

Subject: California Gold Rush

Frenches Hotel. Wed morn, Sunrise

Dear all of you

Have just washed myself all over, counted my money & put on my California suit. I have \$14^{<2>}4,20 cts. [cents] have to pay my bill for room & get some Quinine & Ipcac yet think I shall be able to get off with a little over \$140 which I think will be enough. I left the Flemington [New Jersey] people well Monday morning. had as pleasant a time as I could have expected under the circumstances coming up here. came up on the river from Elizabethtown [New Jersey]. sent the trunk here. paid .25 cts. [cents] went right to D.B. Allus office to see if the tickets were all right. found they were, & that we must pay 15 cts [cents] pound for trasporting luggage across isthmus. I asked them if we had to pay here. They said no at the Isthmus. & we are to board ourselves on the isthmus. The boat is to sail this afternoon at 3 oclock. we shall be sure to get on in season. From Allus office I came here & in a few minutes found Levi [Levi Grant] soon as our trunks came we took a room & had our three brought to it. locked it up & went to Gasts store & got my tin trunk & in the evening went to the museum. Yesterday morning got some breakfast at an eating saloon for 18 cts [cents] & have lived from then till now on 10 cents & walked as far too as I ever did in one day in the forenoon we went round with Gast & Luth Roser to buy what we wanted Levi got his money changed to gold. bought a blanket for 1,25 & money belt for 1,00 & we bought each of us a rifle. Levi bought a Stub & twist barrell for \$28,00 I got a steel barrell for 32 the [...] was 35 I think there is more than that difference in the guns John Stevens says so too. They warrentee mine to shoot 40 rods & gave us permission to try them & if we did not like them to bring them back we went over to Hoboken in the afternoon to tried them. Levi thinks mine is a good one says he would not try to do any better. he got so fierce loading his that he rammed in a ball without any powder & could not get it out. so he did not shoot it but 3 or 4 times did not shoot as well as I did then. he is going to get the ball out this morning. They gave a large cannister of Rifle powder each of us a flask bullet molds & 50 dolls & a large box of caps 250 in each & a sheath for Rifles. I wanted to see about Russen but where to do it or how to do it I dont know, after we got back from Hoboken we went up to Belleuwe hospital & found John had come down here, we called on Dr Cockey. & Dr Philo Rockwell when we got back here found John waiting for me he gave me some blue pills said they cost him nothing he is coming down to day to see us off so is Philo Rockwell & M the rest I suppose I sent home that black coat because it looked so bad I did not want to wear it. Kate put a pocket in each side of my broadcloth & put a pretty little testament in one of them. She made me a lot of good ginger crackers more than I brought from home & they are all in my trunk & every think else sleek & nice. I am perfectly well for all I know without a pain or ache

[Written across first page] & am glad I am going never have been sorry the first minute The small powder flask is Levis & says he has but \$136,00 now he appears to want to go. Dr Rockwell is coming to introduce us to a Dr Pollard a friend of his who is going out with us & he says he is a good fellow & will take good care of us if we were sick

John is going to give me a letter to Dr Raison Physician on the S. S. Lewis

So I guess we shall be taken care of I shall send a line to Will & Mary am going to send the trunk by express shall leave the key with Gast I guess Goodbye

R.E. Burr. [Ralph E Burr]

[Addressed to] Messrs. Eben. & Erastus Burr
Norfolk [Connecticut]

Sat. eve 9 o'clock March 3, 1849.

Dear Children

This P. M. your Father [Ebenezer Burr] went to town to Meet Mr. Hill [William Hill] they reached home about candle light bringing your letter mailed Feb. 11. So as soon as we have told 'bout things here will say what we wish to D. [Daniel] & try to send that to Dea. [Deacon Elijah] Grants tomorrow. The house was in order Mary Dressed & tea nearly ready when <Mr.> they arrived now near 10 o'clock they <are> Mary [Mary Burr Hill] & Mr Hill are in the South room made very warm by a box stove which we borrow for a few weeks your pa & Ralph are in bed I am by our cook stove in the kitchen burning some coffee while writing. Suppose <...> that bed was worth 50 cts. [cents] a lb. [pound] here but I would not sell it unless you are coming here to live & never intend to go back there <...> to live Dont sell it with without cash down — & do not sell it at all it seems very strange that you should even think of selling the only good bed you have every family wants a bed & you would not be likely to buy a good feathers again why do you wish to sell it? It is late & I have a great deal on my my mind & cannot write well & have a poor pen so good night hope you will do what is best we are all well don't sell any thing for less than it is worth

Pamela [Benton] Burr

& we do not wish to advise very strongly in regard to D [Daniel]'s, going to California because we do not know what is <...> best The prospect of Caroline's coming home to stay with us 2 years is a strong inducement to us to consent to Daniel's going — <...>but I had much rather he would come here with you & about here a company talked of going from this town Levi Phelps Levi Gaylord Frederick Porter Charles Mills & others were going & Ralph was anxious to go & at one time we half consented but upon further reflection thought it not best & one after one they all gave it up <after> in the course of a few weeks & as far as I know <e> <any?> every one thinks they acted wisely in doing so If Daniel goes I am afraid his health will be <poorer> worse instead of better & <poorer?> <insisted> that he would be poorer instead of richer The outfit & 2 years time will be a great deal for him to lose

Dear sister & brother

It is now Sabbath morning — but am obliged to write now in order to get this off to Dea. [Deacon Elijah] Grants — I think the same as Caroline about D.'s [Daniel] going to California & know not how to advise — I should dearly love to have Caroline here — but I should be anxious & fearful that all would not end well with Daniel — Dont know exactly when or where we shall be married — this [P?] probably Tuesday evening at home — some wish us to go to church & have the ceremony performed just before starting — If you do not come on will write you a long letter soon — So good bye now <...> how I have wished you here with me dear sister all these long months kiss the darling children for me — love to Daniel & Caroline from their affection sister
Mary Burr

Dear Sister & Brother

<want advice?> I would by all means advise Daniel to go to California I think it would be beneficial to his health & that he would get some money too, & more than that I want Caroline & Abby [Abigail E. Grant Burr] & Eddy [Edward Grant] to come out here to stay. Yours affectionately

Ralph E. Burr

[Addressed to]

Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Conn. [Connecticut]

[Note at the left side of address leaf]

Caroline Grant
Apr [...] 1849.
I think my children & Grant children may
like to read this.

Waukesha [Wisconsin], Apr. 2, '49.

My dear Parents,

My dear husband has this day taken his departure for California, & you will of course know that I do not feel much like writing – but I wish to ask some questions & have you write back before I wish to start for Ct. [*Connecticut*] do not now know just when that will be – probably sometime in May, perhaps the fore part of it. I will not now rehearse the reasons wh. [*which*] led D. [*Daniel*] to <the conclusion> decide to go, but he felt that it was best to go — Joel wrote us a letter approving of it – but, O dear – Father & Mother Grant are very decidedly opposed to it & D. [*Daniel*] says you all are. R. [*Ralph*] excepted – rece'd [*received*] her letter & yours a few days since & had two or three days previously recd one from her – poor Mother I am sorry she feels so badly & Daniel was, but he had all his a[r]range[m]ents made had put in some money, & it was di[ff]icult to “back out.” The company were not willing he should and he did not know as it was best – though he said if he could get his pay back he did not [know?] but he would stay on account of her feelings*

* he is afraid it will wear upon her & shorten her life.

— he has good company – in the wagon with him is a physician & wife from this place, one of our <...> best ones, & a conscientious Christian man.

Should we live we know not whether we shall wish to live in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] & we have concluded that I had better take with me one or two boxes at least of the best of our things. I shall probably go on the canal though I now feel that should the cholera rage much I shall wish to take the railroad — Should I <...> take the cars (& I dont know but if I should not) my box ought to be directed Daniel only to the care of the owner of the depot at Canaan I think. I do not know his name, probably R. Battell or Wm Lawrence & others [etc.] & will you ascertain soon as possibly convenient & write to me — I shall not sell the bed – dont know whether it is best to take it – can leave it with a neat nice woman who will take good care of it & use it for a spare bed, & has but little company, & we could send for it <it> when we wish<ed> to – if there is any thing in particular that you wish me to take please make it known – shall I take the seive & that little 2 qt [*quart*] brass bottle? — We are going to let our stove go but have reserved the copper tea kettle – shall I take it? Shall box up nearly all of the things that I leave – shall take the good bed clothes. What shall I do with the blue crockery? suppose I could sell it if best. I know not the price of it – could you send me the bill? have sold the largest rocking chair for \$2.25 cash – intend to take the other along – do not intend to sell things at much sacrifice – how much is the table that we have worth?

Mother Grant requested us to write to her immediately on receiving her letter I have had no time until now, & I do not feel as if I could write to her but she will probably receive one within two or three weeks after you receive this, as Daniel said he would partly fill a sheet & send to me to fill it & send on — I expect to suffer a great deal from loneliness I suppose Mary is now in New Jersey – hope I shall receive letter from her before I leave Wis. [*Wisconsin*] – hope you will have some tomatoes growing – children are both well Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] talks a great deal about going to Neticut It has been a job to get Daniel ready – have been obliged to hire considerable sewing done.

Love to Erastus, Nancy & little May Ellen, Ralph and all — You must not reckon too much on seeing us you know some or all of us may be taken away before we meet —

Yours aff. [*affectionately*]

Caroline

I hope it will not be too much trouble for you to write within two or three days after receiving this, for perhaps I may find company or for some other reason be very anxious to go —

Box 1 Folder 14

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Apr 28, 1852.

Dear all of you

Received a letter from you & one from Levi [*Levi Grant*] last night. Never was so disappointed or so glad as when I read Levi's letter, because from what you had written, I had made up my mind that he would probably stay at home & that I should have to go alone which I had decided to do if he staid. I cant feel afraid to go & if I was to stay it would be on your account & entirely against my wishes & unless I could feel differently from what I do now I should be in perfect misery all the time. Suppose you have got the letter Mary wrote when I was gone to Trenton [*New Jersey*] stating she thought I would give up going if Levi did. We got the letter <before> the night before we started for Trenton [*New Jersey*] & I went out in the evening <to> & called on Lizzie Bonnell according to agreement & started for Trenton [*New Jersey*] early next morning so I had not much time to think of it before going, & did not say positive I would go alone, but after thinking of it I made up my mind I could not stay & so had better go, when I got home was sorry Mary had written such a letter to you fearing you might use it to influence Levi to stay, but when I read your letter it seemed to me you was trying to get him to stay before you got that letter. If you are not trying to make him stay why does Pa go about town & pick up all the discouraging news he can find from Elizur Dowd & Peter Curtiss & then go & tell Levi & send him to talk with them. I should think that among such a state of feeling as you represent Norfolk [*Connecticut*] as being in he would hear enough without any help. However I dont believe Levi can be kept unless you use that letter & make him believe that I will stay if he does, which is not the case, unless I change my mind greatly from what it is now. I had made up my mind to be contented & go alone if Levi does not. Will & I went up country about 30 miles Monday & back yesterday with horse & waggon It is time this was at the office & I can write but little more. It has been so rainy & wet that I have been able to do but little work still I have been busy about something. Never enjoyed myself better for the same length of time than I have since I have been here. You may think it strange just after leaving home & with so much to discourage me from going to Cal. [*California*] but it is like being in a new home here where they are all so kind to me. Shall go to N. York [*New York*] Monday, expecting to meet Levi there.

Ralph E. Burr

[Addressed to]

Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut

Sunday San Juan Del Sur [*Nicaragua*] June 13

Dear all of you

Believe my diareah [*diarrhea*] or Alim passages commenced about the time we were at Castillo. Did not have but one passage a day but that was very thin it caused me no pain or trouble only as I gradually grew weaker I paid no attention to it for a day or two as Dr Welch told me [exactly?] to live very plain which was all we wer doing at that time all we were eating was a little piece of the bread which came from Greytown & a little dried Beet, At Castillo my appetite had been & was then so poor & I had had so little change for so long a time & was getting so weak with a regular daily cangee of the bowels that I began to think that if I could have a meal of victuals it might do me good the price was one dollar a meal & I had just paid out 20 cts for two junk bottles of rice coffee. the fellow charged me 20 cts for one bottle but it was very strong & I got some more hot water & filled the two, & I had not paid out but 1.20 before since leaving N.Y. I thought of the drummer & the dollar & finally concluded that if a [dinner?] would do me any good I had better get it & so did dont know as it did me any good & I have been sorry that I spent that dollar. When the Director got Toro rapids I did not feel like travelling 3 miles & so went up in the [baggae?] boat Suppose I could have walked it but had rather ride at Virgins Bay I sucked the the juice of an orange with some of the ginger crackers & started for here on a mule was pretty tired & glad to lie on a bed, <c>found that Dr Pollard a Dr which Dr's Cockey & Rockwell advised us to employ if we needed any. He told me perhaps had better use the pills Dr Welch gave me which I did for a time but did not get better every thing that passed me was as thin as water. The Dr

finally gave me something & I am better He has not given me any thing for sometime I have taken some of my pills & think the diareah [*diarrhea*] is checked, have not been very sick have been round every day & have been into the ocean to bathe almost morning when it did not rain. Have had a little rheumatism in my knees & a little in my shoulder the Dr's told me it would do me good to go in bathing & then rub myself until I got warm havent hardly any rheumatism today, Sunday 8 o'clock The S.S. Lewis just arrived dont know when she will start probably in a day or two, Monday 1/2 past 3 I went in bathing this morning & came to breakfast I never eat any thing but a little boiled rice & sugar & some plain wheat bread & drink clear green tea after breakfast [S.?] & I took our dirty clothes & started for where there had been a spring of water but it was dried. we found [salt] water in an old canoe in which [S.?] washed out the cracker [...] which I brought from Flemington & the handkerchief which was wrapped round the dried beef The S.S. Lewis is going tomorrow. I washed out my flannel shirt & towel & [S.?] washed his things we had some tubs & drew the water out of the well it is pretty warm though I would rather had some heat on a stove for my greasy woolen shirt had plenty of soap got it very clean. I have had but one passage today in fact I dont any day & it is not watery although it is just probably not as thick as it would be if I lived on heartier food. Shall have a change of food & air tomorrow when we get on boat. Shall have to pay 25 cts to put this into the express Dr Pollard gave me seven [papers?] of [powders?] to be taken one <...> hours & two messes of of liquid to be taken <...> half table spoonful once in 4 hours he kept me in <...> 4 or 5 days & has given me all the advice I have asked <...> has charged me 1.50.

Tuesday morn Suppose the Lewis is going today I have been at this hotel two weeks & five days they charge 10 dol a week when you stay a whole week & 2 dol a day if you stay only part of a week. I paid 20 dol at the end of the 2 weeks & now expect to have to pay 10 dol more for the five days & the passengers all have to pay 2 dol to get carried on board the steamer After paying all this I shall have about 97 dol I have been so weak I could not write until I have & now my hand trembles so I can hardly write remember me to all friends Kate in particular. tell her I have not forgotten her but that I hope to have better health & a better place to write t[o] her I have had kiss all the little children for me a dozen times apiece, wish I was in Cal [*California*] with good health & plenty to do think I shall soon be there Dont know as I can tell you where to direct a letter to me in Cal [*California*] unless you send a word to me through Daniel we expect to go to him now Should be very glad to hear from you

Your aff [*affectionate*] Son & Brother
R. E. Burr [*Ralph E. Burr*]

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Friday Morn July 9, '52

Dear parents brother & sisters

We are all well as usual. Mon. evening – I wrote Thurs for Friday when I felt that I could not send the letter away that day — I wanted to read it more — Ralph dear brother is almost constantly in my thoughts — I hope for the best but try to be reconciled to whatever shall happen. Sam does not walk yet, though he seems strong enough to do so, he is a plump solid little thing — If you have good opportunity wish you would ask Dr. Welch how he ought fed now that he is a year old — whether water should be added to his milk & whether he should eat bread with it. I think of going home this summer or fall – go alone from New York & William come for me — visit from 3 to 4 weeks long — When would you prefer me to come. I may not go at all — it is not decided — business is very dull. Ralph took the money for the stocking yarn. Kiss the children for me — Is Eddy [*Edward Grant*] in pants yet.

aff. [*affectionately*] Mary B. Hill.

Corte Maderia [*California*], Jan 8. 1854.

Dear Friends

You see I am in a new place. Ethan went up to the Point forepart Dec. for the purpose of coaxing me down here to farm it, & as I had been thinking of going to farming the first chance that presented itself he had no very hard work to get me started although I was as well situated as I should ever expect to be working for wages, & could have had the place long as I pleased. They

hated to have me leave & said that if was not suited down here to come back & I should have my place again no matter who they had hired But I am thinking it will be more pleasant to work for myself, have my Sundays to myself & feel that I am a free man, than to be tied from 4 in the morning till eight & nine at night year in & year out for other people, even if I dont make quite as much money which depends upon circumstances. I am in hopes of course that I shall do as well if not better. Ethan & I have taken a place of Capt. Van [Armon?] the man Al Hart is building a steamer in company with & of whom Al took his log job last year. The place consists of about two hundred acres well fenced & a snug little house which we occupy, about thirty acres have been ploughed & there is probably as much more that will do to plough. the remainder is covered with wild oats which makes the best of hay of which we can mow much as we please. Hay is now worth 50 dols. in the city a ton. it costs ten dollars to get it over from here. 4 weeks ago it was worth but twenty dollars a ton however. what twill be next year I know not. We do the work on the place & have half. Capt. finds team & seed & keeps the team. We commenced planting potatoes last Monday & ploughed & planted 5 acres & cut the seed last week the way we plant here is to drop a row in every third furrow & turn the next one on to it. we drop the pieces along about a foot apart. after the potatoes are all planted we take a drag & drag <it> the ground over to make it level & then let the potatoes grow till time to dig then take a plow & plough them out. Never touch a hoe to them. when it rains they say 'tis too [moldy] to hoe them & when it dont rain the grou[nd] will retain the moisture longer to have it perfectly level. We shall probably get in ten or twelve acres potatoes this year, & as much wheat as we can. There is a twelve acre lot ploughed ready for wheat which we intend to sow this week. The Capt had it ploughed before we came & it cost us nothing. We have bought 4 sows 12 hens & a rooster for \$2 00 [&?] all the sows 45 each. the hens are worth two dollars each. are going to raise what pigs & chickens we can. got the hens home yesterday & they have laid 4 eggs ready <dont> It is about 12 miles across the bay to San Frisco. [San Francisco, California] Ethan went over week before last and bought some provisions & a cook stove paid 18 dols for a nice little stove & furniture, \$16 for a barrel of as good flour as I ever saw \$12 for 100 lbs butter, very good, 8 cts for beans \$25 for a barrel pork &c &c &c. They seem mighty cheap to me after being in the mountains. but not to you I suppose except the butter. The pork & butter were bought at auction where part of a ships cargo has to be sold to pay freight round the horn.

Miles Hart arrived at San Frisco [San Francisco, California] the 20th Dec & gave me your letter of which I was very glad it being the first I had recd [received] from home since March [last?] I can get my letters now right from the Post Office in San Francisco as many as you will have the goodness to send. Am glad you farmers are having such a good time at home Am also glad that Pa has got a horse that suits him at last. If Erastus wants to kill himself why dont he take some easier way for doing it than by hard work I should think it would be the hardest way in the world. You tell about Mary & Eddies going to school but I always think of them just as they were when I left & cant for my life make them look any different, although I know there is & will be still more before I see them again. There has been scarcely no rain here this winter expect it will come in March. So there is another little play thing for me at home is there. wish I could see her.

15th Meant to have finished this last Sunday but Miles Hart & others came in, & I have neglected & forgotten it since So it will not go till next mail.

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Point Defiance. Cal. [California] Jan 2, 1853.

