

Subject: Communal Living

[Addressed to:] Miss Mary Burr [Mary Burr Hill]
Care of Lewis M. Prevost Esq.
Erwinna P.O.
Bucks Co.
Penn. [Pennsylvania]

Folio post.

Prairieville, W.T. [Wisconsin Territory] May 10, 1844.

My own precious Sister,

A folio is now spread before me to be filled for my dear sister. I intend writing now & then as time admits & inclination prompts.

The past week my leisure time has been devoted to letter writing & yesterday noon we had a package prepared wh. [which] Mr. [Isad?] Mills is to take. I wrote several letters to our people, one to Mother Grant [Elizabeth Grant] & notes to Aunt Susan [Susan Jane Benton Wallis], Sarah Brown & Abby Cowles [Abigail Cowles Grant]. Daniel wrote to Joel & Uncle Pettibone [Amos Pettibone].

I fancy you think of us to day, as one year ago this day my dear husband & I took upon us the solemn marriage vow – life has since passed pleasantly with me, & I feel it good “to lean on an accordant bosom, I love

The beating of a heart that beat as mine

The sparkling of an eye that tells of thoughts

That harmonize with what I feel.” –

But you know “There will be dark hours for all.” & strange if some moments of sadness should not steal over me, but then ‘tis sweet to feel a Savior [high?] –

May 11. Sat. P.M. This morning I gathered some wild flowers & put them pressing with the view of making an herbarium for you, dear sister – I intend to analyze some of them at least by the artificial method as we have Eaton’s Botany [Amos Eaton, Manual of botany for the Northern and Middle States?] – I suppose the botanical names will be the same as those given by Beck [Lewis C. Beck, Botany of the Northern and Middle States?].

I love these western wilds they are so fraught with nature’s rich, beautiful, productions.

Thank you for that paper containing those lines upon a “Forest Home.” They seem true & I love to read them & I think as the Author says, “more & more dear, And far more beautiful, doth Nature seem

So them who daily meet her face to face,

And learn from her the bliss, that, like a dream,

Robes common things with beauty & with grace.”

May 15. Wed. This day completes brother Erastus’s [Erastus Burr] 21st year, does it seem possible that he is “21” O that the bloom of his manhood was consecrated to the Savior’s Service – let us sister often & earnestly remember him to the [Heard?] of Prayer –

Last Sabbath was rainy & prevented my attending church – Mon. was also rainy & I delayed washing until yesterday – Just as I was about to commence washing my pantry floor Levi Grant came up to announce the arrival of his wife [Lucinda Octavia Tryton Grant], & her wish to see me – You will imagine that I was pretty expeditious in finishing my work & hastened down found her & her child in good health (exerting a cold & looking more healthy & fleshy than when she left – they have been absent nine months –

16. Today have been assisting Mrs. Grant in washing her house. She brought considerable dried fruit & has given us some

17 – One year this day since we left our dear homes & fresh to mind are brought many tender recollections but I trust we shall yet all meet again & enjoy each others society –

18 – Yesterday P.M. went to the village made several calls took tea with Mrs. Tickenor & brought from the P.O. [*Post Office*] some papers from Joel the N.Y. Weekly Tribune [*New York Weekly Tribune*] containing articles written on “Association” & in one we learned that brother E.P. Grant Esq is the president of a society of Associationists called the “Ohio Phalax” Their Domain is said to be very beautiful consisting of 2100 acres situated in Ohio on the O. river [*Ohio River*] – You are probably aware that these Societies are becoming common throughout the country –

Joel says he thinks something of the kind will be eventually adopted, though not according to the plan of Fourier – thinks there is a great deal of nonsense in their pretensions, & many of their plans visionary, although some of them seem good enough –

To day Daniel planted in the garden

May 22. Wed. Yesterday I visited at Levi’s with old Mrs. Brown our neighbor & Mrs. Burgess a young married lady from the state of N.Y. [*New York*] recently – she is acquainted with Mr. Erastus Holt’s family – says Mrs. Holt is very much esteemed – & her children are pretty & bright – the oldest is a son 11 yrs. of age – the [next?] two daughters – she has a young babe – [Georg...] lives near them builds organs &c. is a [pious?] smart young man – Mary does not now use crutches [*text missing?*]

25. Sat. To day Daniel & a neighbor with whom D. [*Daniel*] has “changed work” are planting potatoes & corn beside our common corn we have some for parching & also “broom corn.”

