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Gorham, Me. April 5/99

My dear mamma:-

We arrived here safely last night we found several girls on the train and more at Westbrook Junction so we were not the only ones who were late.

They had a school here yesterday but it did not amount to anything and so we did not miss anything. We did not have to keep study hours last night as there was no studying to do.

We had corn beef for supper for a change. Charles did not come out last night so we looked for her this morning but as you probably know there was an awful accident at Westbrook (Sacarappa)

All the Portland girls were on the train but no one was hurt of the passengers. The fireman was killed instantly and the engineer cannot live.

Charles said that she was talking with

one of the girls when there came this awful crash and then everything grew black. Then before she knew what was the matter the second explosion came. Someone came into the car and told them to run the cars were on fire. Everyone got out as quick as possible for the windows were being smashed all to pieces. Charles said she never saw such a sight in her life as when she got out of the car. The coals from the engine had set a house on fire several children were burned and everyone was frightened. The trees and telegraph poles were black with cinders and broken pieces of iron were flying in all directions. The fire dept. soon put out the fire but the track has not been wholly cleared yet. The Rochester train took the girls back to Gorham but they did not get here until half past ten. The conductor said if they had been going fast that everyone would have been killed but they were slowing down for the station. If they had been near enough to the station the people who.

were standing on the platform ~~should~~
would have been killed by the
pieces of iron and hot coals that flew
from the engine.

Mrs. Parsons came out on the one o'clock
train to see if Charles got through alive.
She said that there were hundreds of
people at Westbrook viewing the wreck
which has not yet been removed.

The bell rang for our class so I have
got to finish it in the class with
my pencil. I looked for Uncle Frank
on the out trains last night but we did
not see him. Did he go to Portland?
Mrs. Parsons is going back on the
next train so we girls are going
down to the station.

The entering class is not very large.
There are several new girls in our
class they have been here sometime
but have stayed out to watch & have

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come back to finish their course,

So you see our class is not growing very small these girls take the place of those who left this last vacation.

This geography is going to be hard but I guess I can stand it,

Well I must stop and listen to what Miss White is saying so good bye
Harriet.