Dear Friends,

How long it has been since I have written I know not, when I have no letters to answer & no one to push me up to write you will not wonder that I do not write often. We have not received a letter yet since we started from home excepting those I got from Daniel & Ethan in San Francisco [California]. I do not know where Daniel & Marcus are or any one else that I ever [knew?] before I came here, excepting Levi & he is on the other side of the table writing home. Le [Levi] has had a hard time of it lately he has had the diarrhea for six weeks so that he has not been able to earn any thing & has been paying 12 dollars a week for board, he has boarded here at the house. I am at work at. Don't know as I have ever told you what kind of a family I am living with. Am working for the firm of Wood & Clark. Mr Wood is about 48 or 50 has a wife & three

daughters & one son here two of the daughters are married the other one is about ten years old & a very pretty little girl. David the son is 20. Mr Clark is about 30 not married. They were all from Virginia formerly & moved from there to Missouri & from there here they are none of them very highly educated, but are moneymakers & I expect have made a good deal here. They have between 20 & 30 horses & mules hauling flour & provisions from Sac. City [Sacramento, California] here. Flour is 22cts in Sac. City [Sacramento, California] & they sell here for 50 cts but the roads are very muddy now in the summer when the roads are good they charge 5 cts a pound for hauling. We have had more rain this far this winter than was ever known before. Last Friday the rivers were higher than they have been seen before, they were all of 30 feet above low water mark. [Some?] of a bridge was washed away about a mile up the river and an abutment to one which Wood & Clark are building was carried off. The abutment did not cost less than 2000 dollars Le [Levi] was over the river at the time the bridge went off & did not get back until today. They fixed up an old canoe to cross people in it eight men got into it & attempted to cross this morning but there were so many in the boat & the current was so swift that before they got across it ended the boat round in spite of all they could do & carried it down stream, two of the men jumped out soon as they saw the boat was going & got ashore, the rest staid in the canoe which went down about 60 rods turned over three of them hung to the canoe & floated down stream about half a mile when one caught some bushes & was got out alive by Mr Wood & Levi & two or three others the other five are in the river yet. Le [Levi] ran with all his might to get into the boat to cross but a minute too late & probably saved his life by it. There were twenty or thirty men who saw the whole affair but could not save them. The river runs very swiftly. Le [Levi] is giving an account of the small pox which has been here so I will say nothing about it excepting that I have not had the varioloid yet & don't expect to have it very hard if at all, for I have been vaccinated three times with good matter which took on others but has not taken on me, & if that wont take on me the small pox wont be apt to. I have 4 or 5 good scars on my arms. Le [Levi] & I sent to the City by David to get some bills of exchange to send home which he brought home tonight, & is going back to the City in the morning so we are writing tonight expecting to send one of the bills in this tomorrow & shall keep one. Le [Levi] has two bills & I have two & they keep one of each at the exchange office & in case both these are lost we can get the other. My bill is to the amount 250 dollars payable to Pa at the American Exchange Bank, New York. Le [Levi] is going to send one hundred & fifty I believe. I might send another hundred now if I had the bills, but guess I shant send any more till I hear from this or from you in some way. Believe the note which I gave Pa was for 240 dollars – think this \$250 will pay that. You may burn that note or do as you please with it, so as I never see or heard from it again. I have more money now that I had when I started from home, & if I can make as much between this & the first of April as I could have made in a year at home I shant have lost anything this year, & don't know any reason now why I shant live here all winter. I think just as much of that — Life Insurance business as I did when at home & no more you can do as you please about keeping up that policy I never expect to pay any insurance on it till I am making money faster than I am now. Never had better health in my life than I have for the past three months, never was so heavy as at present. Was advised by a man the other day to use tobacco to keep me from being so fleshy. I told him that so long as I had good health enough to keep fleshy I did not think I should take poison to get thin We have to pay three percent on the money to get bills of exchange besides 1 ½ percent to David for getting them. So you see this 250 costs me 261,25

Hope I shall get a letter from you before long

R. E. Burr [Ralph E. Burr]

Will you please write soon as you receive this Direct to Marysville [California] as usual,

Point Defiance [California], July 24, 1853,

Dear Pa & Ma

Have not written home before in a long time for I have no time to write excepting after nine or ten at night & you know I am too fond of sleeping to stay up often after that time especially when I am obliged to be up at four in the morning. I have a bill of exchange or two rather, one of which I am going to send home in this, & should like to have you put it to drawing interest somewhere where it will be safe I have something of an idea the savings bank would be a good place but don't know as it is the best. Le [Levi Grant] is going to send the same amount two hundred to his Father

Suppose you all think at home we ought to get rich faster than this.

Every 26 days I earn 80 dollars this summer & have not lost a day since I commenced a little over nine months ago, you can judge whether I have had good health or not. Never have been better that length of time in my life, believe I have felt a little bit of the rheumatism once or twice but not enough so I should have thought anything about it if I had not known what it was. Have not rec'd [received] any letters from the states since yours dated Feb 20. just after you rec'd my other bill, recd one from Ethan some time since mailed March 23, & one from Daniel about a week ago mailed at Parks Bar [California] about 16 miles from there Apr 20. There was nothing in it that he was well & had been into the mountains prospecting for timber to make shingles & not finding it as promising as he expected was hesitating whether to go back or not, did not think they would do anything with their river claims this summer Marcus was at Ousleys Bar unwell with chills. Don't know where either of them are now

There is a young fellow [tell?] Mary by the name of William Webster from Maryland who corresponds with Kate Kennard Sister of Laura the one Mary corresponds with says she has heard Laura speak of Mary & has seen some of her letters. His Father is one of the riches men in Md. [Maryland] he has a great deal to say about his family, was telling me one day about his sprees at home, & spoke of going over to Dr. Kennards to see Kate & upon [embarking?] found she was Laura's sister. Billy is a real smart fellow is mining here don't think he has made much. Pa needn't keep Jim on my account don't suppose I should care any more about him than any other horse now. Suppose Eddie is quite a boy by this time & Mary is toddling up to Warren's to school. How do Uncle Cressey's people manage their concerns who lives up town & who over west? Le [Levi] says he is going home next spring. If I have my health think I shant go with him 'twould be too small potatoes to work on a farm by the month at 12 dollars a month, although I sometimes think I would like to be at home if I did not make any more in a year than I do here in a month, for I could see my friends there & not feel as though I was losing five dollars every day I did not work. Will try to write sooner next time

R. [Ralph] E. Burr

[in pencil:] Note given March 29, 1852
Paid \$20 May 26 '52
Jan. 28 paid 26 dolls. 1853.

Point Defiance [California], Sept 11, 1853.

Dear Pa & all

As I came over to camp to go to bed found Le [Levi] writing a letter home to send a bill of Exchange in & I have spoken to Mr Wood who says he will get me one when he goes to the city tomorrow & put it in this & send home don't know whether for two to three hundred yet just as he has money to spare.

Le [Levi] & I both sent two hundred each about a month since. Have not had a letter from the states since early in the spring, hope you get mine more regular. Have not heard from Daniel or any of the boys this summer. Am still at the same work as ever day in & day out regular as they come & am well & hearty I would give almost any price for a letter from you, want to know what you think about my coming out here & making a cook of myself, suppose it sound mighty small to you, As I can't hear from you I imagine every thing goes on the same as ever, except Eddie wears pants like any man Mary goes to school Sam runs around a real pet of a plaything & Abbie [Abigail E. Grant Burr]

is a perfect little woman if she has staid with "Gramma Grant" Wouldn't I turn myself loose if I was among them all. Cant write much now will try & make out a letter of news before long, remember me to all friends if they complain that I do not write tell them I am at work, & it is mighty dry business writing when you can hardly expect to get an answer

Corte Madeira [*California*], May 28, 1854.

Dear Parents

Have most joyfully recd. [*received*] some letters from home once more, Yours of March 25th & Will's mailed Apr 2nd, with one from [K?]ate, & one from Le [*Levi*] at his ranch near Sacramento reached me last Monday evening. Think I shall be able to get all the letters that come to San Francisco for me.

Am sorry to hear of Pa's poor health hope he will not be troubled with sick headache long, I sent a letter to Will last mail telling him all about our farming &c. don't expect to make much here every thing is cheap as you hear flour 12 dols barrel old potatoes 12 1/2 A bushel in town, costs three times that to get them there, new ones are worth 3 cts pound now, not many large enough to dig, ours are not

Can tell when we get through whether we make or lose not now. We have cut & sold about 40 cords wood pay 1.50 for it standing & sell it for 7,00 costs nearly .50 cts cord for team to haul it so we clear \$5,00 cord have also burnt a pit of coal, have 378 sacks nearly 2 bushels in sack, expect to get six bit or a dollar sack next fall its only worth from 4 to 6 bits now, sell it in the city where they [...] it to cook with &c. Levi Johnson was here & helped us a little about burning it, he is not dead nor likely to be though he might as well be for all the good he will ever do any one, he is a drunken worthless fellow, he came here first Feb. grunting & whining round pretending to be sick with only 6 1/4 ds telling over his hard luck (all of which was caused by his drinking) & tried to borrow money of Ethan to go home with but E. [*Ethan*] had none, he then wanted all of us fellows from that part to each lend him a little, but we knew 'twas the same as giving & did not feel disposed to do it, so he had to go to work lived here with us & burnt a little coal pit & chopped a little wood with our help & by the first of this month had about \$75 clear & went to town to go home Ethan went with him to help him off, he could have bought a ticket the Nicanager route for \$50 which would have left him 25 in N.Y. [*New York*] but he would not go, said he wanted more money, expect wanted Ethan to give him some more, but 25 is just as good as 2500 for him he would spree it away on the boat home, he has been over 200 dols expense & Eat. In this country now in one way & another, the last we heard of him he had started for Humbolts bay in Oregon & I hope it is the last we shall,

That piece of land of Mr Pendletons is just what I have thought a hundred times I would like to have added to ours but never expected there would be a chance to get it without the lower meadow too, if I was to have our farm I should take that by all means. I know it seems bad for me to be out here & leave Pa & Ma alone, if I had money enough to go home & take the farm would like to do it, & live with you, but I can never think of going there to work for 12, 15 or even 20 dollars a month to pay for it, nor would I want to buy it, & 80 to work on it to pay for it, & give any great price, if I can get money enough here to satisfy you for the farm before I get off the notion of going home, shall like to go & have the farm, & that of Mr Pendletons with it, If you want to buy that land you can take what money I have sent home to pay with & give me your note, & when I get some more will send it along till 'tis paid for, & then if I ever have the farm you will have the use of the land for the interest of, the money & if I shouldn't have it should want the money & interest of course. We are on a creek about a mile from San Francisco Bay, there are a double of packet boats one of which goes from here to town each day & returns the next fare 2 dols each way Hart & Capt [*Vandrum?*] had a steamer running here to town this winter but it did not pay & Hart has sold out, must have lost considerable

Don't know how much on the boat. We have, been reckoning up to day how much Hart is probably worth & make out that he cant be worth anything in this country, if he has 8,000 at interest at home as he says he has, he is probably worth

That clear, we don't know for certain but have good reason to think so. we are in the village of Corte Madeira [*California*] there are two boarding [houses?] & [seven?] dwelling houses besides ours

Is my life insured yet?

I never had better health such a thing as cold or cough is not known here

There are some Indians around not but a few & plenty of Grizzlies though we can never get sight of one. The boys hunted for them considerable this winter but could see none although fresh tracks were plenty, they are harder to get near than [boxes?].

I have never seen one yet. There are five women in this village all married bloody Irish Hart has a river claim & is [...] this summer

Levi has always been an honest, timid, true hearted friend to me & as good a fellow as I would wish to come here with.

Ethan is the same though a little inclined to take things [aisey?]. Tomorrow I shall be your 23 your old.

R. E. Burr [*Ralph E. Burr*]

[*Addressed to:*] Mr. Erastus Burr —
Norfolk [*Connecticut*]

[*Extracts from Ralph E. Burr's letter, first date, Feb. 25 1845?*]

"Have recently had the extreme pleasure of receiving one letter from home which was commenced 14 Nov. Am still working for Wood & Clark. Mr. Clark & Mrs. Wood have both told me at different times that they would give me employment long as I remained in Cal. [*California*]" If they give him good wages intends to stay. He once wrote he had \$65. a month — said nothing about it in this. Says. "I commenced here as waiter, & am now waiter, cook, Steward, Barkeeper, Store keeper & packer— do not have very hard work, but am pretty busy from before daylight till eight in the evening do not feel much like writing after work nights."

"The winter has been pleasant, much like your Oct. weather. Had the blues for a time after arriving in Cal. [*California*] & the worst when out of work. but say positively I am not disappointed in anything but the living & that is better than I expected. If I was to stay here until first Apr. could then start for home & reach N. York [*New York*] in a year from the time I left there & pay my expenses here & back & have a hundred dollars in my pocket — would not go home tomorrow if anyone would give me a free ticket." Has not been sick a day since he has been in that house & weighs 170 lbs. without coat, vest or boots — "People who expect to spend their lives in Cal. [*California*] Think no more of a bit (12 1/2 cts. I believe) than they would of a cent at home, but I do a little" "Feb. 27 – rec'd [*received*] two letters from home yesterday, one mailed at Flemington [*New Jersey*] Sept 2. & one at Norfolk [*Connecticut*] Sept. 17. & another from Flemington [*New Jersey*] & one from Daniel mailed at Parks Bar. Have written to him & one to Ethan Pendleton this forenoon."

[*P*]oint Defiance [*California*] is 30 miles Northeast of Marysville [*California*] at the junction of the South & North Yubas "Carrie asks if I find I know much about cooking – I don't know much about it, but they had a cook hired here when I first came who made cooking his business & they considered him good, but the boarders all say I cook better than he did."

[*written across side:*] Ralph wishes to be remembered to all friends —

Point Defiance [*California*], Sep. 14, 1853.

Dear Brother & Sister,

For the first time since the 20th of last Oct. I am lying idle a day. My feet have been troubling me a little for three or four days & today are quite painful to walk upon, so Mrs. Wood is cooking while I rest. It appears a little like rheumatism don't know whether 'tis that or standing & running on the floor so much, we have had pretty busy times for a week or two, more boarders coming in, Have been so busily employed I have scarcely written any letters this summer, & have recd none since early in the spring excepting one from Ethan Pendleton & one from Daniel, Ethan was across the bay from San Francisco at a heavy job of cutting & hauling wood, presume he will make a good thing of it. Dont know where Daniel or any of the other boys are except Le [*Levi Grant*] he is here working by the day at five dollars. It has been cloudy & rained a little this morning which is the first rain we have had since last spring only a little thunder shower one night 3 or 4 weeks since. Fluming companies have just commenced taking out the gold & a heavy rain enough to raise the rivers & carry away the dams would break thousands of men, but we dont look for such a rain yet. It probably will not come for two months. cannot tell yet how the river companies will do but there is a fair prospect of most of them doing well. the company Levi works for worked about 25 men & took out over 2000 dollars last week it has cost them 7 or 8000 to get into the river. Although there is a great deal of gold in the country, still no one seems to be very rich that I know. It costs a great deal to live the way people generally live in this country. After a man pays 10 dollars a week for board & plays cards for whiskey & oysters & watermelons every night & now & then a day, he is not going to have much money unless he has rich diggings, & there is not a man that I know but that will play for these things excepting Mr Wood Le [*Levi*] & myself. Out of twenty five or thirty men who compose the population of this point, I dont believe there are six that are worth 1000 dollars & most of them have been in the country since '49. Tis true that soon as men get 3 or 4000 dollars they generally leave for home but there are thousands & thousands who never have saved that much although perhaps they might have done it had they been as saving and industrious as you & other people are at home. Still everything a man eats or drinks (excepting water) or wears must be bought at an extravagant price. Most men will have what they like if they see it. I have been as industrious & saving as any man could be since I have been in the country. have worked every day I could work, have not drunk a drop of liquor nor bought more than a dozen melons or any more clothes than just enough to be dressed as decent as other people & all the money which I have sent home & which is now due me is \$1020.38 cts & I had \$40 of that when I got here.

I actually dont know what to write about that would interest you, there is no one or thing here that you ever knew & I have stuck so close to one place that I know but very little about the different parts of the country. The farming is all done in the valley down south or southwest from here & people say almost everyone has the chills there & a good deal of fever, no one has the chills here unless they caught them in the valley. Farming is not as profitable as it was last year although it is money making business now. I would'nt want anything better than to farm & about 25 or 50 cows all the good cheese you could make would sell for 50 cts a pound & butter for ,75 or 1,00 all the Beef you could raise from 20 to 30 cts a pound: but to buy a farm it would cost as much as one at home, & if you take it up it costs a great deal to fence it & make any improvements, in many places there is no timber for rails & then boards must be bought at from 40 to 50 dols a thousand – good milk cows would cost from 100 to 150 dols each, & if ever I have money enough to buy one a farm & stock it here I am going home. Suppose if I stay here four or five years more things will be so changed that Norfolk [*Connecticut*] will hardly look as it did when I left I shall scarcely know the place, the fence round the green & trees must be a great addition to the looks of the place. I often try to think how everything looks & all of you get along but somehow it always seems just as it was when I left although I know there is a change Driving cattle across the plains from Missouri & the western states has been a very profitable business for two years & will likely always pay well but men say who came across this season that stock is getting scarce & high in the states so there is not so much profit to be made on it hereafter. Last year \$2000 worth of stock in Missouri would be worth \$20000 here. Teaming is good business. Teamsters get 4 cts a pound for hauling goods from Sacramento here 60 miles The roads are rather rough & hilly but a four mule team will draw 35 or 40 hundred & make a trip every six days. but I cant get a team for a good stout six mule team with wagon & harness is

worth \$3000. So I must work along as any poor boy has to at home. Wish I could be there a little while to see you all. little Mary trudging off to school. Eddie strutting round in pants little Sam running all round & getting into all kinds of mischief, & Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] a perfect little woman if she has staid with "Gramma Grant." Now Mr. Erastus & Mrs. Nancy I want you to write me a letter & tell me all how you are getting along as honestly as I have told you about myself. I would give ten dollars for a letter this minute from you. Remember me to all the uncles Aunts & cousins down your way Olive & Harriet in particular. Tell Uncle Cressey I am right glad I came here for I dont think I shall loose anything pecuniarily & what I have seen & learned will more than compensate for what little sickness I have had,

Your affectionate brother

R. E. Burr [*Ralph E. Burr*]

[*Written across first page:*] Sept 25. Have had quite a little spot of the rheumatism. it went all over me except my left arm. was not nearly as bad as when I had it at home Had no physician took the medicine Dr Welch gave me. am well now & shall go to work in a day or two.

R.E. Burr

[*In envelope addressed to:*] Ralph E. Burr Esq
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut

Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 4th 1849

Dear Ralph

Have been trying to get Mary in the humour of writing for some days but have not been able, not to say that she is disobedient for I have not commanded her so to do, but she has kind of put it off until the spirit & flesh were willing & ready at the same moment.

Our town is as quiet today as sunday with the exception of a few firecrackers among the boys and once in awhile a gun shot from children of a larger growth. I have taken advantage of its being a holiday have not done much except in the way of chores, picked peas for dinner, staked up tomato vines, burnt up some weeds that were cut in the field, hoed quite a bit in the garden, and now at 1/2 past 3 oclock P.M. am writing to friends far away. We had some very hot weather week before last and first of last week, since that time it has been much cooler with a deal of easterly wind but no rain, the country is getting (just about here) very dry, pinching the gardens & oats very much. Last week and latter part of week before we cut and got in without the least damage by wet 22 loads of hay, 15 clover & the rest some early [...] suffering with the dry weather. Found it very hard work mowing down clover in that hot weather, but made out to 'hang' on by taking it easy. Shall begin to mow again next week & harvest wheat also. Some people are cutting wheat & rye on hilly land. The hay crop is very abundant, think that we will cut about 56 loads from 25 acres of grass, The warm weather has started the corn forward pretty fast. have ploughed all of ours twice some three times, and one piece the 4th and last time, about half (11 acres) of ours looks very good indeed and the rest so middling; the best stands up over two feet high, and we have every size from 6 inches high to 3 feet.