[*One line erased, reads in part: ... part of the day keep...*]

28. To day is the funeral of Miss Sarah love – a young lady much beloved & one of the finest singers in the vicinity – she died of the prevailing epidemic – scarlet fever – it has raged here since the last of Feb. seizing alike old & young. There have been times when the disease has appeared to abate – but there are still new cases every few days – I believe inflammation always attends the fever & if it settles in the bowels the case is considered almost or quite hopeless – we feel that a kind Providence has indeed watched over us for good <by> thus far preserving our lives & health –

We last week rec’d [*received*] a paper fr. [*from*] home & a letter fr. [*from*] Joel written at Millbrook [*Connecticut*] – they brought Martha home last of Apr. or first of May in Esq. Battells barouche – she seemed to be considerably affected by the journey but had mostly recovered from the effect when the letter was written May 6. M. [*Martha Grant*] does not sit up at all. & we have great fear that she will not recover, though they have a little hope think it may be month before the disease conquers her –

Give my love to Miss Hill – We last winter rec’d [*received*] a letter from Mother Grant [*Elizabeth Grant*], Miss Read & Abby Cowles [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] at S. Hadley we have the crickets made & covered – we did not take Levi’s farm – please send a paper soon after your reception of this –

They say [Mr?] Hurlbut the tailor in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] is coming out here in June – our people intend to send some letters & things by him if he can bring them

May 29 – Brother Ralph’s [*Ralph E. Burr*] birth day – how I want to see the little fellow – one year ago this day we were on Lake Huron –

June 1. One year this day since we landed at Milwaukie

I saw last fall in the N.Y. Observer [*New York Observer*] a notice of the death of Mrs. Henry Cowles of Oberlin died of pulmonary consumption – age 33 – did you not think she was older?

I saw this Spring in the N.E. Puritan [*New England Puritan*] notice that Mr. & Mrs. John Cowles & Mrs. Eunice Caldwell Cowles were in May to reopen the Ipswich Female Sem [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] also saw in the same paper the marriage of Miss Julia Hyde eldest daughter of Rev Davies [*Hyde?*] of Beckett to Rev. Edward Clarke of Middlefield – I suppose it was our Julia, do not you?

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

[Addressed to:] Miss Mary Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]
Care of Madam Sigiogne
No. 7. Washington Square
Philadelphia
Penn. [*Pennsylvania*]

From Caroline while in Wis. speaks of Abbie's doings & sayings

Prairieville W.T. [*Wisconsin Territory*] Sab. [*Sabbath*] Eve Nov. 15, 1846.

My dear Sister,

I suppose you have been thinking of us as being in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] these three or four weeks, & have expected before this a letter from me but I have kept deferring writing & have no sufficient reason, the principal one is that I wished to wait until we got settled by ourselves – Daniel's sickness prevented his putting up a house [on our?] lot as he expected & we have now procured a room in Mr. Root's house for wh. [*which*] we are to give 50 cts. [*cents*] per week – there is a recess in the room for a bed – we have room in the cellar & room for a flour barrel in the chamber – think we shall be very comfortable indeed – expect to have a cupboard – day before yesterday we went of our own thing found them all in good condition, & took what we need to keep house with.

