Gardiner Jan 3/82

Dear Cousin,

I guess I will try to write a few lines to you to-night, but let me give you a description of the table: it is in the little room and it has got a pile of papers and books on one end and a dish of apple skins and "chomplings" on the other but I guess I will not talk about that any more, because you have been here enough to have it look natural to you. I want to ask a favor of you if you will do it that is, not to show this
Letter to anybody, and I mean business and no joking but don't be in such a rush I want to ask you another and that is please don't name any more branches of the Kennebec not until present at any rate. School commenced last Tuesday. We had about five inches of snow Sunday night and Monday morning it was the living hard and wet (please excuse that tall e) for it was an accidental slip of the pen.) had some large chife to wade through. I suppose you got it bad up there. James I weigh between nine and ten pounds and is as black as your boots.
Herman got a watch Christmas and a few other things. The upper story and roof of Joshua Gray's office burnt at last Tuesday forenoon and came near burning some other buildings laying near it. It has been bully skating on the river all the week and good sleighing since Tuesday. Herman has gone skating this evening and Dean has gone to a party, mother is knitting and father has just got done reading a paper, and I'm here.

So good bye.

E. A. R.