Had our first green peas two weeks ago tomorrow, have had them most every day since but the hot & dry weather is cutting the crop short, the second crop are fast coming in but will not do much. First string beans day before yesterday, new potatoes are not quite fit to dig yet though I have pulled up a hill or two just to get a taste. Cherries & raspberries are ripe & currants nearly so (Mary says that currants were ripe 10 days ago; she wanted to be at them because they were red) also goosberries, We have no goosberries cherries or raspberries here but plenty of currants & can get goosberries plenty at home & cherries most anywhere. Well Ralph it must be something of a job to lay those thumping stone fences yet there is one consolation, once done they are a fixture, they always stay where you put them, Dont they? Now here we have to build a new post fence every twelve or fifteen years, sometimes sooner than that according to the kind of ground on which they are built The rails will last longer but the posts seldom do. Say to your Mother that a short time ago good molasses sold in New York for 36 per gallon by the barrel and

tolerable nice brown sugar fro 4 3/4 & 5 cts per lb by the barrel. Just had our house painted outside a light brownish red, window shutters & frames white down stairs, up stairs Venetian shutters green window frames white, are getting pretty well snuged up except some fence to white wash which will be one of the is to be done's for some time yet I fear. They are about to build a large hall in our village 60 feet by 30, 3 stories high, by stock subscription, for the use of the Odd fellows, Sons of Temperance & co. with one large room to let for lectures small shows & so on. 'Twill be quite an ornament to the village and is to be on a new street that has been laid to induce others to build in same street. Am sorry to hear that your Mother has had a sick turn again. Tell she must expect to find me somewhat mysterious sometimes in my writing. I was sure that she would say rather that M [*Mary*] was in bed than sewing. well we do go to bed pretty early and find it very comfortable after working hard all day. Give my love to Mrs. C. [*Caroline*] Grant with all the rest, Tell Mrs. G. [*Grant*] to write to Mary and that I would be glad to see her in Jersey any time. The Californians appear to be getting along pretty well, keep up something like a government among themselves are building up several little towns quite rapidly. Have one Presbyterian Church organized among them, & stern necessity will develop the agricultural resources of the country & after a while a civilized man might feel half at home there. Do you take any interest in foreign politics? I rejoice with the Hungarians & the Romans & hate the French for their foolish interference at Rome, with their cowardly folly in sticking to the wrong after they have found themselves out to be decidedly so, but that cursed false honour of the human race which drives men deeper & deeper in the wrong for the sake of others praises or blame is a prominent point in French character. Hope that it will not be long before the whole of Europe will bid adieu to kings & Emperors, and they be counted only as things that were.

('Tis mans inhumanity to man)

(Makes countless thousands mourn!)

And will be until men act out more fully the precepts of the New Testament.

Good-bye dear Ralph

Write soon to Me & Mine

Ever Yours

W [*William*] Hill

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs Mary B Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*]
Present

Flemington [*New Jersey*] October 11th 1852

My dear Mary

You will please ask your [mother?] to accept the enclosed [infe?] for the trouble she has taken with the flannel.

I hope she has not exerted herself too much

As William of course will tell you all that is interesting in our little circle of friends. I can only add – Love and kind regards to your mother and sister, from yours very truly Jane Allen

This note was written by Miss Allen an English lady who came to this country when young & was for many years a teacher & has her home [...] Mr. Hills family
She is about 75 yrs of age I think Oct. 52.

C. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Bolton, March 4 ,59 (Friday)

My Dear Daughter,

You chanced to say in your last that Daniel & Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] were thinking of selling their farm & going to St. Pauls Minnesota with a view of buying lot[s?] cheap with the the expectation of land rising. I felt obliged to answer your letter so soon that I had not time to think much about it, though it did not strike me favorably at the time, I have thought more of it. & I

feel compelled to write & say to Caroline that I think she better stay where she is, she has now a house to cover her head & can get something & to wear & to eat & <is> in a healthy quiet moral town & I don't believe she will ever be any better off, change, as much as she may. She has been out west once on a speculation & Where would she have been now if she had not have had a home to come back to. Now the home is her own & if she knows when she is well off she better stay there Her children are now large enough to be of some assistance & will soon be able to support themselves <If I ever> I think the best thing for Edward [*Edward Grant*] would be if they could possibly spare him when he gets a little older to learn a trade then he could go out in the world prepared to make his way. Only think how much your Uncle Kimball has earned. I think a trade would be better than a farm a great deal I don't know their circumstances where they are but I suppose they have at least a house of their own & land enough clear of debt to keep at least <to> one or two cows & a horse & if I were Caroline I would stick to my home. There is some times something to be made in speculation, but your father & I think it will be more likely to be out of pocket than in to them. We don't believe that Daniel understand the business of speculation & it is our opinion he better stay where he is Even if he cannot <ma> advance at all I don't believe that he will ever any where do any <where> more than to get a living & if he does that he will do as well perhaps as one half the world. There is so much cheating & the like going on & Daniel is so honest himself I fear <if> he would not be sharp enough for the keeners, & instead of making anything would loose what they together already have. We should have been much better off now in a pecuniary point of view to have staid in [*Hadlyme?*]. It cost a great deal to make the change. I presume we shall never be so well off again, as we were when we came here However I like living in a village better than at a <one so> distance. Your father wishes he could sell, but I don't think I should be willing As long as the farm lasts I am sure of a living till I die & what is the use to keep changing, I think Caroline has a right to stay there & if I wore she I think I should & not worry myself to sell my home & all I have & go off to Minnesota. It would be a hard expensive job & when there I venture to say she would wish she had staid where she was

If Daniel cant make up his mind to stay there, perhaps he might go & find some other situation that would suit him better & he could avail himself of it & if he had anything to spare might send something home the same as your uncle K. does & some others. If the work of the farm is too hard for him, why could he not get some agency or work about the factories there in town or somewhere-else, If I were Caroline I think I would not give up my home, She may say others go west & do well so they did when she went before but it was not her fortune. Some go to California & come home wealthy others do not. I know this farming is hard business for some persons & anything is hard for them as soon as once in it & they find the difficulties. Others overcome all difficulties by diligence, perseverance, patience & cheerfulness & go on prosperingly & happily through life. I hope Daniel & Caroline will keep up a good heart & if they cant gain anything there, not be discouraged, soon their children will be able to go abroad if need be & do something for themselves I verily believe more than half the people I ever knew could no more than barely get a living for their family, almost every farm in this town is mortgaged, or rather I presume 3/4 of them are & it is pretty much the case in Berlin. O' I must tell you that it is reported that Caleb Morse the Butcher is not able to meet his demands, he has been in business more than three years & has out debts to the amount of \$15.00.00 & he cant collect it & he is owing as much as that & cant pay if he cant collect & he is a little deranged in consequence it is said. Mrs Edes has another son

Caroline has not asked my opinion in regard to going West. I give it freely without the asking, & of course I do not know all the circumstances as she & her husband do<es> what trials they may have where they are & what inducements are held out to go but judging from their past & my own experience & observation & knowing that that farm has brought up & supported two families before them I think that the old saying "change the place & keep the pain" will prove too true in their case as well as my own, and once more my advice to them though unasked it to keep still where they are & make the best of it, & not be over anxious for the future, but try & take some comfort where they are & just as they are & "Let the world [*wag?*] on" I believe they will get a living if they dont get rich. Every body cant be rich. I guess there are few that have stove harder than we have to gain something but you know nothing of the discouragements we have met. It has seemed sometimes as though I should give up in despair <of> every thing would look so discouraging & adverse The best way I can do is to get my mind off the subject take some good

interesting book & read & get a good nights rest It is no use to be over anxious about worldly gain, & I would not give up a present home for an uncertain one in some far off country

[Notes in margins:]

Mary you can let Caroline read this I do not sent it to her because she says nothing to me on the subject nor does not write me at all any time you need not say anything to any one else about the contents of this letter only let Caroline see it

I sent this now 'because the subject was on my mind & if I was ever agoing to say it the sooner the better & <has> know I feel I have done my duty be the result what it may & have the consequences to take their course

Miss Osborn ahs been thinking of selling her place but you need not mention it in [...] of your letters because she only mentioned it to me & a few others But she looked around some to see if she could find another house to live in to send her but could not my advice to her was to keep still where she is I am fully convinced that she never can fix herself as well again & Mr Brooks tells her so too she told me when I saw her last that she had given it up for the present

Daniel & Caroline & family have my best wishes I wonder if Caroline will discover in this letter my resemblance to her mother I think of her more since I came on to this farm than I ever did before that is to say I understand her feelings better now than I used to & it seems to myself that I see things as she used to & in fact am growing some like her in many respects as I grow older & see more of life but I do not suffer from ill health as she used, but I am sure if I allowed myself to worry about things my health would soon fail.

Lockport, Ill. [Illinois] March 1, 1853.

Dear Mother,

Your full & valued letter of Feb. 6. came to hand in due season, & was truly refreshing to us. We were glad to hear that you & father enjoy such comfortable health, & we hope the same favor may long be continued to you. We have been well since I last wrote you with the exception of Willie, who about three weeks since was taken with a kind of fever wh. [which] for a few days was pretty violent. He still is not well -- he demands a great deal of attention, & is so worrisome that it is impossible to sleep much while taking care of him nights. Still he is not very sick. Mary has improved a good deal during the past months, & John has continued well, & grows very rapidly. We have not thought it best to send him to school as yet, principally because he seemed too young to mix with the multitude alone, & to take care of himself away from home. He has not made any very considerable advances in learning, though I now <have> endeavor to hear him read a little every day, & find he improves rapidly.

It is impossible to tell what course Flora will take the coming season. I think it most probably she will return to Ct. [Connecticut] during the summer, but at what time I do not know. Whether she would answer your purpose as help, I cannot tell, but think it likely she would find your work too hard.

You inquire what grows in this country. The general answer is that all cultivated fruits are scarce here Apples, peaches &c. though now gathered on a few farms, yet are not produced to any considerable extent. Besides this country seems to be more liable to early frosts that destroy the blossoms of both apple & peach trees, than Ct. [Connecticut] & yet for that very reason it is probably that a fruitful season will be very fruitful. Strawberries grow abundantly here in favorable seasons, so do blackberries, & other wild fruits. If it is in your mind to provide something for our use, the article most desirable will be dried apples.

*I am sorry to hear that Daniel & Marcus are still unsuccessful, though their past history gave us too much reason to expect it. Should their health be continued there is no reason, I think, to expect they will starve, but they may be made to suffer somewhat. A great many people have gone from this place to California, a large number have returned, & are now with us, but quite a number are now there. The greater part of those who have returned did very well there, &

their success has added an important element of prosperity to the place. Those who have friends there do not seem to be anxious about them now, any more than if they had removed the same distance to any other part of the world

There is no marked change in our religious affairs since I last wrote. <Things> I have ventured to preach against the Spiritual Manifestations [*Spiritualism*] & I think with good effect. A few in this place are determined to trust to them, & I doubt whether there is any care for them, but others now let them entirely alone, & others still are beginning to be satisfied that the whole is untrustworthy. I took for a text Is. [*Isaiah*] 44:25. "That frustrateth the tokens affairs, & marketh diviners mad," & my <general> design, briefly described, was to show that God had pledged himself to render vain & profitless all such things, & to infatuate (make mad) all who trust in them. The week previous to my preaching two men had become insane in Chicago through this delusion, & others were imprisoned for crimes to wh. [*which*] it had led them, & this gave power to what I said, with the daily increasing infatuation of those who still practice it here, is a running commentary on the same point. I think the authority of the Spirits as teachers of theology, & disclosers of the secret of the present or future is at an end here, though it is astonishing what numbers have been disposed to trust in them.

I am inclined to think the wonders of this thing (& wonders there are beyond doubt) are to be explained by <refer> supposing the minds & bodies of those present to become highly excited, & "the nervous fluid" (so called because we know not what other name to give it) with wh. [*which*] all are surrounded, or enveloped, does act in accordance with the volitions of those present, performing strange feats, & sometimes revealing things forgotten, though I am not certain that it ever <I doubt whether it ever> does things absolutely unknown to any present. That this is so (in part at least) is evident from the fact that every circle gets just such revelations as it wishes. If <they> it is made up of infidels & universalists (as it commonly is) their views are endorsed, if of orthodox people their views are declared correct &c. so that it is probable the answers are the work of their own minds. Still this thought remains; if a state of things can be induced in wh. [*which*] our Spirits <souls> may thus make use of "the nervous fluid," why may not that spirit "that goeth about as a roaring lion," make use of the same, & thus actually disclose (when he chooses, & is permitted to do so) the secret? This general position is safely taken viz. that none of the spirits that profess to act ever have any thing to do with the matter, that if there is intelligence in the manifestations (& we cannot deny that there sometimes is) it is mostly <either> in the persons who seek such manifestations, & <perhaps rarely> possibly sometimes in the angels, principalities, & powers, to whom God hath given liberty to tempt & try the human race, & whose revelations are never to be trusted even when they tell the truth.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] son,
Joel Grant

Hamilton [*California*] May 12/1854

Dear Mother

I thought to have written you a long letter before this time but I have a very sore hand which has delayed me very much & but for M.'s [*Marcus*] timely arrival I should have found it necessary to hire some one to do my work. The trouble as far as I know is an eruption on the back of my hand similar to biles yet they are not biles.

M. [*Marcus*] has told you something of my situation &c. & as I hope to write more definite soon I will add no more now. As for M.'s [*Marcus*] prospects we can say nothing just now but will soon know something more particular he came here very unexpectedly. Though not strong, he seems pretty well & I think will soon be pretty smart.

Your letter was dated Feb. 26 Caroline's mailed at Flem. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] March 18 John's same date & Joel's Feb. 2 The only letters from friends at home written since last Nov.

M. [*Marcus*] has dated his letter Marysvil[le] [*California*] though written here & I suppose is just as well & perhaps better I as often send my letters there to be mailed as to Hamilton [*California*].

Excuse me from writing more now. I will write to C. [Caroline] or John next mail
Your affectionate Son
Daniel Grant

Marysville [California] May 10 1854

Dear Mother

I received your letters dated July 24 and Aug 28 one month ago and did intend to answer it by the last mail but it happened so that I could not

I am now with Daniel. I came here yesterday. He is quite pleasantly situated for a married man leading a bachelor life in California. He has seven cows now and expects three more every day. He rents them for one half the butter and cheese that they make. As yet he makes nothing but butter.

Now for myself I have nothing very interesting to write in fact. I don't know what to write. My health is tolerable good at present and for the coming summer. I have no definite plan of operation. I may stay here with Daniel and get more cows and make some cheese. How do you make [runnet from green bags?].

I learn from Daniel that there is a chance in this neighborhood to buy a team of oxen and pay for it in hauling lumber. But the terms that Daniel says that the team is to be sold are pretty close on the buyer I think. Any how I think it most likely that I shall stay in this neighborhood what time I stay in this country.

In your letter I have a very good sermon. Sermons are a thing that I hardly ever hear here and the one you wrote I hardly believe that there is one in ten that has studied theology three years that could equal it.

In your letter were a few lines from Caroline I am very much obliged to her for them.

I received a letter from Joel about a week ago dated Feb 2.

I wrote a letter to John a month ago and should be received about this time.

I can think of nothing more to write.

Much love to Abby and Eddie,

Your affectionate son

Marcus Grant

[Daniel Grant to Joel Grant]

Sept. 27th 1852

Dear Brother,

I have nothing of consequence to add to what I have already written but feel that I must write a little more.

With our present P.O. [Post Office] laws I don't know whether to pay postage to you or not. I suppose you have to pay the carrier his share if you receive letters upon which you have to pay the postage which is as much as the postage is when prepaid.

It is but a short time since I learnt the use of these three cent bills which have become so common. Government must make a speck on them I think as thousands will be purchased that never will be used.

It will not be long now before we will learn whether there is anything in our river claim or not, or at least we shall soon get a prospect of a part of it. If we find nothing it will not be best probably for me to remain much longer in this country.

I have been down again since writing the sheet that accompanies this & am not yet able to work at mining, but am better than I have been for two months. Marcus is well & works all the time for me. If we get nothing from the river <clame> claim it will be hard for me to pay him but I think there is a good chance.

<Bartons Bar Sept 26>

<Dear Brother>

<It is now nearly two months since I received your affectionate letter dated June ??>
I shall be able to work next week. I earned \$10, last week in the co, by going on to the works & taking charge

We had some difficulty with co.s, above us & our president was sick & <I went> the rest were all <fritened> frightened so I was called upon to push on the work, & settle the difficulty if I could, though I did but little work I will have my pay as much as though I did the work of the best of them, at any rate I settled the difficulty to the satisfaction of all parties.

I wish you to direct letters to Parks Bar as I stated before.

We have had no letter from home in a long time.

Give my respects to Abby the children uncles cousins &c.

Your aff. [affectionate] Brother,

D. [Daniel] Grant

[Written in pencil — upper right — “written before 1854, from D Grant 1848-1854”]

there is for others

Your affectionate Son
Daniel Grant

Dear little Abby

I can have but little idea of you, but as the same little Abby, that you were when I left you, though I suppose you have grown a good deal since that time. I love to have you write a few words with grandma when she writes to father. The last time you wrote you said you had a sugar cake for uncle M. [Marcus] & me; but we want to have you eat them or give them to your little brother, or little cousins or whatever you please.

I expect you will be able to write whole letters to me pretty soon.

Can you help grandma considerable about <your> her work.

I expect you are most always a good girl. Father will try to come home before a great while. He wants to see you very much.

Your aff [affectionate] Father
Daniel Grant

Dear Wife

I think I had better finish on this page [B...?] & L.P. came to Marysville [California] last thursday They left for Cherokee Corral about 45 miles from here monday he was not quite well but I presume is better before this They left in good spirits

Your affec. [affectionate] husband
Daniel Grant

Continued from page 4 I have read an old letter from you to Me, in which you state, that you saw a letter in the Connecticut Courant, that states Marysville [California] is at the head of river navigation, & that vessels drawing 11 ft. water can go there 8 months out of 12. Now this is a little nearer the truth than reports of Cal, [California] generally are, boats drawing 11 ft. water can reach here from 2 to 4 months in 12, & boats drawing 5 ft. from 6 to 8, & boats drawing 3 ft. from 10 to 12 months in a year,

You think I was mistaken in the spelling of the name Juba, or Yuba, but I was not, Juba is pronounced without the J. in spanish, The americans have made it american by using Y instead of J, The San Joaquine river retains its spelling but is pronounced San or St. Waukeen. San Juan retains the same spelling, but is pronounced San Wan, i.e. St. John. I presume that it would be nearly correct to substitute the sound of Y in English, for J in Spanish. Joel can tell something about that I presume. I presume there are a great many things that I scarcely notice. I see them

so much, that I could write about, that would be interesting, but as they have lost all interest to me if they ever had any, I cant see what

[Note attached — part of an account of travel to CA? in Daniel Grant papers]

1

May 30 Traveled over hills till late in the afternoon when we again came to the river and at the rested a little and then drove across another bend in the river and encamped about two o'clock in the morning —

Oct. 1. To day found plenty of good feed Traveled 10 miles
2. The feed continues good Dis. [distance] 14 miles —
3. We crossed a bend of the river. The road is bad <and> Small pines and cedar begin to spot the hills. We are now getting into the high mountains again and snow is in sight
4. & 5. We continued up the river — The mountains on our right are steep and high and covered with scattering pines of large size and on our left not as high and is nearly barren. Feed good. Dis. 27 miles.