I believe you know that Mr. Root lives in the village – we have been staying here since my arrival but not living by ourselves –

Daniel intends to teach this winter in the village it will be two or three days before he will know whether he can have one – intends to have \$18 per month & board himself – he is not able to labor much out & fears he shall not be this winter & for this reason thinks best to teach – about the first of Sept. he had an attack of Bilious fever & was for a few days quite sick, after a partial recovery from the fever he had three weeks of ague & fever before my arrival – he then escaped [shaking?] three weeks (but continued feeble) & there commenced again & kept at it four or five days in succession – he broke it by the universal panacea, quinine – this last week his health has been better than for 10 weeks previously – Bilious fever, chill fever & fever & ague [seem?] to be very prevalent this fall in this entire western country the sickness is abating in this region – it has not in this vicinity assumed a malignant aspect, there are comparatively but very few deaths. My health is much better than it was through the summer – I weaned Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] & cleansed my stomach wh. [*which*] I expect are the causes of my improvement. Abby is now pretty well. She was severely sick a day or two on the Lake had high fever & bowel complaint. She was very unwell for a week or two after we came & has had one or two ill turn since – teething & worms seem to cause her sickness – several have remarked that she looks much as she did when she left except she looks [more?] puny – she speaks a few words plain & attempts to speak many more – we think her easily governed – when reproved in any way she usually appears very much grieved covers her face with her little hands & sobs – she calls Ma Ma & Pa a great deal, says no no no, when asked or told to do any think she does not wish to.

Ralph took us to the State Line Depot we staid at Uncle Collars Sab. [*Sabbath*] night Oct 11. [Sam?] Thankful there, sent love to you, & I think asked me to tell you to write her – Mon. Oct 12. left St. Line about 5 o'clock P.M. went by rain road to Buffalo in company with cousin D.B. Hulburt arrived there Tues eve at 8 o'clock. Wed. morn. left Buf. on the Steam Boat Niagara & Sunday noon reached Milwaukie I stopped at public house until Mon. when I came to Prairieville with a citizen of the place – while in Mil. called on Mrs. Woodbridge she said she should insist on my staying with her while I remained in town had she not a house full having 20 boarders – she has not built a new house as she was expected to do in the Spring –

I found my dear husband pale & think – I need not tell you the rejoicing each felt at meeting – Although he expected when he sent for me to return this fall that we should be in different circumstances then we are yet he is glad I am here – he had a good many crying spells in our absence especially when he was sick & could not bear the thought of being alone through the winter & you know that I could not be happy when thinking of him sick or suffering so <for the> I think we shall live very comfortable indeed this winter certainly if he gets a school. believe

his sickness has now cost him not far from \$15. Dr. [Van Wleck?] took the \$10 note against those Irishmen who owed for the ox they billed, suppose it is not certain that he can collect it but he thinks he shall be able to – Daniel thinks by his being sick he has lost the opportunity of selling at least \$40 worth of sand – he was expecting to put up a small frame house on Joe's lot – The man who lives in the house in Milwaukie is lathing & plastering it for the [rent?] <the> expect there is still some degree of doubt whether we shall be able to get a deed of that place, but if we do not, shall not be obliged to deed away ours.

The expense of my journey here was \$19.50 – I would like you to send this letter to our people I want you to write us soon my particularly – how you like &c. – vry aff. [*very affectionately*]

Sister Caroline

Please tell me when you write how Dea. Grant's family are.

M. Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]

[*Addressed to:*] Miss Mary Burr
Care of Madam Sigoigne

No. 7. Washington Square
Philadelphia
Penn [*Pennsylvania*]

Written by Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] from Wis. [*Wisconsin*] – Gives description of their room at Mrs. Roots &c.

Prairieville. Jan. 8. 1847 –

My dear Sister,

Yesterday & to day are much the coldest days we have seen this winter. but by keeping our stove filled with wood we find no trouble in keeping warm in our snug little room. Several inches of snow fell a few days since & we have now fine sleighing –

A district Convention of Congregationalists & Presbyterians is to meet here next week – we have offered to furnish meals for two provided they <they> go quarter of a mile to lodge where our spare bed is – Mr. Curtis' family have removed to Milwaukie. The Cong. [*Congregational*] church there is divided <&> on they subject of Slavery & Mr. Curtis is to be the Abolition preacher – we have here hired for a year Rev. Mr. Tenney recently from New England – he has not such an interested eloquent manner as Mr. Curtis, but as much so as ordinary preachers, & seems to be a very holy man & preaches good sermons – his family are not yet here –

