasant—hazy, cold, damp and
provocative of what are technic-
ally called the blues. The trip up
the harbor from Nantasket
was pleasureless and dingy
enough to suit any misantrope
in the world. As usual, though,
I made the best of things, and
entered the office, if not happy
yet in a mood to be made
so. Then I wish you had seen
me smile as I perused your
letter! All was bright and cheery
in a moment, like some land
of gentle sunbeams, fragrance,
and singing birds. Therefore
I have special reason to open

this note with the greeting of "Thank
you dear." Mamma, too, will be
delighted to hear from you
that your eyes are better, and
that you are generally happy.
Bless me, how emphatic she
will be in saying, isn't that nice?
when she reads your words "the
happiest child at Elmhurst."
And so you've got to rhetoric
at last: I need not tell you, dear,
how glad I am. I've often express-
ed to you my estimate of its import-
ance. to you The deep study of it is
the foe of bombast and the friend
of simplicity in composition. By
the way, I wish you would mix a
little practical arithmetic with it,
for ballast as you go along. But,
Au revoir whatever you do.
Papa.