6. Our road led us over a low hill about six miles when we entered a deep canon of the mountains and we followed it up about four miles when night came on and we camped without grass. The road now leads over piles of almost impassible rocks

7. We continued to tumble over rocks till about noon when we found ourselves rolling over a good road in a pleasant mountain valley where we encamped for the night though the feed was poor being eat close. In the canon we found the elders older and some nuts and berries
There name was unknown to me

8. The road was very good to Red Lake. A A Red Lake (which is a very small lake or frog pond as I should call it) we arrived at the foot of the dividing ridge of the Calafornia Mts. [*California Mountains*] and up this we were obliged to carry our loads on our backs and double teams for nearly empty wagons Distance 11 miles

9. At half past nine we gained the summit of the ridge and we drove over a rough and rocky road to another small lake known by the name of Lake Valley where we arrived at one o'clock and encamped This is at the foot of the highest ridge of the Mts. Distance five miles

10 This morn. when we arose the ground was covered with snow two inches deep. To day we ascended the highest ridge and reached the summit at half past four a distance of four or five miles. We left an ox that gave out and ascended about three miles and encamped. It has snowed some all day here: and there is no feed for our cattle Distance eight miles

11 This morn. the snow is three inches deep or more. The teams were started at half past eight and I went back after the ox that was left and labored with him all day but did not get him more than four miles and finding that I was given to be benighted I left him and went on and overtook the teams in camp a little after dark. The snow has melted considerable to day and the cattle are in good feed. Distance six miles

12 We drove about three miles and found good grass and stopped for the night. We passed two small lakes and there is one to the right of the road a little distance before us. The evening is cold and our log fire if very comfortable. The snow is nearly all gone

13. A fine day. Our road has been better and we have made a good days drive considering the condition of the team. We were visited when <[converse?]> at dinner by a small company of men <from> employed by government to assist all who are in need on the road. Found to day small red cherries growing on very small bushes and a large red goose berry which was very nice. The fine fir and white cedar grows here very tall and handsome many of them five and six feet through. We are again encamped without feed or water. Dis. 12 miles.

14 We started and drove five miles to water and encamped and turned our oxen into the wood to get what they could their being no grass. We met a drove of oxen sent out by government for emigrants and later in the day train of pack mules loaded with provisions.

15. We encamped without water or grass but we find plenty of oak brouse. Oak is now beginning to be rather plenty and continues to grow plenty as we descend. Today we lost

an ox. It was one that we picked up yesterday He gave out and we left him to rest and in about half an hour I went for him but did not find him, but found the place where he lay and the road full of Indian tracks

16. I arose early this morn and found an ox had been stolen in the night and then I aroused the camp and as soon as it was light we went in pursuit We tracked him to an Indian lodge where we found he had been slaughtered. The Indians fired upon us and hit Mr. Elliot in the shoulder. They had secreted themselves and we thought it imprudent to try to hunt them out the brush being very thick and it was not safe to be their. We got under way about 9 o'clock. Dis. 10 miles.

17. The road has been good to day. We encamped in a pleasant valley nine miles from a small town called Weavertown on a creek of the same <nam> name. We are now in the gold mines

18 I prospected some to day but found very little gold. I saw some mining. I have great reason to be thankful that I have reached this place in safety. God has been good to me

[Addressed to]

Mr. Daniel Grant
Waukesha
Waukesha Co
Wisconsin.

West Avon [Connecticut] Feb. 26, 1849.

Dear Brother & Sister [Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant],

Your letter mailed Feb. 9, was received about three days since, and we were truly glad to hear from you once more. Your letter found us in more than ordinary affliction. I was confined to the house, & mostly to my bed, by a severe ear ache, the result of a cold; and our little boy was afflicted with a very dangerous lung fever. Through God's blessing we are both now better.

Our fathers family is much afflicted this winter, as you have doubtless heard in part, though all are still living. Father & Mother are living entirely alone, & Mother has been so feeble as to be unable to do any thing a considerable part of the winter. John has had another operation for the removal of tumors, through wh. [which] he has passed as we hope, safely, though he writes that his back is not healed yet. He has resumed his duties as tutor nevertheless.

Since my wife's recovery from the severe sickness which she passed through last summer she has been gradually improving in health as we hope though there is still much room for improvement.

I think you must feel singular to be left without a house after laboring so long to obtain one. Of course you are the best judge as to what you ought to do, but it seems to me the price for wh. [which] you disposed of it <were> was less than it was worth by a good many dollars, especially as the pay is not prompt. \$220 I should think a low price for a house situated as that was; however, I do not profess to be able to judge.

So it seems you are again without a home, and are somewhat perplexed to be able to tell what you had better do. Probably you will have decided before this reaches you, yet I will venture to say just a few thoughts. As you are out of business at present would it not be as well to try California? According to all accounts the success of those who go there may be presumed to be good, in some cases excellent. It strikes me favorably, if you can get some one to bear your expenses and then divide equitably the results of your labor, inasmuch as that will involve no pecuniary risks. Indeed I suppose it would be impossible for you to go on your own responsibility, as the expense of an outfit would be quite considerable. For a single traveller I find the outfit at Independence Missouri (& it will cost \$20 at least to get there, probably more) to be thus stated by Col. [Gilpin?] a man who has been over the whole ground

Riding horse-----\$60
Two pack mules-----\$120
saddle bridle, & spurs-----12
pack saddles-----8

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | -----\$200.00 |
| Provisions 150 lbs. flour----- | \$3.00 |
| 75 do bacon----- | 2.00 |
| 20 do coffee 1.50 50 sugar 4.00 | 5.60 |
| Salt pepper vinegar etc.---2.40----- | <u>13.00</u> |
| | \$213.00 |

Besides these *<blan?>* he puts down Mackinaw Blankets at from \$10 to \$16 the pair, & he might have put down many other things so that the expense of an outfit at Independence cannot be assumed to be less than from \$250 to \$300. He sets down the time necessary as two or three months. But of these things the people of your place know far more than I can possibly. If you go I trust you will go comfortably.

There will be many risks to be run, but I think the probabilities are altogether in favor of its doing your health good. You may be sick, you may die, & if you could avoid these things by staying at home, I would advise you by all means, not to go. As it is I am favorably impressed with the idea of your going.

I hope you will be able to see to the forwarding of the money due April 1 from Mahar. I received the \$49 of which you write, though I was very sorry you did not send it sooner as I wanted it very much. *<lt>* I understand that it was 88 cents more than was then due. If you should be unable to see to the business yourself please to designate some one by name, whom I can make my attorney. I presume it will not be [weeping?] to make an attorney this year but it may be another. Let me know the name of the lawyer who did my business for me when I was there last; his whole name, for he seemed to be a man worthy of confidence. If possible I hope you will forward the payment for this year before you leave

Should you go to California, take with you paper pen & ink and keep a diary of your course and forward it to us as you may have opportunity. I have many things to say, but I have not the leisure to say them now. Let what I have said suffice. Forget not amid all the perplexities with which your path is surrounded, that God sees through them all, and if you commit your way to him he will prepare it for you. "Trust then in the Lord with all thy heart; & lean not to thine own understanding." (Prov. 3:5)

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother,
Joel Grant

I hope Daniel will have his Daguerreotype taken before he goes to Ca. [*California*]
Abby – [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

[*Addressed to*]

Mr Daniel Grant
Waukesha Waukesha Co
Wisconsin

Millbrook
Ct March 3d

From Mother Grant disapproving of Daniel going to California –
March 1849

late Feb. 1849

My Dear Children [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

I have for a long time wanted to write to you but I have never been very well since I was sick last fall and now for several weeks I have had a cold which has made me quite unwell but I now feel quite well. We received your letter along time ago which was a great relief to me I felt anxious about the barrel I felt that we did not know how to lose the contents and it rejoices my heart to hear that you had a dear little son which I hope will prove a blessing to all the friends and to learn about Dear Abby and that Caroline had been carried through her confinement so comfortably I was sorry that Daniel was home with his wrist and that he was troubled with Dispepsia but if it must be so I want to know it I do not hear from you near as often as I should like to but yesterday we received a letter from Joel stating that you Daniel was thinking of going to

California which was to me intelligence of a very unpleasant nature and I thought I could delay writing no longer but must say to you immediately that I cannot endure the Idea your health is poor <and> and for you to think of going to California in pursuit of health I think you will be disappointed should you do it your Physician may recommend it and so I might think favorably of it if you <was> were in circumstances to go there and live at your ease and have a Physician and nurse to attend to you <and> but under your circumstances I feel that your prospect is nothing more than an increased state of suffering and then how can you be separated from your Dear family dont indulge a thought of any such thing Joel seems to think it might do but I feel that he has incorrect views he said to me that he did not know but it might be well enough for Marcus to go but I shall never give my consent to have any of my children go and your father is very much opposed to it I understand that you have sold your place and are gone to live with Mrs Root I am glad you have kind friends there but I hope you will make arrangements to return <n?> in the spring to Conn [Connecticut] should I live it will be pleasant to me and I hope that I shall be able to contribute to your comfort I am in the decline of life but should the Lord see fit to continue my life and give me strength I shall always want to do what I can to make my children comfortable I think was you here you might enjoy better health than you do <there> where you are but if you must be sick I had rather you would be sick here than abroad There are a great many gone and going to California <and many that are gone> Chauncey Canfield and <Albert> Alfred Cooper and Samuel Seymor Erastus Seymore, son of Lewis <an> Andrews Daniel Andrews' son is talking of going Mrs Andrews died the winter past so that he has no mother to feel bad about his going and if you should live there will be no hurry about your going there is such an extent of territory that is called the Golden region that it will not be exhausted for a great while to come now I hope that whoever says go that you will not regard it _____

Marcus has been teaching this winter in Danbury Quarter and I hope that he may have health and strength <be able> to labor and with the blessing of God he may be made happy I have not seen any of father Burrs people this winter I have not been able to go out myself but very little and your mother and Mary [Mary Burr] I suppose have been very busy I expect Mary is to be married about this time but I do not probably know as much about it as you do I hope that when the weather is warmer we shall see them more I hope that Mary and her husband will call on us before they leave but perhaps they will not I do not think of any special news of Joel and his wife and and babe but they are now better John is tutor in [W?] Haven yet he had another tumor removed from his back the forepart of January but he was able to return to his duty in about three days after the term commenced he was well felt no inconvenience from the tumor but knowing there was one commenced he thought he would have it removed while he was well _____

Your uncle Luther is much as he has been though rather finding other friends usually well Martin has taught our school this winter I hope you will not set your hearts on glittering dust I want you should be comfortable I hope you will cast all your cares on Jesus and not forget to pray. I want you should not neglect to to pray God to bless your dear children both spiritually and temporally Kiss them many times <to> for me and tell them that grandmother thinks much of them I have had grandmother Burr's letter to read and I love to read about Abby my dear children I want to have you write to me immediately and let me know your plans may the lord bless and direct us is the prayer of your affec mother Ely

Dear cousins,

As I am spending a few days, with Aunt, and there is a little space here, for a word, to assure you of my kind remembrance, I gladly [improve] it. Though you have so long resided at the West, presume letters from home, and news from old friends – are ever acceptable. Norfolk [Connecticut] seems much as usual. There have been several deaths among children recently from croup. Nothing particular has occurred that will interest you. Please accept my love and best wishes – Cousin Margaret

Hope you will be able to train those dear 'little ones,' in the good and right way, and that they may prove continually, a rich blessing.

-----~-----~-----~-----~-----~-----~-----

[Addressed to]

Mr. Daniel Grant
Waukesha
Waukesha Co.
Wisc. [*Wisconsin*]

Mill Brook Ct Mar 4

Monday March 4th 1859

My Dear Children [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

I wrote you last week but on receiving a letter last evening from your Mother and Mary [*Mary Burr*] it seems to be necessary that I should write again though I know not what to say I am decidedly opposed to your going to California I feel that you would probably never return and if you should I believe that you would be poorer instead of richer[.?] we are all journeying to Eternity and we had better not set our hearts on glittering dust I believe there will be more of the gold diggers that will be ruined than there will be made rich I am sorry that you have sold your place at such a loss I do not think that it will be required of you to make sacrifices of much money to the public to whom much is given much will be required if you could dispose of what you have there and come here and buy a small place where you could keep six or seven cows I should feel that you might do far better than you have done since you left keep <a> few cows and raise a few potatoes a little corn and live respectably <and not be able> I do not know what to write but I fear that you find those that are disposed to take advantage of you and if you was here you would find friends with whom you might counsel and might be benefitted in that way I fear that you will find it difficult to dispose of what you have for what it is worth I will now say that I hope you will not sell your bed I think the feathers were of your own raising and probably worth twice as much as any you can buy if you have a good bed keep it the officers cannot take your bed from and any thing that you have that is good I advise you to keep it will not cost as much to bring them here <them> as it will to buy them and if you undertake to sell them you cannot get much for [them?] there will be many things that you cannot bring can you sell your [Large?] Co land for any thing more than it cost you or than it has cost at this time now if you can dispose of what you have there and can put it into the bank here and can work in a factory or any way to live I would be glad but let who will say go to California I hope you will say nay I do not wish you to sell your property for two thirds what it is worth hope you will not need to do so want to have you write immediately when you receive this I rejoice that you have Abby Root for a mother give my sincere regards to her Joel wrote to us that he thought favorably of Daniel's going to California but I think that it needs the most robust healthy persons to go there I want to have you come here if you come with the feeling that you spend your days here for I believe that if you can live any where you can live here may the Lord guide direct and bless you is the prayer of your mother Elizabeth Grant love to Abby and a kiss for the baby

Dear Brother & Sister [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

It is not very often that I write to you but as there is a little room left here I will add a few words

This winter I have been teaching school in Danbury Quarture for \$18 a month for three months which will help a very little a long in respects money matters. What I shall do this summer I do not know yet: shall know very soon <prop> probably.

Perhaps I may stay at home donot know what Father will think about hiring me nor do [I] much care there is work some where to be done.

I am sorry you do not prosper a little better where you are. As <for> to your going to California I think you had better do as you think best about it. You might go there and get some gold and you might succeed as well as you have <there> where you are. But it seems to me that a sick man in California digging gold in the water up to his knees would look funny.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Marcus

[Addressed to]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk

Ct. [Connecticut]

Indian Territory [postmark Highbuck] June 3 1849

My Dear Wife [Caroline Burr Grant]

I love to write to you, and I have run on before the teams to save a moment to set down upon the grass and hold the paper on my knee and do so. I am determined to have a letter ready to send from Ft. Laramie [Wyoming], & I will try to have a long one. Perhaps I shall meet some return teams and send one to be <mailed> mailed at St. Joseph [Missouri] or some other place but you must not make much calculation to hear from <you> me.

We left St. Joseph one week tomorrow and have traveled some 80 miles, the first day we traveled 4 The second crossed the Mo. river [Missouri River] 4 miles from Town and traveled about 5 miles the 3d 20 miles or more the fourth 25m. etc.

Our company consists of 9 wagons 33 yoke of oxen [7?] yoke of cows and I don't know how many persons but 30 or upwards including some 7 or more of the female part of creation. We crossed the river with four wagons in company and the rest have by their request joined us. Just overtaken 17 wagons in camp they be by today it being Sunday and have been detained by sickness in their camp<ed>.

We have seen 14 new graves by the road side since we left St. J. [St. Joseph] all I believe died with <col> cholera and all came up the river This is but a small mortality in comparison with the report we heard from what we were told was reliable information viz, that in the first <14> 140 miles there was 300 (and (upwards) new graves. This was told by a citizen of St. J. [St. Joseph] who started for Cal. [California] and returned, after he had gone that distance beyond the river. A Justice of the peace in St. J. [St. Joseph] told us that he was his neighbor, and his word was truth.

He reported also that hundreds were sick, and deaths were of almost hourly occurrence, but we have heard that his report was a great lie.

Since writing the foregoing we have passed one more grave and 2 wagons have joined our company.

June 13 We are now at fort Kearney [Nebraska] on the Platt river [Platte River] from 250 to 300 miles from St. J. [St. Joseph], have passed 20 graves since writing before making 35 in the whole distance a small mortality for the great number of people that have passed.

Our company has been again increased by 4 wagons and since diminished <by> to the same No. [number] that crossed the Mo. River [Missouri River] together, They could not keep up so we came on and left them. We are all in good health and good spirits have not seen a dozen Indians yet but expect to every day, passed a place Monday morn. where a camp of 500 had just left, about 40 soldiers from the fort were in pursuit of them to recover some cattle that there had been lost by emigrants. They returned last eve. but saw nothing of any Indians They did not try to find them for they followed them but one [1/2?] day at the rate of about 2 miles an hour and then left them.

Another Tribe the Shians [Cheyenne] were on this road about 6 miles from us <last> night before last but they had gone up the river [Platte River] before we came along. We shall probably fall in with them on our route. This is the Pawnee country here the Shians [Cheyenne] belong on the other side. before long we shall cross to the North side then I suppose we shall be in the Shian [Cheyenne] nation.

We keep watch at night live as well as any body can wish to and enjoy ourselves as well as anyone can who is travelling.

Last night there was a thunder shower and the wind blew a hurricane which rather disturbed [us?] but not bad. Such storms are common on this <side> great prairie we had just such an one last Monday morn. before day light. Had no watch out last night brought up our cattle and picketed them i.e. drove some stakes in the ground and tied them <to them>.

The road has been very good since we left St. J. [St. Joseph], on continued prairie the whole distance, unbroken except by an occasional <the> stream, lined with a very narrow strip of timber. How much farther it extends I know not. Grand Island in the Plat [Platte River] against us is covered with timber, all the wood we get here is from the Island.

Expect to leave here tomorrow. Mr. Cone and his company are before us. he promised to wait for us but is pushing on with all speed. let him go

The mail from Ft. Laramie passes here next week as I am told, I determined to mail this here hope to get another written to send from Ft. L. Letters may miscarry from this wilderness, dont be disappointed if you dont hear from me again, I want to write to Abby but can't now. Give my respects to all friends

Your affectionate husband
Daniel

[Addressed to]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk
Ct. [Connecticut]

Indian Ter. [Territory] 480 miles fr. St. J. [St.

Joseph]

June 24 [1849]

My Dear Wife [Caroline Burr Grant],

I entirely forgot to send a lock of my hair to you. I am very sorry. I will put a little, in this sheet, but I fear it will never reach you. I found I could send from Ft. <Lara> Kearney [Ft. Kearney, Nebraska], and I left my last letter there. I expect to leave this at Ft. <Kea?> Laramie [Ft. Laramie, Wyoming], and I suppose it is uncertain when it will leave there We have met no return teams for a week, if we should I will send it on. I did not know there was a Ft. on the road between Ft. Laramie & St. J. [St. Joseph], when I left St. J. [St. Joseph] There are many things that I want to write but I cannot, I tried to write by running on before the team and gaining a little time in that way, but I found it difficult and I suppose it is rather dangerous now in this Indian Territory, though we have seen no<ne> Indians or next to none since we started, yet we have seen their traces and leavings frequently. Night before last we camped near the graves of two Indians, or what was so. They were wrapped in buffalo robes, & other skins, and raised about 6 feet from the earth, supported by poles. Their poneys were tied to the poles that supported the bodies, and there remained till they starved. The tainted carcasses were there partly destroyed by the wolves. One of the graves had been destroyed and the body torn in pieces, probably by wolves provisions and tin pans and other utensils were scattered around.

We are getting along finely, but it is not so with all, and may not be with us all the way, through. We passed a grave a few days since, that gave us the only information we have received from Mr. Cone and his party, since we left the river [Platte River?]. It was inscribed, Mr. Conover Waukesha Wis. [Wisconsin] Aged 27, died June 14. The same day we saw some who saw G. [H?] Cornwall's grave, he died the 10 inst.

It will be hard news for Mrs. Conover but I suppose not very hard for Mrs. Cornwall. Mr. Dillon one of our mess says she told him Dillon she never should live with him again unless he returned rich. It was Mrs. C's [Cornwall] sister who told him so.