Daniel has been teaching school about a month at the upper end of the village nearly one half mile from here – has had between 30 or 40 pupils though it does not average [that?] 4 to 18 years of age – has \$14 per month & boards at home – he is as well pleased as he expected to be – his health is good now though he has times of complaining of his head & stomach –

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] is generally well – she has some days of worrying on account of her teeth – she has 5 single <teeth> ones another almost through & 4 double teeth wh. [*which*] have almost made their appearance – she grows some speaks a great many words plain, & kisses very sweetly –

My own health is good except that I suffer some from pain in my teeth one side of my head & face – expect it is partly nervous affection

I enjoy myself much better than I expected to living in the house with another family – Mr. Root's people are an excellent family to live so near us. Find it very convenient & pleasant living so near church &c. we are but a few rods from the Cong. [*Congregational*] house. D. [*Daniel Grant*] has the care of sweeping it making fires &c. for wh. [*which*] he receives some compensation – \$1.50 or \$2 per month.

We live well this winter – use as many dried apples as we want D. raised our own potatoes more than we shall need for our own use we bought a nice fat hog for 3 cts lb. weighing about 350 lbs. We have several dollars due at the store so that we obtain sweeting & what else we need – our heifer gives 3 or 4 pints milk a day & we make as much better as we wish to eat.

It has occurred to me that perhaps you would like a description of our room. This house fronts the south the front door opens into Mr. Root's room – about half a dozen steps to the N.W. is the door leading into our room as you enter just at the right stands the stove & in the corner near is <are> the wood & chips – about three ft. long 2 wide & 2 high wh. [which] answers for a chest & seat. On the same side is a recess just large enough to admit a bed before wh. [which] hang 2 white curtains (sheets) – I will not attempt to mention the things kept under the bed – on the west side next the bed is kept the stand, with the band box on it, & the carpet bag filled under it, next are placed two or three chairs then a cupboard the top of wh. [which] serves for clock shelf, & book case, it is one of the boxes in wh. [which] our goods were brought out here in wh. D. has put 9 shelves & before wh. [which] hangs a white curtain. On the South side are 2 windows, between them is the table, above wh. [which] hangs the mirror & under it stands a trunk, a chair is before each window On the <north> east side between the door & wall is another trunk with the water pail upon it, there is also a window on the west side –

I will endeavor my dear Sister to give sufficient attention to my teeth to preserve them, though I do not feel that I shall often expend an half hour daily upon them – I laughed when you said that you had commenced being particular with your own Wm. Pease said that my front teeth were decayed very badly to fill, & that he took a great deal of pains in filling them. But I am sorry to say the filling in two of the cavities has for some two months or more been loose & recently a piece came out as large as the head of a pin – there had previously one or two very small particles came out –

Why do not the Madame's & Md'lles' [mademoiselles] let you have a better place to study French than in the midst of "A mirthful noisy school girls?" & only occasionally a recitation! I do not see how you can make much advance <much>. I would not spend a great deal of time in writing to cousins &c Harriet Prevost's death must be a deep affliction to her friends – present to them our sympathy & love –

D. Hurlburt appears much as he used to intelligent agreeable &c. looks some older has two children a girl & boy – has acquired a handsome property. How do you like that plaid dress? The trimming that was on my white hat that I intended to have taken home I have found since returning – Have had no letter from Father Grants people since my return – have had two from Joel [Joel Grant] & Abby [Abigail Cowles Grant] – J. has been sick most of the time since June – I rec'd [received] letter from our people soon after yours, am glad they sent yours, your lecture to Ralph [Ralph E. Burr] was needful & good, hope he will hear it – I am anxious about Erastus [Erastus Burr] – Should like you to forward this home as </> it will save my writing so soon to them –