If Cornwall knew that, I doubt whether he would ever return if he had lived, I know I would not in like circumstances.

There are so many things to write I cannot tell which will most interest you, but I will try to give a description of our party.

First then I will take our own wagon, you know already that there are 5 of us, viz. myself, Elliot, Woodworth, Dillon, (these you know) and Wm. A. Olin, a brother of Hannah Olin, and cousin of G. [H?]. Olin, a poor man about 34 years old, he has been sick a great deal and had a good deal of sickness in his family since he came to Wis. [Wisconsin], has a wife and three children. Next I will take the wagon that stands by ours, 4 men, one 55 years old, another 40 or upwards, another 34, another about 28, all very accommodating & clever, but very profane.

Then there are 2 wagons of Seymors, from Kaskaskia Ill. [Illinois] 2 brothers they are taking 6 men with them. One of them <makes> call<e>s it home in Unionville Ct. [Connecticut] has a wife and 2 children there, been engaged in making clocks, has been selling clocks and doing other business in Ill. [Illinois] for 2 years, and started for Cal. [California] about the same time he had intended to go to Ct. [Connecticut] <T...> Both the Seymores appear to be fine men,

There are 2 wagons <laden?> loaded with eight persons, one man has his wife, don't know but she is a very nice woman but don't like her appearance very well, have never spoken to her. The rest are <very> decent I believe, one man I should think between 50 & 60 years of age very clever.

Two wagons belonging to Stevens I have sp[oken] of them before in a former letter, 7 in number the father 3 daughters <very> fine girls, 2 sons (one of the sons owns the teams) and one man with them. Two Dutch wagons an old man and his wife and a young man and his wife, and I dont know how many children. Ten wagons besides a buggy that Mr. Seymore has to ride in himself. I have given a hasty sketch of our party hope it will do. should like as much time to write every day but that is out of the question, cannot write again before I get to the Mormon settlement [Fort Bridger?] and probably not there, I don't think I can write again till I get to Cal. [California] Promised to write to Dr. [Slye?] from Ft. Laramie will add a few words at Ft. Laramie. Remember me Dear wife before God

Respects to all

Your aff husband Daniel [Daniel Grant]

July 3 Just crossed the Laramie River all well – good luck so far. The most of the danger is yet to come, a very barren country here. The Rocky Mts. in sight; cannot get time to <wright> write. do not expect hear again. Farewell.

Your affectionate Husband

D. Grant. [Daniel Grant]

[Thursday] morning Pa got this yesterday Heare all well, Pa is gone to meeting & Ma is going. Kiss [Eddie] for me half an hour & send Abby home. We came home friday night

Ralph E. Burr

California, Oct. 20 1849.

My Dear Wife [Caroline Burr Grant],

I have an opportunity to send a letter to Sacramento City and I embrace the opportunity to inform you that I have arrived in California Gold Mines, in Safety with out any <...> event occurring worth recording, though I intend to give a brief simple history of my journey, at some future time.

I feel badly though, as I do not know whither I am writing to the living or not, but I hope for the best of course.

I do not know yet what my prospects are, but I am going to try my luck, on monday with, a man by the name of Young from Sheboygan, Wis. [Wisconsin] a nice man as near as I can learn, with whom I expect to work for a week or two and perhaps longer.

My time never more occupied than it has been <for> since I arrived <,> three days since. I have been prospecting <s...t> all the time, and you must write for me, for I cannot write to all. I fear I shall not be able to get your letters from San Francisco at all, but I shall make a great effort for it.

You must direct to Sacramento City California, and then I do not know as I shall be able to get them, pay no postage on letters sent to Cal. [California]

Prices are very high in the mines, flour is worth \$25, per 100 lbs. in a small place near here called Weaverville, pork \$80, beans \$1.50 per lb., potatoes \$1, per. lb. onions \$1.50 lb. molasses \$1, per qt. sugar poor quality 3.74 [?] cts per. lb. etc.

Sacramento City is a new place grown up this summer of about 8000 inhabitants, the stopping place of the Steamboats from Panama. The inhabitants live mostly in tents or cloth houses.

The chances in the mines are as good as I expected, the most of the miners are able to get enough to keep them from starving, some make money. and some get nothing of consequence.

My Dear wife I want to be with you very much, but we must be from each other a long time yet, perhaps death may take us but the Lord will do <...> right.

Remember me to all friends, particular the children. Your affectionate husband, Daniel
[Daniel Grant]

[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant

January, 9, 1850. No. 3.

My dear Wife [Caroline Burr Grant],

I did not have an opportunity to send a letter by the last mail, therefore did not write. Now I have

an opportunity to send by private conveyance, to the Miss. River [Mississippi River], and as I get no information from home, I fear, my letters will not reach you. I have written twice only, this is the third time. I improve every chance to send for letters, but have received none. Who of my friends may be alive, or who dead I know not, what sorrows or joys await them I know not, but as I can do them no good, I try to bear up under my privations, as well as I can, Hoping all are well, and all enjoying themselves and one another.

I cannot tell what my prospects are in Cal. [California] but think, they are some what flattering. I have refused to take \$200, and my board, a month, for driving an ox team next summer, I have good reason to believe I can make that & perhaps four time as much mining.

I was too late in the mines last fall, to get a start before the winter set in, but I have been able to get enough to pay my expenses, which have been almost \$350, I fear some times, that I shall not make as much mining as in some other way, but the chance is so much in favor of making more, that I am not willing to accept of such an offer as \$200 a month. [My] information is more extensive than when I last wrote, and I think that the majority of the emigrants are not sorry that they are here, & instead of one in ten as I stated in my second letter, but nearly all that were comfortably situated at home, wish they had stayed there, and many that thought they were not well off at home, have learned here that they were.

With the knowledge I have now I think hard of advising Ralph [Ralph E. Grant] & Marcus [Marcus Grant] to come here, to spend a few months next summer if they should be so disposed, but I dont know as it would be best. If they were christians, as I am here; I would advise them to come, but a young man ought to have not only a fixed, but a christian character to withstand all the temptations that are set before him in this country. Many a fine young man is ruined here. If they should come, by all means take the rout by the Isthmus or through Mexico via, Vera Cruz. The Mexican rout I am not acquainted with.

Now I think of it, I want you to save newspapers, containing Cal. [California] news, so that I can see them on my return, also inform me who is Governor of Cal. [California] when you write, and such other news as you think I would like to hear. We know not what is going on except in our own neighborhood.

Write often, I shall get some letters some time, I have no doubt. I will say again direct to Sacramento <river> City pay no postage. If R. [Ralph E. Grant] & M. [Marcus Grant] one or both would come and find me, I think they with the characters they have already formed, and my assistance, <they> would not run much risk of getting in to bad company, but It might be impossible to find me, for a long time, I am now near Hangtown, but I do not <know who> suppose any one could find me in a month if they should try, I shall write again, thogh, so you will get it before time to start, and by that time I shall probably know where my summer location will be, I want them to start so as to get to Sacramento City about the first of Aug. and not stay at Sac City at all, but push for the mines, or hire out the first opportunity, to drive team or any employment they may find, at such wages as they think best, but it is not likely that wages will be less, than \$200, per month, for the summer, they were from \$300, to \$400 last sumer. If I can get \$250, from the man that offered me \$200, I shall drive team, because he is a man that I know will pay. I ask him \$300. When I commenced this letter, I did not thin[k] of saying any <thyn> thing about anyone coming out here, but as I have said so much I will finish this sheet with the subject.

You can learn more about the steamers from N. Y. [*New York*] to San F. [*San Francisco, California*] than I can, therefore I leave that with you. I suppose the passage takes a month and a little more, then if the boat leaves N. Y. [*New York*] the first of July, take the July boat, they will be soon enough in Cal [*California*], then for the climate, and to take advantage of the best months for mining which are the fall months, and sometimes Dec. Bring no fine clothes with you, or white shirts, but < plenty > plenty of flannel shirts.

They can find employment cutting hay in the <y> vicinity of Sacramento or San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*]. Hay is worth in Sacramento, 16 cts. per lb. by small quantities, and will be next summer from \$100, to \$150 or \$200 per ton.

The thought has come into my mind that you (thoughtful soul) will be sending out some things to me because prices are so high, but dont do it, it might save me some thing & might not. Daniel.

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*],
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Connecticut

Jan. '50

I suppose this sheet will make double postage but I dont care for that, I pay a dollar to get it carried to the states, & I suppose it will be the same whether I send one sheet or two. The man that takes it leaves for the states on the 16th of Jan. and will take the Feb. boat, he is from Mo. [*Missouri*] has made \$1,500, and thinks he can't stay from his family any longer He run a carriage from Hangtown to Sac. City [*Sacramento City, California*]. will not be more than a year from his family. I have been able to preserve your letter sent by Dr. [Blye] and have just read it, & will answer it. The logs Mr. Root was right about. You did right about the saddle. Mr. Tichenor must have been mistaken about the dollar, for I paid him the common price for all he did. The long dress I did not want, but shall I ever get home, should have thrown it away as I did a good many things, if I had had it. I sent a letter from Ft. Larimie [*Ft. Laramie, Wyoming*] in wh. [*which*] I enclosed a lock of hair, but perhaps you did not get it. Will send another lock in this, my hair is short now, cut it myself, & clipped pretty close. I will give you some description of our company. We have 2 houses built in a small <rav> ravine, about 2 miles from the road leading from Hangtown, & Weverville, to Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] about 45m from the City. Our house is 14 ft. by 12 ft. with a chimney at one end, built out side. My chums are Walter Young, of Sheboygan [*Wisconsin*] & Joseph Ludington, of Mil. [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Young is a tailor & not very agreeable, though a tolerable good fellow. I worked with him, from the commencement of my mining, till <...> December first. Then we separated, & for three weeks, not feeling well, I did not mine. He is very profane. Ludington is a very pleasant young man 20 years old, also profane but not as bad as Young. Young left his wife with her father near Diesner's mill. He is 35 years old. At the other house is Mr. Burlieu, from Sheboygan 25 years old, quite profane but a first rate fellow, also Mr. Peters fr. [*from*] She. [*Sheboygan Wisconsin*] 25y old very profane, but a good companion in every other respect. Mr Jones from the lead mines Wis. [*Wisconsin*] 35y old I guess, uses profane language some, & is a clever man. The other (for there are four) is Mr. Matthewson fr. Hartford Ct. [*Connecticut*] A fine young man, does not use profane language, but is not so agreeable as I wish he was, a good companion though much more so than Young. He is my present partner.

Last week we took out \$168, 80, \$68, of it in one one day. We are at work in what is called dry diggins, or what I should call winter diggins.

In wet diggins there is too much water in the winter and in dry diggins no water in summer. The wet are much the most productive.

A good many came from the States last summer and got from \$1500, to \$10000, and returned, are at home before this time, but big strikes though somewhat common, are in proportion to the number engaged, few & far between.

The mine<e>rs however almost invariably make money, some spend it fast as they get it, others save it, some soon as they get a few dollars go with it, to the gambling table. I have heard a report that a young man came into the mines, & was successfull, took out in a short time \$5000, went to Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] and bet it all at once, at the time telling the gamblers, that it was the last bet he ever should make, whether he won or lost, & if he won, he should go home, but if he lost he should go back to the mines, He won, took his \$10000, & went home. Every store almost & every public house is a drinking & gambling shop. The Sabbath is not regarded here, except as a day of rest, and not even for that by some. Probably 99 out of a hundred of all the inhabitants of Cal. [*California*] are in the habit of using language. Yet there never was a country in the world, where there was better order, & less crime.

I enjoy myself very well. You know I mean as well as I can. My greatest trouble is I am separated from my family, and can't hear one word from them or any of my friends. I never could put up with it but I think the Lord had a design in my coming therefore, I try to be content.

The Indians are somewhat troublesome in some places, not far from here, they burnt a sickman about a week since. They sometimes steal oxen & horses and other things, but if they steal to much extent, the whites raise 30, or 40 men, go in pursuit kill all they can, recover the property & take what they can from the Indians.

The country is generally barren, producing little except trees, which are scattered all over the mountains. below the mountains there is no timber, or anything else except on the ranches, as the fertile spots on the rivers are called where grass grows luxuriantly.

The winter is delightful, so far, where we are located, but a little higher up, the mountains are covered with snow. I think every day how you are hemmed in with snow & the cold wind whistling through every crevice, while I can sit by the open door, & write or read without fire, and be warm & perhaps a little too warm. A little fire though is generally comfortable.

Oxen are generally worth about \$200, [] & cows from \$100, to \$150, dollars a apiece, milk at Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] is \$1, per g't. Almost all kinds of business is profitable.

The rainy season is not so unpleasant as I supposed. Sometimes it rains for 3 or 4 days so hard that we cannot work, & sometime will be wet for more than a week, raining more or less every day, then a spell of fair weather for a few days, or may be a few weeks. The nights are frosty in fair wether. The rainy season continues 3 months, & generally commences between the 20th Dec. & first Jan. This season it commenced the <first> second week in Nov. so I suppose the rainy season is pretty well along. Today is the 10, thursday & the third rainy day this week. I probably shall not make any more than \$20, this week, perhaps not that.

I have written a long letter for me. I dont know who there is to read it, but some of my friends are alive. I dont know which of them. I will put a few verses in to this <...> for [Abby]. I clipped them from a Newspaper I hope that I shall see my father & mother a gain, but I fear I shall not. Your affectionate husband

Daniel [*Daniel Grant*]

[Addressed to] <Mrs. Caroline Grant>
<Norfolk> Ct.
Dea. E. Grant [*Deacon Elijah Grant*]
Mill Brook [*Connecticut*]

California, Feb. 3d 1850.

Dearest Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I wish I knew whether you are alive or not. I shall continue to direct my letters to you till I know. I have another opportunity to send a letter to the states, & this time to Boston, the chance is so good that I cannot let it pass, for if this man is careful<|> to mail it at Boston or N.York [*New York*], it will most certainly reach you. Twice I supposed I had sent for letters when I had not, the first time I left my name with Mr. Mudd, I think from Ct. [*Connecticut*] but instead of bringing letters he went to his home in the states. Next I left my name with 3 or 400 others at a store in Hangtown, to be sent by express but in consequence of some little difficulty between the merchant, & express men, the merchant would not let the express have the names, I have sent

again & the man is expected back every day. If he does not bring letters for me I shall go myself pretty soon. It will cost me at least one hundred dollars to go to San Francisco [*San Francisco, California*], & back, my time too will be worth another hundred, but I want a letter I would give a hundred dollars tonight, to get a letter, if I could get none cheaper.

It costs a dollar & 60 cts. [*cents*] besides the postage to get letters from S. Francisco [*San Francisco, California*]. We have papers from N. Y. [*New York*] & Bos. [*Boston*] of Dec. 13, so that we get some news.

It seems that the rush still continues from the states to Cal. [*California*] I suppose it will as long as one man in ten thousand makes a strike, as we call it, when he takes out a number of thousands of dollars in a short time.

I have pretty good luck now and then, but most of the time I am doing but little. Week before last I got \$3, and about 60 cts, last week about \$30, & my prospects are better this week, I think, but can't tell, we may get \$30, or more in one day & next day not more than \$5,. Week before last it commenced snowing on monday, in the forenoon & snowed till wednesday night, then turned into rain & rained till Sat. night, but many who think they know something about it say that the rains are over, & I think that there is reason to think it is so, I never saw a more beautiful<|> sky, or more delightful weather, than was yesterday & day before. Today has been very pleasant, but the sky covered with thin clouds. It is clear again this evening I hardly know what to write, because I do not know how things are at home, & shall not write much in this letter. I know if I have any friends that they wish to hear from me, & I shall take every measure that falls in my reach to have them.

My health is generally pretty good, but I have a slight attack of scurvy, think I shall be able to check it, but dont know what it may do to me, My blood is very thin, & I am troubled some with the nose bleed. I am better than I was a few days since.

Rather a laughable occurrence took place when I first began to feel the effects of the scurvy. It <seen> seemed that I felt bugs crawling about me, & biting pretty sharp occasionally. I did not know what to make of it, or what to do, I could find nothing but felt them frequently, they troubled me very much. In two or three days after I began to feel the bugs, one morning I saw Mr. Young My first partner, pick something [o]f his wrist & throw it in the fire, & said he "big flea."

I knew he was a dirty fellow, that he wore his clothes a long time, & that he had worn a pair of flannel drawers, nearly 3 months & how much longer I did not know. That, with the "big flea" set me going. I boiled all my clothes, blankets &c. in water and ashes, & left the house for another place – got in near by with a man from Rhode Island who was living in a small cabing by himself his partner hav<e>ing gone to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*]. Got some mercurial ointment & used it pretty freely &c, &c.

At last I found some scurvy sores, & as I have seen no bugs – I conclude that it was scurvy instead of bugs, that was crawling over me.

Feb. 6

Dear Wife,

I have been made <about> happy today – I know you can guess how – this P. M. Mr. Hoffman the man I sent by for letters returned & bought 3 letters for me. I took them in my hand, and caught <anoter> one of my companions by the arm and <ran> asked him to pay the bill and ran for the bushes, but with my happiness there was a pang your hand writing I could not see on the outside. I fear I was never to see it again, I opened a letter the writing of which I could not recognize, I read a few lines & thought I could not get the news I wanted, & threw it down & opened another, there I found your own writing & learned that you were all comfortably well at home, though it is two months since the last letter was written, a load is removed. The other letter I looked at again and was satisfied it was for some body else whose name is Dan'l Grant & sent it back to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*]. The 3 letters only cost \$5.20 I can't write more now, you know I must have a little time to think of what I have heard, this is letter No. ?
Your husband

Daniel

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[*Addressed to*]

Caroline Grant

Newark, N. J. [*New Jersey*] Dec. 8,
1850

Dear Sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

You may be in doubt why I have so long delayed writing you. I will tell you. You did not say to whose care I ought to direct. I wrote to Joel to inform me, but I hear nothing – I presume however you will get my letter at length with only the ordinary address, so I will not wait longer.

And now first I must express my regret that you did not allow me to see you when you passed through Newark [*New Jersey*]. Could you not stop? Had I received your letter in season I could not have found it expedient to dismiss my school for such an interview as the mere stopping of the train would allow – which would only have been sufficient to remind us of what we would but could not say. However I did not get your letter from Hadley until nearly three hours after you were to pass. So it does not avail to say what might have been, but rather what ought to be under like circumstances again. Let me then say that I shall expect a different arrangement when you return. You must then stay several hours at least – see how your brother is located, and let him show you such hospitality as circumstances permit. Should your return be at such time as to allow it I will be your escort hence to New York. But more particularly of that in future.

And now as to that visit which you expect from me in Flemington [*New Jersey*]. Be assured you could not anticipate it with more pleasure than I, if I supposed it would be practicable. But I see not how it can be. I am not to have any vacation until spring except the week between Christmas and New Year's - in which I must go home – and shall not have a day too much. Were the conveyance so arranged that I could spend Thanksgiving with you I would plan to do so, but it is not. So you must not expect me for many weeks if at all. I know not how you came to suppose I entertained such a purpose. I indeed wrote to Mother that if you went to Flemington [*New Jersey*] I should of course see your meaning that I took it as a matter of course that you would not pass us by without allowing such privilege.

The California letters which you forwarded to me were duly received, read, and sent on their way. I am glad the brothers are together and hope they will be greatly blessed with health, success and prosperity of every kind. I fear however at the same time that they will not get rich very fast. We cannot do better than be hopeful however, and trust the result to an all wise Providence. I hope we shall have further intelligence by the mail soon to come in.

I am glad you are so favorably situated for the present in the family of your dear sister. May her faithful affection comfort and console your heart in its anxiety – and you enjoy the peaceful happiness of which you have formed an anticipation. I repeat that should it at any time while you are with your sister <it should> appear consistent with my engagements to visit you, I shall not neglect to do so. Please give her my best regards – I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with Mr. Hill but hope I may at some future time.

I am as prosperous as I can expect in my enterprize here. My school numbers 12 and all appears well and promising. Cannot but hope strongly for the future.

I live on bachelorizing, and see no reason to expect to do otherwise soon. But great and important changes cannot be made at once even if they are practicable. We must wait the developments of time.

Now, dear sister, don't send me any more half sheet apologies for letters but just betake yourself to letters, "as is" letters – Write soon – I shall be absent from Newark [*New Jersey*] during the holidays.

Your affectionate brother

Jno. Grant [*John Grant*]

P. S. Neither you nor any one else has said a word to me of the children. Are they or either of them with you? If so tell them of Uncle John – and kiss them for me. In haste.

Yours –

[*Addressed to*]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk

Connecticut

Marysville [California], Dec. 9, 1850.

My Dear Wife,

It is a long time since I wrote home, longer I think than it will be again. You may expect a letter every mail after this, or twice a month. I am now in Marysville [California] & have been for some time. As long as I remain here, or where I can get to the P. O. [Post Office] I shall send by every mail, & I would be glad to receive by every mail.

Have had no news from you since M. [Marcus Grant] arrived because I suppose, I have not sent for any or have sent but once & then the express did not return. I shall send to Sacramento city by the next mail, to have letters forwarded to Marysville [California], if the P. M. [Post Master] will regard my request I have no doubt I shall hear from you, but it is very uncertain whether he will, Post Master are either exceding careless here, or else exceeding indifferent.

I have been searching for a piece of land for M. [Marcus Grant] & myself & for cows that we could buy but both are very difficult to find or at least it is difficult to find land at the present time that suits in quality & location, six months ago I could have found it.

There is a place about two miles from here where I think to go & build a small cabin & if I can get a few cows, & keep there I will, & when M. [Marcus Grant] comes we will decide whether it is best for us to stay there, or not.

M. [Marcus Grant] is still on the Yuba river & I suppose doing pretty well, I have not heard of him since I left him, some six weeks since, suppose he has had no opportunity to send.

Marysville [California] is a flourishing place, & I think will continue to grow for a time yet, the city as it is called is regularly laid out the streets crossing at right angles. It is a very pretty location, & I think healthy there were two or three cases of chol[er]e[*y*] [cholera] when it was so bad at S. City [Sacramento City, California], but I can see no reason why it is not healthy.

The buildings are mostly made of cloth & almost every house is a store, tavern or some other kind of shop. A great deal of gambling is done every day, every tavern is furnished with cards & tables for the accommodation of visitors, & loafers many is the game played for a drink & even for money, the montebank [montebank] is the principal bank here, there being many of them, but Faro is common & Rolet, [Roulette?] Ronda & all other kinds of games are always to be found.

The stores are none of them furnished with stoves, but the weather is considered warm enough to throw the doors wide open & admit all the air.

There are but few women here of the right sort, but plenty of bad ones. It seems that bad women & gamblers are good associates.

Yesterday I attended church, meeting was held in the court house. The minister is a young man, & pretty smart enough for this country I suppose, he told us that he wanted us to contribute enough to enable him to live, said "the laborer is worthy of his hire," & "all he asked was enough to live," & I am sure it [will] not cost him but little more to [live?] here with the high prices, than it *is* does most of our ministers at home. You must not think that it is for want of talent that he will live cheap, it is the absence of false pride, & a sense of our wickedness in this country, & a desire to do us good, he is some like that man we liked so well in Wis. [Wisconsin], I have forgotten his name.

Do you think I thought of home while I was at church, ah! you know I am thinking of home nearly every moment, but the impressions were more vivid when there.

I thought to write a full letter this time & give you a good deal of information about myself & other things here but, I think I must cut it short & see if I cant do it next time.

The last letter I sent home contains ½ an oz. gold dust M. [Marcus Grant] wrote in the letter, he stated that I was going to packing, so I did, & succeeded in getting the load to the place, but on my return I lost both of my mules for which I paid \$165.00 I then gave up doing any more packing. Send your letters to Marysville pay no postage unless Joel continues to be postmaster I am pretty well. Your aff. [affectionate] husband
Daniel

<There is something of a revival here I hope you & Mary [Mary Burr Hill] will remember & pray for us all that we too may be blessed I went to meeting last Friday there was a very full

prayer meeting Halsey Stevens & Ralph Cressey and others have hopes think Erastus & nor Ralph haven't been awakened R. could not very well attend meetings, I believe it began among the Methodist

Mrs. Rebecca Sexton Canfield has a son 6 days old we had never though of the thing till Mrs. Welch told of it yesterday Elmore Canfield's wife has one 3 weeks old we heard for the first time today There was a man killed yesterday in Capt. Duvals shop by the burtsing of a grind stone

P. Burr [*Pamela*

Burr]

Jan 25>

[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Marysville [*California*], Jan. 1,

1851

My Dear Dear Wife

If we were differantly situated I might wish you a happy new year, & of course I do, but in our present condition, if you have any enjoyments, they are lessened, by our being so far from one another, yet may you have a happy year, & pleasant times in your far off home.

I do not look for enjoyment while I remain in this Country, but <yet> I must stay sometime yet. This year I may wish may be more happy than last, but I see no reason why it will. If I can get some gold & start for home I shall then be a happy man, for a time I know. Marcus has been more lucky than I have since he came I suppose, he had a last accounts. I had a letter from him 10 days since, but it had been a whole month coming, he had then done very well, & wished me to come to him I could not then leave, but shall start tomorrow, he & another young man are together, some distance from my neighbors, & I don't feel quite easy about them. If I find them doing well shall stay with them but if they are doing nothing we shall probably leave that place, & seek employment elsewhere.

I have found no place to suit for a farm nor shall I be able in this section. Cows & milk are falling in value, I have not bought any.

Wm. Elder, passed through this place on his way home about a month since I saw Wm. Graves as I was walking through the streets, he recognized me & hailed me & told me that Elder had started for home, in a small boat to go down the river. I went to the landing & found the boat had not yet started, saw him got some news from home, & I learned that John Howel was at or near Weaverville, & had made by tra<i>ding 30 or \$40000,00 G. C. Cone had gone home with about \$1500, Eliott & Woodworth were in the mines & had a good claim. He gave me to understand that he had made by tra<i>ding about \$8000,00 but Graves said he had not made \$1000,00 Graves said that he himself had made nothing, but I think he had, two or three hundred dollars, he is keeping a small ranch about 20 miles from here, says he is going home in the spring.

I have been reading some of your old letters presume you can judge better than I can tell you how they make me feel. You inquire if I suffer with headache? I was never so free from it as since I have been here.

Whenever I have paid for a newspapers it has been with others, but never have bought but two or three.

It does me good to think you enjoy many comforts, you say that last winter you did not suffer with cold feet in bed, how bad it is that next winter must come, before <you> I can know but what you do this winter.

I sent to S. City [*Sacramento City, California*] for letters but got but one, from Joel to Marcus containing but little news. He stated that his success in geting letters to me was so poor, that he should not be very particular. Now I presume you do not wonder that I was careless when I did not know as I could get a letter to you. I believe that we receive the letters that contain no news, but none that <do> are filled, I wish I could be situated so as to at least hear from home. This letter to M. [*Marcus Grant*] was mailed Sep. 9.

The weather is very dry for the wet season, there has been but five rainy days & then but little water fell. I have been told that the Indians prophesy a dry winter, & thus far the prediction is true.

You will find enclosed a draft for a little money, made payable to the order of brother John, one half is for you, & one half for John I sent it to you, because I do not know whether he is yet in N. H. [*New Hampshire*] & if not, it might be more likely to get lost. You will notice that this is number first. I shall send in a month number second, I think to Joel at Avon [*Connecticut*] if he is not there it would not be likely to be lost as at N. H. [*New Hampshire*] No. third I shall keep till I hear whether you have received no. first or no. second. I want you to use your part of the money as you please but pay sister Mary what I owe her if you can, the rest use yourself. I hope to be able to send more soon, but you know that it is hope alone that sustains me so dont be disappointed. I am pretty certain that nothing but ill health will prevent my getting something this <winter> year.

I should like to hear something about our affairs in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] but if you should write ever so much I might not get it. Mr. Hubbard did not take the land in Waukesha only till next spring, if you can make any arrangements for a longer time perhaps you had better. I fear I have said more about home in this letter than I ought. You must not think but what I am happy I have a good many comforts Much love to all health good Your aff. [*affectionate*] husband

D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

[*Addressed to*]

Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Newark [*New Jersey*], <Jan.>

Feb. 1, 1851.

My Dear Sister,

Your letters of Jan. 15 and 29 were both duly received. The latter (i.e. Daniel's letter) I forwarded to Joel by last evening's mail. Accept my thanks for both these favors. I ought to have answered the first ere this time, but not feeling the obligation specially urgent I have delayed.

I rejoice with you in finding the intelligence from our kindred in California, so generally good. It is so comforting to know that they have health, if they may not gather gold as we had hoped they would. I cannot but regret that the brothers should have separated, for how precious must be a brother's kind presence, in such a land of strangers.

I was at Joel's when the last preceeding letter came. Did not know but Joel informed you when he wrote you sending the sheets from California.

I spent [five?] days at and about home. The weather was very cold. I only went to Norfolk village [*Connecticut*] once – spent only two or three hours there. Father and Mother were very well then. But you have heard from them since I have. I have no tidings direct from them. The rest too [seem?] well as usual. Cousin Margaret is feeble, but better.

Uncle Luther as usual. Joel, and wife and son very well. I did not take my Christmas dinner there – but left here Christmas morn – reached New Haven about noon – and Avon next day P. M.

Your Abbie seemed very good indeed – especially after the first timidity passed away. Mother indulges her a good deal, but perhaps none too much. Aunt [N]elleton's family were at Father's during their absence. By a letter from Avon of about a week ago, I learn that father and mother will get home this week – and their there now probably.

I am glad you are so happy in your present circumstances. While we cannot but be anxious for dear ones far away we can hope and must, and meanwhile ought to use and enjoy the blessings and comforts with which a kind Providence richly favors us. I am glad you find so much that is congenial in the family of Mr. Hill. You cannot fail to find an enjoyment in your sister's [*Mary Burr Hill*] society which you would nowhere else.

Of myself, I have nothing of importance to say that is new. I am not now boarding at the Hotel as before but in a private family – find it in the whole quite as pleasant – and it is somewhat less expensive. My school still continues the same numerically and I enjoy it as before.

Joel wrote me that he found some religious interest among his people which encourages him. I heard something of the revival in Norfolk when there. I hope to hear still more.

Mr. Backus writes me that he spent a good part of his College vacation at Dea. Woodward's. I judge from the visits he made with [Martha], <...> that she is quite received – He speaks of his vacation as very happy. Much love to little Edward from Uncle John. A kind remembrance to your sister and her husband. Write soon again –

Your affectionate brother

Jno. Grant [*John Grant*]

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Newark [*New Jersey*], Sat. morn. March
15, 1851

Dear Sister Caroline,

The enclosed letter from California I received from Avon [*Connecticut*] last eve. I have this moment sent the draft to New York to get it accepted. It is not payable till eight days have elapsed. You have I suppose been informed of the facts of the case in general already. Joel suggests that this money be so placed that the brothers can make it available in case of urgent necessity. It appears to me that if we have special occasion to use it, we may as well do so – if not that we had better invest or employ it in the best way we can. I await your directions respecting the past sent to you. I am glad they were able to send something and hope they will be more prosperous in future.

I duly received yours of the 20th ult. informing of your plans to return to Conn. [*Connecticut*] I suppose you again passed directly by me. Yet I could not see you. Had there been time and had you not represented your plans as definitely fixed I should have made an effort to change them a little.

I shall not send this till I hear from N.Y. [*New York*] But if all is right – I will not add more. You may judge thereby. Yours aff. [*affectionately*]

Jno. Grant. [*John Grant*]

[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Newark [*New Jersey*], Sept. 8, 1851

Dear Sister Caroline,

I today have opened my school according to arrangements. I thought it best not to wait till the middle of the month. My numbers of pupils today is only nine – it probably will be increased soon, though I know not how much.

Joel wrote you of the remittance from California by Bill of Exchange which was duly accepted and having matured on Sat. last I procured a Draft in your favor for \$119 which you will find enclosed. Any body who has any money dealings will give you money in full for it. The second of the set of Exchange came first to hand so I used that, though the first was waiting me in this place. I will send you the first which is not of any value now - you may feel a curiosity to see it. You may do what you please with it.

Marcus wrote me but nothing beyond what he sent <you> Joel. His letter was in the main a transcript of what he wrote him.

I am glad they have been able to send again this amount. It proves that they are doing something. I shall be able to effect an arrangement by which the money sent you may be deposited for this purpose of bringing Daniel home in case of need, if you wish. Joel advised it and I do not know but it is expedient – cannot tell.

I am not fully refreshed by my vacation so as to be anxious to take hold again, but feel pretty well.

Teaching is hard work as you very well know. I hope to have at least 14 pupils but can live with less, if necessar.

On Thursday eve last attended the wedding of a classmate who has been engaged to the lady he married, six years and more. He takes her this month to San Francisco, where he has been a Commission merchant three years. His name is Bacon – the bride <Cor?> Cornelia Thomson of New Haven. We had a pleasant evening. I did not fall in love with any of the ladies I believe. The wrath is very hot. Love to Eddie, with a kiss in my name. Your affectionate brother.

Jno. [John Grant] Grant.

[Addressed to] Caroline Grant [Caroline Burr Grant]
Newark [New Jersey] Jan. 12, 1852.

Dear Sister Caroline,

I took from the P. O. [Post Office] this morning a letter from Joel enclosing the accompanying sheet from California. He does not state when he received it, but I believe it must have come in the same steamer with that from Daniel of which I have written you.

I am sorry to find the intelligence from Daniel and Marcus no more favorable. I don't know what to think of this prospect – or whether they ought to stay or come home. They seem to think favorably of trying still longer. I fear it will be of no avail.

Nothing has occurred worthy of record since I wrote last week. I remain as when I saw you in regard to hopes and prospects. Have no prospects matrimonially, as you will therein [infer?].

We have still snow enough for sleighing I have not however enjoyed any rides myself. The weather has been mostly cold. Snow has fallen more or less almost every day for a week. I presume you have a great deal of it.

Joel suggests that I set about arranging for Marcus to come home if he will. Probably I had better do so. I have small means to employ for that purpose for I have up to the present time expended my income in paying debts of long standing. I hope however now to be able to employ what I can save for some other purpose. Perhaps it ought to be for that. I am disappointed in his want of success.

Let me hear from you. Give my assurances of regard to your parents and brothers – not forgetting to kiss little Eddie for me too.

Please tell me what arrangements have been made for Daniel's return if he sees best – to avail himself of them, & how they were effected.

Your aff. [affectionately] brother Jno. [John Grant] Grant

[Addressed to] Caroline Grant [Caroline Burr Grant]
Marysville [California] May 23 1852

My Dear Wife

Your letter of April third together with others I took from the office yesterday

I sent a line to S. Fransisco [San Francisco, California] for Ralph [Ralph E. Burr] expecting he would leave N. York [New York] the 10 Apr. but as his journey is delayed that line may be lost & I will write again I am anxious to see him but shall not direct him to come into this quarter he must take his own course though as I wrote in my last I shall if I have an opportunity give him all the information in my power

I have not <seen> conversed with a man who has arrived here within two months past but says Cal. [California] falls much short of their expectations & without exception they wish they had not left home yet it may not be so with Ralph [Ralph E. Burr] I think it is well that he has made the undertaking

The labor of the miners is harder than farming I do not labor as many days as I did in the Wis. [Wisconsin] <but the labor is harder> Yet I labor harder than I ever intend to again after I return

You inquire about a claim I mentioned I don't recollect about it but suppose it must be the same that I have mentioned several times a share that I work for a share of itself I own the share but it was conveyed to me as security through the transfer is a bonafide sale The owner of the share was all the time drunken & I took a transfer of the share to secure myself from the danger of trouble he might be the means of causing me & also to put it out of his power to dispose of it in a fit of intoxication

You write as though you thought we have conveniences as you do at home but it is not quite so with miners

We can't always do our cooking as we would or have the conveniences that we would if we were stationary a miner very seldom can form even an opinion how long he will be able to stay where he is therefore he is obliged to do with as little as possible for the expence of moving is very great

The bell is now ringing for church I shall attend today though I do so very seldom I[f] makes me so homesick I can not endure it

I sometimes do washing & mending on the sabbath It is necessary <man> I see no way to avoid it I do not think it wrong under the circumstances I[f] is true many almost all the miners make their calculations to do such things on that day but I try to avoid it. Your affectionate husband

Daniel Grant

[Addressed to] Caroline Grant [Caroline Burr Grant]

Oneida Bar opposite Bartons Bar [California]

Sept. 6 – 52

Dear Wife,

I have taken my pen to commence a letter to you, but my hand trembles so that it is difficult to write. You will not wonder, that my <near> nerves are affected, when I tell you that I have just begun to get my strength, after a relapse of my former sickness, of which I made mention in my last, and of the sweeping pestilence, that threatens to depopulated our bars, viz. the cholera.

Nigh before last, (saturday night) six men died with Cholera on the other side of the river, & yesterday five more were added to the number, last night & to day has swelled the number but I know not how much, <two> two of our neighbors breathed their last on this side the river last night, & another is at this moment almost gone.

Great numbers have fled, I say great numbers, I mean proportionably, the whole population on both sides the river, I presume <will> would not exceed 200, when the disease broke out. Now there are not enough, to take care of the sick, <or> and bury the dead.

We hope the plague is stayed. The only question now is are there any new cases? we don't stop to count the dead.

Not a case has been cured.

It is now six o'clock, about three hours since I wrote the foregoing. I fell better than I did then, my hand is a little more steady.

There are no new cases of Cholera that I hear of. Not a man that feels well, & about half the men on both sides of the river are quite unwell. All that have shown symptoms of the dread disease have slept their last sleep.

I hope we may all rest tonight.

Oh! that I may never witness another such a scene.

To go from house to house & prepare bodies for the grave, some of which had been lain for six or eight hours, was almost too much for me in my weak state, but I have been thus far sustained.

Marcus [Marcus Grant] is with me, which is a great comfort. He has been here one week Tuesday morn. nine o'clock. No new cases that I have heard of.

There has been some change in the weather which is favorable. How delicious a little rain would be, yet rain enough to raise the streams would do an immense amount of damage to miners.

There has been no warmer weather this summer than there is every summer, but if I have not strangely forgotten there has been a great deal more of it.

Almost every day for nearly three months, the thermometer has been more than 100 above zero. The highest I have known is 115 in the shade. It sometimes is 120 and more, but this season the weath- has been more uniform than usual.

It has been very unhealthy as far as I know. Nearly the whole population in the low country, either have been or are sick.

Half past six. Two new cases of chol,- are reported but not severe. Oneida & Barton's Bar [*California*] look very desolate. The sick & ailing are generally getting better.

Business which was entirely suspended has been commenced by a very few men today. It must be sometime before the number of men that have left will be replaced. I fear it will be a great hindrance to our getting in to the river. Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] has been to work to-day.

Wednesday morn. The cases of cholera reported yesterday were slight, & I have heard this morn, that they are convalescent.

Everything is quiet now, the stillness of the tomb appears in this usually bustling place.

The air is more bracing than it has been formerly. I have no doubt that many of us owe our lives, to the change in the weather.

I heard this morning that there has been some rain in the mountains, which confirms my opinion of the cause, of the change in the atmosphere.

I have not heard from Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] since he was here, & wrote a letter to Erastus.

Letters from home are becoming almost as scarce as showers, in this now parched country.

After you receive this you may direct all your letters to Parks Bar, Yuba Co. besure to write Yuba Co. Cal,

I think all is not right at Marysvill P.O. [*Post Office*] Let Marcu's' [*Marcus Grant*] letters be sent to the same place. It may not be long before we shall give other directions, but until we do direct as above.

Our prospects are discouraging again this year. They were some what flattering before this plague broke out. A few days may improve appearances, but at all events there is, & will be a [delay?].

Do write often.

Your affectionate husband

Daniel Grant

P. S. Thursday morn. Sept. 9. one of the cases of cholera reported yesterday as convalescent has proven fatal, the other is still better.

Another case reported last night has proven fatal, & still another has been attacked this morning.

Sept. 27 My Dear Wife

I wrote the above for the last mail but as we were so unsettled at that time & as the letter would have a tendency to create unnecessary fears I did not send it.

There have been several cases of cholera the opposite side of this river since writing before but it has not been very prevalent in this neighbor At [*Bevre's*] Bar a mile above here for some days past it has been severe but is growing less At Marysville & some other places it is pretty bad but does not cause the fears it did at first.

Hamilton [*California*], Dec. 23, 1853

My Dear Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

Sometime since I wrote to you, but did not answer all your letter, & I have put off till now partly for want of time, & partly or more particularly because I wrote to Mother a letter that did not go till the last mail.

I have been writing letters all this week what time I could get evenings, & have another weeks writing on hand. You must know that with my days work out, and my washing, mending, cooking &c. with in, that I can get but little time for other duties, but the nigts are so long now that I can spend an hour or two if I am pretty saving of what time I have.

I have no news to write. Know nothing of either Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] or Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*]. Have <he> not heard from either of them for months nor don't know there to direct a letter so that M. [*Marcus Grant*] can find it.

I live entirely alone & sometimes don't see anyone within speaking distance for several days. I sometimes get very lonesome, but generally enjoy myself as well I think, as though I had company.

Dec. 24. Christmas eve; are you doing anything to celebrate this anniversary? I think not. It seems that I can nearly imagine how you are sitting round the fire with your books if you are well perhaps studyin a lesson for tomorrow & that you scarcely think of christmas. I have celebrated christmas to day, no doubt you would be pleased to know how & why I choose the day before so I will tell you all about it.

A few days ago I caught a fat squirell, last night I boiled it & this morning had a fine soup for breakfast, <&> that, I thought as christmas was so near I would call my Christmas dinner, & as there was enough left for supper I would celebrate the evening with a soup for supper. I chose the day before because I had my squirrel cooked & knew it would be as good now as ever.

But O! how the snow is piled up around you, & how the wind boo-oo-ooz through the cracks & crevices.

There is plenty of Snow in sight here, but it is a long way off, on the high mts. It is to be seen to the east on the Sierra Nevada, & to the west on the coast mts. The nights are cold, almost every morn, the ground is white with frost & two or three times the ground has frozen a little, <on the> on the surface, perhaps half an inch deep. I think I feel the cold almost as keenly here as I should if I was on the Green Mts. of New England.

In <reference> refering to your letter I see you think it very strange that I don't work for wages. Because R. [*Ralph E. Burr*] & some others do so, & send home money, you think I am very much to blame because I don't. It seems to me that I have said enough on this subject before, but as I have not I will try to explain again.

I have been trying to get a situation Similar to R's [*Ralph E. Burr*] ever since I have been in Cal. & concequently know more about such matters than you or R. [*Ralph E. Burr*] either. R. [*Ralph E. Burr*] obtained his place soon after he came here, & has been in the same place ever since & is not aware that there are at least four applicants for <all> such places to one wanted. There are more men in Cal. [*California*] that don't like work than in any other place I know of in proportion to the number. Probably if I had been more resolute, & tryed hard enough, I should have been more successful, but I have seen fit if I could not get employment at what I thought would suit me, to try something else, & not lie around till people would employ me just to get what I was in debt to them or because I was in debt to them. Many take that course & don't pay their debts after all. You can't help but know that the same star don't guide Ralph's [*Ralph E. Burr*] fortune & mine. This I have said before & it is unnecessary to repeat it.

There are some necessary qualifications, to be successful in getting such employment, & R. [*Ralph E. Burr*] has these qualifications most admirably combined. If a man is not young & handsome or black, boarding house keepers in particular will hire some one who is in debt to them before they will him. The qualifcations are activity combined with youth & beauty, or a black skin.

I have several times been told that I was "not black enough," which is considered a polite way of saying, you are not handsome enough, or not young enough or both. but enough of this I must take some other subject.

All that has been expended in the N.Y. Co. [*New York claim?*] is considered of but little value. The claim is though[t] to be as good, but it is property that is not immediately available, & people do not consider such property worth having in this country. Shares will sell now for about \$100, dollars. They have sold as high as \$1000,

The Co. did not work last <year> season, & I fear they they won't next, if there is reason to feel sure of accomplishing anything we shall work, but if not we shall not go to any expense.

A man who is saving of his money would make money faster at home, working for 20 dollars per month, than here at \$40, this you must remember when you think of high prices of labor. I saw not long since in an eastern paper hay quoted at \$60, per ton in Cal. Where hay is worth \$60, the actual expence of taking it to market, exclusive of time & team is not less than \$20, & often twice that amount.

I would write more but I have not time I have a letter to copy & they must go to the office tomorrow or be to late for the mail.

Give my respects to father mother Erastus & wife, &c,

Yours in sincerity,
Daniel Grant

Hamilton [*California*] May 20/ 54

Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I received your letter dated at Flemington [*New Jersey*] March 17 two weeks since & thank you much for it. It is the only one received since Christmas mailed Nov. 4 but it cannot be all you have written I have not written directly to you since I can't tell when but I think in answer to your Nov. letter at any rate about that time principally because you wrote that you were intending a visit to F. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] & I was not sure where to direct.

Thank you exceedingly for the kind tone of your letters & for the greatness of soul you exhibit in our separation. I have been gone long from you, altogether too long but it seems that you take about the same view of the propriety of my staying <of . . . > that I do. I could make something here if I could be permitted but the continued series of bad luck that has marked my course hitherto it seems is enough to discourage <stoughter> stouter hearts than mine. But yet I cannot entirely give up though at times I think I will.

For some months my luck has not been particular discouraging & perhaps that is the reason I am not completely discouraged yet, though there are some spots that look bright there is a dark cloud hanging off yonder of which I am continually in some fear. The cloud seems to be growing somewhat less angry but it is not altogether certain but it may yet gether new fury & burst fourth with violence. The law suit I so much feared a few months ago I fear no longer.

In my last letter to you I made a remark that you might not take as I meant that is a man can save more to work at home at \$20, per month than to come here to work for \$40, I would be understood to include the time & money spent coming & returning & we will set the term at five years.

It does me good to have you write so particularly about the children. I have for a long time been intending to write to Abby but you know I have no small talk for children & it has been more than I have done to get time to write all I wish of more importance.

You will learn before the receipt of this that I am in the dairy busi at present making butter but soon expect to make cheese. Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] is with me we have 12 cows If <you> we were a little more advanced with our farm we would have 20. I[t] is a very pretty business I like it & shall probably make it my business while I stay here Shall come home as soon as I <co . . . > can sell this place whether it is soon or not at least I think so now.

Is there any work published upon butter & cheese making? if there is & you can possibly get it I wish you would send it to me by mail I can beat anybody making butter but I can't say so of cheese.

I feel quite slighted that Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] did not call on me before going [below] I have received <one of> no letters from him for so long a time that if there was nothing else to keep him in remembrance I should have forgotten him long ago. I will write to him soon.

M. [*Marcus Grant*] is going to write some & I must give him a little room. How I long to be with you.

Your affectionate husband
Daniel Grant

May 21, '54

Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

As Daniel has left a few lines I will try to fill them. I received a few lines from you, written nearly a year ago about six weeks ago & I feel very much obliged to you for the few lines you wrote stating that the grape vine was alive and various common place things that our people at home never think about except John and he is in a part of the country that I know nothing about and is not able to write of things about home much.

I expect if things do not take such a turn as to show very plainly that I should stay longer to return home this fall

Marcus Grant

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Connecticut

[*Postmarked*] Marysville Cal. [*California*]
Sep. 15

Hamilton [*California*] Sep. 11 1854

My Dear Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I have no excuse for not writing to you by the last mail. I will do my best towards making it up now, though it cannot be fully made up.

I received your letter of July 2nd some time since, & it is only negligence that I have not answered it.

Your letter & one from John are all from home for a long time. I have nothing of interest to write but will answer some of your questions.

By the way why is it <you> Joel or someone don't write something about the Milwaukee [*Wisconsin*] place. You stated that you thought it sold, but that is all I hear Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] has attended to the cows for a few weeks past, but will probably leave me tomorrow. I shall soon give them up, for they are nearly dry. We have had all we could do to attend to the cows, & fix up the house, & farm, so as to make things convenient for the dairy.

Prices of farmers produce is low now in this country & I think we have done about as well as any & even better for the capital invested. We have made but little, very little, but yet we have made a little.

We are selling butter at 15 cts. per lb, & cheese at 30 cts., We have sole butter at 40 cts. but not much. We dont have very good luck making cheese, but no body can beat us in butter.

I was just in time taking up land to meet the low prices, just as I expected, I should have taken land sooner but every year I thought prices would be down, till I ascertained that farmers produce could not be imported so as to make it cheap, & I thought it would be a few years before Cal. [*California*] could supply itself, but Cal. [*California*] is not only to supply itself, but is to have a large suppluss & no foreigh market. <as /> I am not disappointed at the result, <> It is the most natural thing in existance, that I should be just in time to make nothing, but rather strange that I have not about a thousand dollars to <lose> lose in the concern. Well I have one hope yet, though faint, that is my river claim. We expect to work next season, & if there is anything there take it out, so you will not look for me home for more than a year yet.

My place is still valuable for something. I think it will fetch a \$1000,00 but dont know, I know that it is well worth twice that sum, as land has been selling, but dont know what it will fetch now.

I have not raised my crops at all. Cut about 6 tons hay, took one [load?] to the Mts. & exchanged it for lu[. . .] I have neighbors in sight.

Don't live in fear of being killed, can't tell whether my complexion has changed much or not, but suppose I look pretty old.

My beard is not quite five inches long, think I shall trim it before long.

Have my hair cut occasionally. Think it is not turning <gray>grey.

I don't keep my <teath>teeth in any order.

Carter & wife are still in the neighborhood believe Carter is troubled with the <feaver> fever some this fall. Believe Julia is well. Don't see them often.

Wrote to R. [Ralph E. Burr] day before yesterday. had a letter from him a few days ago well I believe

[written up the side of the front page] The 15 of Sept. is at hand I shall commence reading the first chapter of Romans at that time. You will if you have received my letter If you do not commence count<ing> the chapters & days that you are behind. Thus you will know where I am reading continue through the New Testament.

[written up the side of the last page] think some of mining a little this winter

Thine entirely,
Daniel Grant

Hamilton [California] Sep 24, 1854

My Dear Friends

I cannot on the present occasion write to you as I wish, for various reasons, but partly for want of time.

You can bring every means of consolation before yourselves, that it is in my power to bring before you, relating to the melancholy accident, that has led us to mourn. Long before this reaches you, you will learn the sad intelligence, but how long after the occurrence before you can know. You may even now be writing for the next mail, to one who is in his grave. I have received a letter from him & written one to him, since he died. How I often tremble when I write home with the thought that time enough has passed since I have heard, for more than one of those to whom I am writing to be laid in the tomb. Last Tuesday just as the sun was setting I took from the office a letter with the sup<p>erscription in an unknown hand. I did not open it till I reached home when I learned of what seems to us the untimely death of brother Ralph [Ralph E. Burr]. It is hard for us to at all times reconcile ourselves to the ways of Providence. How can we see any wisdom in taking away a promising young man from us. Here is a mystery.

Dear Mother,

Do you feel that you cannot reconcile yourself to the calamity that has befallen you or do you take a better view of the case & think it is as the Lord would have it that your children have been spared to you for a long time & now the Lord wants your youngest perhaps to make him more happy & perhaps for more weighty reasons. We can often reason better for others than for ourselves for our feelings often get the better of our reasoning faculties & lead us astray.

Try not to let it be so in your case I would be very glad to comfort you in this trial but you can do it better yourself.

Dear Father [Ebenezer Burr]

How is it with you? Do you feel that a pillar is gone that was one of your principal supports? It is even so but it was found to be a support that was necessary to be removed or was not needed in the place where it stood.

It seems to me that it will be hard for you to reconcile yourself to the removal but you will succeed.

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

What shall I say to you Our brother is gone a journey from which he will not return We shall go to him we know not how soon but we shall never see his smiling face again on earth.

How I want to be with you now. Rs. [*Ralph E. Burr*] letter showed that he felt cheerfull when he wrote it. He spoke of going home I mentioned to him that M. [*Marcus Grant*] thought of going home in the fall. He says "So Marcus is going home lucky hombra (umbra) "lets all go, what do you say to it."

Mr. Pendleton did not mention any remarks of his during his last hours, perhaps he did not make any. I have anticipated great pleasure in the hope of meeting him this fall but it was not to be.

Mr. Pendleton wrote that he would settle the business & send the money <to> home. perhaps that is the best way

Sept. 25 I fell asleep last night writing & was obliged to go to bed before I had done

The letter must go in a few minutes & I must close.

We have good health,

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Grant

[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Hamilton [*California*], Apr. 14, '55

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

It is some time since I received the letter containing the news of your fathers [*Ebenezer Burr*] death. I have no excuse for permitting so long a time to pass without writing & I believe It is not best for me to make any calculations about writing often. I wish I was with you to comfort you in your afflictions, but it is not to be you know the true source of comfort. If the Lord spares us a few months longer we shall meet again on earth.

You wish me to come soon as my interests will not be sacrificed here. I will just mention that that time will never come, my worldly interest will be sacrificed when I leave this country, & are now impaired by the fact that this is not my home.

For the first time in my life there is an opportunity now open for me to provide, not only the necessaries of life, but many of its comforts, yet I suppose that I should not be permitted this chance if It was my home, & I was so situated as to make it available.

I do not mention this to disharten you but thoug I know it is foolish for me to feel so I am not quite willing you should think I can leave here without a sacrifice when it is not so.

It is not to late yet for matters to take a different turn from what present appearances indicate but it will not be my fault if they do

I have laid your last letter where I can't find it & don't know as I shall answer it as thoroughly as you wish. I think your fathers will is wise <It is not the> I do not desire to be enriched by the property of my deceased relatives but our friends must die & their property must pass into other hands & it is propper that it should fall to the legitamate heirs & that they should lookout for it the same as though they had bought it with their own money therefore I must take an interest in such things when it falls to my lot to do so

I have nothing of importance to write and should not have written but for the fact that a long time has passed since I wrote.

I saw J. Allen a few days since he is troubled with the ague some. He told me that Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] was also troubled in the same way I told J. that I should like to have him

try to persuade M. [Marcus Grant] to go home this spring it will not do for me to meddle with the matter for if I should he will be sure not to go

I will try & give some historical facts relating to Cal. [California] to have some thing to write from time to time & first I will hit upon the aboriginals or natives of this country Of their origine history has been deficient but there is reason to suppose that the natives of China and the Pacific Islands carried on a commerce with this continent some 800 years ago & the complexions of the natives is strong proof that they are decendants of those eastern countries or we might here say with more propriety western countries

How their knowledge was lost or how their commerce was allowed to cease must be a matter of speculation

It seems that not more than 25 years ago the indians were pretty numerous in this valley. <The> The old sites of indian vilages here shows to some extent that such was the case I saw a statement in a M.ille [Maryville, California] paper in 1851 purporting to come from an old Californian He said he traveled through this country from the south part to Oregon in the summer of -4[2?] & returned in -43 When he went up the valley was thickly populated with indians but there was very high water that winter wh. [which] caused it to be very unhealthy the following season & great very great numbers died so that when he returned the valey was almost depopulated & dead bodies lay st[. .]d over the surface of the ground The account I thought was not to be credited & it was but about a year ago that I succeeded in getting any clue to the matter. At last I learnt that at that time or rather 10 years before for it was in -33 instead of -43 the Columbia fur company were trapping here & the indians being troublesome they inoculated two or three with the smallpox & it came near exterminating the whole race but they are fast dwindling away now & the same ratio followed back for 25 years would find a pretty large population

Yours entirely
Daniel Grant

[some very faint writing in another hand vertically at the top of the page: Dear Mother, I recd these Sat. last and feel so much relieved. All well here. If Abbie has a first reader & does not need it will you pleas send it.]

Hamilton [California], May 2nd, 1855

My Dear Carrie [Caroline Burr Grant],

I have done wrong very wrong, I do not deserve forgivness. You see by this that more than two weeks hav passed since I wrote the other sheet, but I have suffered a mail to go without it & it was then a long time since I had written.

I am sorry but that does not remedy the evil. I can give no other reason for such conduct that the U.S. surveyors have just passed through our neighborhood surveying. As was of course expected it caused a gooddeal of excitement, & the excitement must be my only excuse. I did not forget, but by some unaccountable cause I neglected to send the letter.

I cannot now give you any deffinite, or at any certain knowledge about my [preemption?] but shall doubtless be able the next mail or the first of June. Things are favorable. My health pretty good.

There is certainly a difference in my luck from formerly. It is strange that anything beyond my control should shape itself to my advantage, but I will not crow to soon, it may yet be dashed from me, still I am thankfull for present appearances.

Somebody says "never say die" "never dispair" but is a man to endure forever especially when every effort is a perfect failure & only sinks him deeper in the gulf of misery <an> Occasional success will enspire hope & if this my last effort in Cal. [California] is destined to prove successfull I shall have some reason to hope on but if it fail but it will not fail I will not give up.

"When ruin hangs grim o'er our passion tossed bark,
And the future approaches all cheerless & dark,
Or the past is o'ershadowed by errors & crimes,
Resolve still to conquer & hope better times"

This verse does not all apply to me for just at present the future is not as dark as frequently it is or as it is generally even nor am I aware of any crime that that o'ershadows my path however many errors I may have committed except my neglect to write home which has indeed amounted to a crime.

"When vices allure us or evils assail,
And good resolutions repeatedly fail,
<Resolutions repe> Resolve still to conquer & nobly declare
Independence of spirit, & "never despair".

This verse is very good & applicable to anyone. You wrote me once that brother Ralph [Ralph E. Burr] thought me persevereing. I thought then he was not as well acquainted with me as he would be some time. but alas! he was, unless his spirit is making acquaintance without my knowledge but I never thought I was very persevereing yet I now think he had more reason to think so than I thought he had then. But adieu.

Thine, Dear Wife,
Daniel Grant

[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Connecticut

Bartons Bar [California] July 7th 1855

My Dear Carry [Caroline Burr Grant]

You will see by this date that I am again at the awful New York claim
I expect this seasons operations will seal my doom. I shall either be stripped of what I have or add a little to it

The chances for selling are so poor that I had rather run the risk of <loos>loseing expences & what the share will fetch than sell as by <runing> running the risk I stand certainly as good a chance to make as to lose

I have to charge myself with blame again for not writing I dont know as it will ever be any different I have no news to communicate nor am I very well able to write though I am not sick You will therefore excuse a short letter

Marcus [Marcus Grant] was here yesterday He is pretty well makes a little in his claim has not heard from home for a long time. He brought me a letter from Joel the first for a very long time I had a letter from mother about a month ago Yours the last date of which was May 3 came by the same mail

James Allen is about 50 miles from me don't know of his situation or prospects

I don't know hardly what I can say more of my health than you know I am able to work considerable but not as much as I wish I am generally able to wait upon myself & very seldom without help when I cannot

I cannot yet enter my land nor don't know when <it> I shall be able to do it

I want you to send me a power of attorney to sign a deed not one deed or any particular <deed> one but any deed that I may wish to convey in this country

A purchaser will be better satisfied than without your name

I have secured a valuable quarter section but some of my neighbors are dissatisfied & "the d-m-d yankee" is very much their way

There is a prospect that by the end of this month we shall know something <deffinight> definite respecting our claim in the river

We are now working on the dam.

I shall doubtless come home next spring but life is uncertain.

I am growing more anxious the longer I stay I hope to hear from you as often as once a month

Kiss the children for me

Give my love to mother I intend to write to my mother before long

I don't much expect I can ever endure a N. England climate again but perhaps I can

Before I received your letter stating that you commenced reading at Mat. [*Matthew*] I had written to have you commence again at Romans & thinking you w[oul]d probably do so I commenced at Romans & the chap. for today is the eighth of Rev. As we shall soon be through again we will if you please commence the New testament next time

As Rev has 22 chap. the 21 day of the month will finish it therefore on the 22 inst. I will com. with the first of Mat. When you receive this if you are not reading with me you can find the place & we will read together

Ever my dearest
Your aff [*affectionate*] husband
Daniel Grant

P.S. I feel better than when I commenced writing

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. C. Grant
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

San Francisco, Cal. [*California*] March 3d, 1856.

My Dear Beloved Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I had no intintion yesterday morn of trying to describe a day in S. Francisco [*San Francisco, California*], but as there are some incidents which interested me, I think they may not be altogether uninteresting to you, & to begin with the morn. I will try.

I arose about my usual time (six oclock) & after my mornings shower bath, attempted for the first time since I left home to dress myself like a civilised man.

I had the day before purchased a few articles of clothing & with other things some white shirts & a black silk cravat, the first in this Country

It was quite an undertaking for me to don a white shirt "with a standing collar" & it was after seven before I was ready for my mornings promenade, but I was at last in the open air the streets were as usual alive with carriages & pedestrians moving in all directions. I took my accustomed walk to a high sand hill in the south part of the town (I forgot to mention that it was sunday morn.) which overlooks the city.

No incident worthy of mentioning occurred during my walk but </?> as my rout was through China, as it is termed here, that is where the China population live & trade, it may not be amiss to notice there market.

With the heathen Chinaman the sabbath is as another day, their market was filled with such eatables as Chinamen are most fond viz. pork, chickens & fish, of the flesh kind & vegetables which were strange to me. Other articles were inside their shops & as I cared not what they had there I did not examine. I shall have occasion to mention the chinese again & will now return to breakfast.

My breakfast consists of coffee, beefstake & cornbread, after breakfast a little rest, then the electric machine which ties my arms in knots, after which I generally spen[d] the ballance of the morning in reading or writing. So far this is the description of every day.

Being desirous to attend church & also being a perfect stranger here I examined the daily papers to learn where to go, but no notices fell under my eye that quite suited my fancy. I therefore made inquiry at the office of the hotel where I am stopping, (it is a temperance house for someone to attend church with me, but no one was at hand who wished to go to church.

I was however told <where> that probably Dr. Scotts church on bush st. would suit me better than any other & received directions how to find it. I immediately repaired to church, was told at the door that the seats were free & I could sit below or in the gallery. I chose the gallery where I had a good seat. I was not yet aware what denomination worshiped there but thought I could soon learn.

As I was watching the gathering congregation the sound of the organ fell upon ear. O! what a sound the first I have heard in Cal. [California] It caused my hart to leap into my throat. I scarcely knew what to do with myself, but imagine if you can what effect it had upon me when the <q> choir commenced a chant. I was surprised. I cannot describe my feelings. In an instant I was transported in imagination, across the american continent. I was <in an> for a moment by your side my dear wife, but it was but for an instant, black reality snatched me away & I was again sitting in the church trying to listen to the chanting of the choir, but I could not listen, my thoughts were <far> with you. I was in short quite homesick. My eyes overflowed with tears, I wished myself away. I longed for solitude but I could not well get away. amongst my purchases were a pair of boots which I had on. They made an awful squeaking, so much so that I dare not attempt to go out therefore I was compelled to remain. The services continued. When the congregation rose for prayer I rose with them. By so doing I was brought in sight of the communion table. I perceived it was covered with the emblems of the sacrament & as the minister was engaged in prayer was several times overcome by my feelings. How vividly did every sound, every act, every sentence bring to mind my home, my friends & all that I hold dear. How often did I think that you probably were attending afternoon service in your church, at home, at the same time that I was tending morning service on the Pacific coast.

I soon ascertained that the church was Congregational. Eleven new members were added to it, most of them by letter. One family from New Haven Ct., [Connecticut] a man his wife & daughter.

About one third of the congregation I should judge were ladies, & of the communicants one third gentlemen & so two thirds ladies.

Notice was given of services in the Chinese chapel at three oclock. A Chinese convert was to be baptised by Mr. S[pure] the chinese missionary in Cal. [California] He , the china[man] has been recently converted from heathenism. The first convert under the labors of the Rev. missionary. The chinese have a very pretty chapel erected by subscriptions & the aid of the missionary soc. [society]

I attended the chinese meeting in the afternoon My mind had become more quiet & though at times my eyes would fill with tears I was pretty well able to control myself. I enjoyed the meeting. In the eve. I again attended church at Dr. Scott's place.

Dr. Scott is a very smart man. The <g> choir in his church consists of four persons, two ladies &c.

I ought to let the close of the service in the eve. close my narative, but a little incident occurred on my return which I somehow cant help naming. I strayed from my way <. . .> & if I was apt to get lost probably should have been on this occasion, but it is difficult for me to get where I cant find my way out as long as I have my liberty.

On my way a round, I passed through some streets which were pretty quiet, not so many promenaders as in some parts of the city. As I was walking a window was thrown open by my side & a female voice called for help. I turned aside to see what was the trouble when I perceived a man in the room where the voice came from. As I walk to the window The man came to the door & opened it. It seemed that he was trying to make some disturbance with the woman I just said come friend don't be making disturbance here & he walked away with me I suppose the woman is "one of them" & I did not care much for her anyhow Though as I was not sure of that I was determined to rid her of her present trouble & then let her take care of herself

I have written one sheet to you which will go with this

You inquire in your letter what nursing I have I am not often so sick but that I can wait on myself when I am some friend is generally to be found

I will now close Don't <laygh> laugh at me now for writing such a bundle of nonsense
Give a kiss to the children

Entirely thine
Daniel Grant

Norfolk Ct. [*Connecticut*], May 4, 1856

My dear beloved husband [*Daniel Grant*],

I wrote to you by the last mail (24 Apr) a long letter sympathising with you in your bad feelings & trying to persuade you that there was no occasion for them, & I do sincerely think the same now & I hope that you will feel that you can come & live here as well as any where & I verily believe that you can better. I hope you have not undertaken anything new, for I do feel as if you have not the health & strength sufficient. you need nursing & kind care & I feel anxious to do it for you my dear Husband. & I am sure the children would do what they could to comfort you.

I wrote to you that Ma had been feeble for some time & that we felt somewhat anxious about her but I did not then anticipate that I should so soon have to write to you that I was motherless.

Yes my dear husband I followed my precious Mother to the grave last Tuesday P.M. April 29. She died on Sat. eve at half past 10 o'clock Apr. 26. – There was an inactive state of the liver connected with irritation of the Stomach & bowels. She failed very rapidly for the last few days. Although the Dr. felt that there was some liability to an unfavorable change in her case, he said he was not looking for it so soon, if at all.

Abbie is now staying with me & in a few weeks, Mother Grant expects to visit to Ohio when Eddie will come here too. & Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] is now here with her two youngest children to spend some weeks. & then when she leaves, may I not hope to have your Society? or at least before the setting in of another cold winter. I cannot think what excuse you can have for remaining now that your land is sold & your river claim at an end. Hope you & Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] will come together & take care of each other on the journey

Considerable property is left to us, beside any share of the real estate. Ma has given me one half of her property, wh. [*which*] is something as she owned some land here beside the personal property. & that was p[ri]sed after Pas death at about \$2000, so I think there is enough here to make us a comfortable home if you should feel like occupying it.

<I sent out to you>

Mr. Tichenor says you were mistaken about Mr Barneys paying so much for the Kimball place says he gave \$3300 & \$200 for a small piece adjoining, says Mr. B. will give no more than \$1000 for ours & I herewith enclose the Quit claim deed wh. [*which*] Mr. T. [*Tichenor*] drew up for you to sign, expecting you will return it soon as you conveniently can, if you do not come yourself & bring it. I also send the directions that he sent about the execution of the deed, wh. [*which*] you will please attend to, as he seems to think it important. Write to me when I shall look for you.

Your very affectionate wife Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Abbie send love.

Ma has given one two hundred dollars for being here since came from <Wis?> [*Wisconsin*] beside the wages I have steadily received.

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], May 5th 1856

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*]

I wish to address you not only as a brother by the tie of humanity but as a brother through sympathy with one to you the dearest object on earth and I wish to speak to you upon one particular subject and ask you forbearance if anything I should say seems to you more than I have a right to say – C [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has told you of the changes that have taken place of her sorrows, and her hopes, and I have seen through your last letter your failure to realize those fond wishes for which you “have endured” so much and your wife also. Let me entreat you to take one hours calm consideration of the subject of your return home, look upon it in all its bearings, consider that those here now need the comfort of your presence more than ever, and though your lack of sympathy of some of whom you have a right to expect it. You are certain of the sympathy and confidence of others, and above all if any one resolves before God to perform a duty which

they have solemnly decided to be a duty they are sure of strength to perform it. Though it require much self sacrifice; and its burdens seem impossible to bear. (My " strength is sufficient for you saith the Lord") ("God is truth") With assurances like these before you let the troubled waters of your soul grow calm, think of the joy of reunion with those you love most, and that more than half our troubles come from anticipation of evil. Decide then and act before the hour of weakness has time to come again and my word for it you will find less to bear and more strength to bear it than you anticipate. Here you will be almost sure of enough of the things of this life for comparative comfort and though you would have to sacrifice much of self in returning be assured that Carrie [Caroline Burr Grant] would have to sacrifice as much in doing that which would be her duty did you positively command but which love for you and her children, and past experience otherwise forbid.

Do not feel that I reproach you in any way my feelings towards you are kindness and nothing else and such they will ever remain. I wish to cheer <you> and strengthen you, hoping that the darkness that seems now to oppress you may brighten into day and that the day may soon come when your return shall be light & Joy" to those who fondly look for your coming. Hoping that you will receive this in the spirit in which it is written and write to me if you feel like it. I am

Affectionately your friend Br. [Brother] William Hill

[Attached envelope addressed to]
Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk, Ct. [Connecticut]

Lockport, Ill. [Illinois] May 12, 1856.

Dear Sister [Caroline Burr Grant],

By a letter received Saturday evening from my Mother [Elizabeth Grant] I learn the sad news of your Mother's death. Our sympathies flow out towards you in view of this new trial occurring so directly in connection with the death of your Father [Ebenezer Burr], and your brother Ralph [Ralph E. Burr]. Particulars Mother was not able to give. All these things make us sad not only as they rend ties of affection, but as showing us that we too must soon go the way of all the earth.

It would seem that Daniel <wou> cannot fail to see that it is not only best, but in some sense necessary, for him to return home now. I think he will do so, but I presume he must depend on assistance from this region for his means to return. We are now about to send Marcus [Marcus Grant] some \$150 to enable him to come back, and as soon as I can ascertain by what means to forward it, I will let you know, as perhaps you would like to send in the same way. It is possible that you have already found a way if so I should like to know it. I am unwilling to send money unconditionally, for fear it might find them in debt, and be taken by their creditors, or in some other way fail of its purpose. I think there is a firm in Chicago that will do the business, if they cannot I think I shall write to Joseph Batt[il?],e, who I presume will either do it or tell us of some one who can.

With sentiments of deep sympathy in your sorrows, and prayers that God may teach us all so to number our days as to turn our hearts to wisdom I am in haste,

Your aff. [affectionate] brother
Joel Grant.

[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk
Connecticut

Meadow Valley Plumas Co. Cal [California]

May 25 1856

My Dear, very Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

Your letter the first date of which is March 6 has just come to hand.

It is comforting, exceeding comforting to get another letter from you & receive again the evidences of your love. I do think the time is not far distant when we shall meet again.

I do not suppose it is advisable to write much at present, for I suppose there is reason to doubt the *sur* safety of the mail.

I have not received any letter from Mrs. Allen.

I'm sorry to hear of the illness of our mothers. Hope we may be spared to meet again.

I deeply sympathise with cousin Martin, tell him when you see him that I have not forgotten him, though I do not write him.

I have not heard from Marcus [*Marcus Grant*], for sometime therefore cannot give you any items respecting *your* him.

One great object for living in Cal. [*California*] is to make money as you suppose but the main object is, to do it with a great deal less exertion than it is necessary to use to get a comfortable living in the states, especially in the eastern states.

Your reasons for wishing to remain where you are are good & others might be brought to bear upon the subject which are just as good:

I feel that I have scarcely the right to urge you to come, but I am satisfied it would be to our advantage to be here.

I am now living with some old Cal. [*California*] friends, one from South Hadley Mass. [*Massachusetts*] the other from Erie Pa. [*Pennsylvania*] They are both very fine men. I am working for them for \$50, a month. The work is light & such as I can endure, the most of the time. It is a little to hard but I can rest when I please.

My health is better than usual.

Meadow Valley is high up in the mts. & surrounded by snow capped peaks. The air is pure & bracing. You had not better write me again after the receipt of this. unless I give you further directions. If you do write direct to / Hamilton.

Sell the [*Waukishen?*] place if you can,

Much love to all.

Entirely thine,
Daniel Grant.

[Attached envelope addressed to]

Mr. Daniel Grant

Norfolk, Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Aug. 28, 1856

Dear Brother,

By a letter from Mother [*Elizabeth Grant*] recently received, I learn of your safe arrival home after some seven years of absence. I am truly glad to know of your return, and cannot but feel that you will find it for your own happiness, as it certainly will be for the happiness of others. I should have been glad to hear a little more about Marcus [*Marcus Grant*], but trust he has reached home ere this. I sent the money to him June 1, almost three months ago. He was to secure it on calling at Wells Fargo, & Co.'s, San Francisco. On receiving Mother's letter in wh. [*which*] it was said that Marcus was expecting (when you left) to return as soon as he heard from me, it occurred to me that some letter might have miscarried, and he might be in the dark concerning the place where he was to call. I cannot believe this is so, but for fear it might be, I sat down and wrote him again directing to Oroville, Butler Co., California. If this direction is wrong, and you hear nothing from him, will you write at once, and state that his funds are at Wells Fargo & Co.'s San Francisco.

I received a letter yesterday from P.B. Hill, Milwaukie, wh. [*which*] I inclose. I have received an impression that you directed him to send the funds to brother Phelps, but thinking you might wish to modify directions somewhat I inclose the letter to you. The amount is (I believe)

\$185, on wh. [which] interest should have been paid from May 15 to the time of its payment about 4 months—making it about \$191.

I enclose also \$6.25, being the interest on a note of fifty dollars wh. [which] I owe you given June 1, 1855, and the interest on the interest from the time it was due. If you are willing to let the note lie for a time, I should prefer it but, if you want it paid, I will endeavor to accommodate you

We are all in our usual good health. This summer has been remarkably healthy here
Remember me to your wife & all our friends. Abby [Abigail Cowles Grant] sends love,
Your aff. [affectionate] brother
Joel Grant

West Avon [Connecticut]. Friday. June 27. '6-0.

Dear Sister Caroline,

I have not written you as I thought to do when I last saw you, partly, because I have been too busy with company, and domestic affairs, and partly because John said he told you about the railroad arrangements at N. York [New York], much better than I could write them. I had thought you might have gone to Mary's, but a letter from Mary Akin last eve, spoke of the perfectness of your's and Eddy's daguereotype from which I infer you are still in Norfolk [Connecticut].

When shall we have the pleasure of a visit from you? I hope before long. Do write very soon and tell me such of your plans as I shall be interested to know; if consistent, please tell me also, that ere a week or two you will be here. I hope your mother's health is so good this summer that she will not be inconvenienced by your leaving, though, of course she will be lonely without you. I always find it a great deal of work to get ready for a visit away, and I presume your experience is similar, especially as you will take E.

We received a letter from Marcus [Marcus Grant] last night -- the first we have had. He was well, and had been so. Was then at Panama. June 7. but was to leave for San Francisco [California] in a day or two. He had written to Daniel [Daniel Grant] to Sacramento City (I think). & hoped to meet him ere long. We never felt very anxious about him, as we have not heard a word before, but was greatly relieved by the letter and its tone. He wrote cheerfully. We shall send a letter to him by the next steamer. We feel anxious to hear again from Daniel, and I know our anxieties are nothing compared with yours. May that God in whom he and we trust not disappoint our hearts, but cause that we may hear of his welfare, and yet be permitted again to see him and take sweet counsel with him.

I hope Mother's heart may feel less sad for hearing so good news from Marcus. I know it must be hard for a mother's heart to have two loved one's so far away. The last letter from your dear husband was not calculated to soothe fears, but to excite more, though I do not think it as discouraging as it first appeared to me.

"Shall we receive good at the hand of the Lord and shall we not receive evil" was the first thought that came into my mind as I read it. The other letter had been fraught with good news, and it was not strange that he should not be so continually prosperous. I have hopes that we shall soon hear good news from him. I would write more but the mail goes very soon. Let me hear from you soon, & see you as soon as is convenient for you. With much love from Mr. Grant and Jony, I am your aff. sister

Abby. C. Grant. [Abigail Cowles Grant]

Remember us to your Father & Mother, and kiss sweet little Eddy for me.
[Rest of sheet cut out.]

[Added in pencil:] Written in 1860 (I think) by Mother Grant.

Dear Carrie I feel no disposition to write to day but as Marcus has written I will do a little at it I am not as well as common yesterday was a very cold day and these cold days do not agree with me at all I cough a good deal I have been just as usual since you left till yesterday and to day June is here with Fanny when she thinks next sabbath she shall go to Osborn Stillmans it is my opinion that they are poorly provided for at home but have heard nothing it is no privilege to me to have

her here Fanny has been a very good girl and Jane has been very good also but I had rather have F than both I have no news to write as I think Marcus went to the spelling exhibitions but did not see Mrs Philips nor Mabil I have thought that I should go and see her if there should be a time that I could but the snow is gone we have had some real warm weather Marcus saw Daniel he was well

I rode two days when we had the warm weather time seems long to F and G she enquires often how long you have been gone I think she has been very homesick I was very glad to hear from you glad to hear <fro> that you had been to the museum and that you had a peep at Mr Lincoln [*Abraham Lincoln*] I was in hopes you would see him he has lived to be inaugurated and may the Lord lead him and guide him in his arduous undertaking he seems to have many friends as well as bitter foes I hope there will be the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous that availeth much <be> offered in his behalf Fanny and I shall be glad when you get back you need not think that I am sick nothing more than is common with me may you and your friends have a joyful visit that will be thought of with pleasure while life lasts is the desire of your aff mother

EG

Dear Edward

I was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you are wishing to improve in your writing I should have been glad to had a letter from you but can wait till another time I hope you and Sammie will improve this an opportunity the best way you can perhaps you will never have another such did you ever think that the boy is father to the man did you and Sammie ever think that if you are obedient children truthful and studious striving to win the favor of Jesus who alone can give you everlasting life that when you come to be men you will be such men as the world needs and such men as you would like to be I hope you will think on these things and may your lives be long and useful may you fear God and keep his commandments which is the whole duty of man may you and Sammie remember your Creator in the days of your youth is the desire of your aff grandmother

love to uncle and Aunt Hill and the little girls

PS I do not think that Maria is married there was a report that she was to be married such a time but I have made some inquiry and no one has heard that she was married it is my opinion that she is not E Grant
to Carrie