We are not yet decided where we shall live next summer. Daniel cannot feel that it is best for us to return to Ct. [Connecticut] & stay a few years. As it will be so much expense to go & come especially if we move our goods & if any were left they would be in great danger of being destroyed by mice or persons or both & he does not feel <as though> that there is any one here with whom we could safely trust our property, land &c & think it would cost a third more to live there than here – had he built a house last fall the man who was to build the barn would have put it up & [some?] of the \$50 that Mr. Short was to pay & some money for D's work last summer was expended for lumber so that arrangements were made not to run much if any in debt for the building of the house

Mr. Short has not yet fully paid the \$50 & there have been no deeds exchanged

[Addressed to:]

Miss Mary Burr [Mary Burr Hill]
Care of Madame Sigoigne
No. 7. Washington Square

Philadelphia
Penn. [*Pennsylvania*]

Written by Caroline from Wis. [*Wisconsin*] Speaks of Mrs. Codding – of her seeing Martha Leach Curtis & Mary Humphrey – Speaks of a teacher sent out by Ed. Soc. – Inquires about receipt from Mrs. Moses Cowles for Cough – & for Aunt S. what to use to arrest progress of [Crysipeton?]

Wankesha. Prairieville, Sept. 11, 1847 –

My dear Sister,

It is rainy Sat. evening – Daniel is setting glass & little Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] is sleeping in the rocking chair in which she has sat a good deal of the time for almost three weeks past. For she has had a chill <s> fever every day [during?] this time & she does not feel much like playing during the intervals of fever – she sometimes says Abby feels bad & very often says Abby's tired – we are giving her medicine & bathing her in cold water & hope she will be well before long.

About five weeks since Daniel had a violent attack of chill fever, but by prompt measures succeeded in breaking it so that he was not confined to the house but about a week, he has not felt as well since, but he has been able to work most of the time – My health continues good it is much better than it was last summer there is a good deal of sickness around this season fevers of various kinds & ague & <*I don't know but*> it seems that there is sick in Ct. [*Connecticut*] also for we learn in a letter rec'd [received] from John to day [mailed?] 1 Sept that Bilious fever is rather prevalent in that region, he says Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] had been sick six weeks & was then able to sit up but little – says she & Joel will probably remain East – also says that Martha [*Martha Grant*] seems to be declining is much emaciated & has no strength & speaks as though she would not probably live but a few weeks – is very patient & enduring – John's health is improving – can walk nearly as well as ever – has walked repeatedly two or three miles without great fatigue though the diseased spot in his spine gets easily tired – is expecting to teach somewhere soon – spoke of his calling on you in Phil. [*Philadelphia*] said you seemed happy & was apparently pleasantly located – he has spent five or six weeks in Watertown since leaving Phil.

I wrote home <*two or*> three or four weeks since – have not heard from there or from you this long time – I have no knowledge of what you expect to do after you leave there, about the first of Oct. I think – Do you intend visiting the Provost's on your way home? I expect you are wearing yourself out, but I hope not. how I do want to see you. I am sorry that checked calico dress does you so little service – the one that I had in exchange is of great use to me – I think the pieces of silk & [berage?] that you sent me very pretty did you have the berage altered over for you this summer? it was a present I think. how much was your silk? & how is it cut?

Mr. Codding is now preaching for us – believe the people are well pleased with him. Mrs. C. is an intellectual, intelligent lady – She [sane?] not long since in Milwaukie Mrs. Martha Leach Curtis & Mary Humphrey said they enquired after me, sent love &c. I presume they learned that I resided in Prairieville from the Mem. Catalogue [*Memorial Catalogue from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] – you have rec'd [received] one I presume – Mr. Curtis preaches in Ann Arbor Mich. [*Michigan*]

Mrs. Codding said he looked & appeared well, but she did not think he was a great man – is pro-slavery. They were on a journey to Chicago as Mrs. Curtis' health was delicate she having been confined a few weeks previously & lost her child – Mary Humphrey is an assistant in Sem. [*Seminary*] in Racine. I think her sister Helen (widow Paler) resides [there?] now. & Mrs. Codding was not previously acquainted with them, but they happened to be at one place I was exceeding glad to hear from Sarah Sibley – have not yet written her, but intend to when I have time –

Where is cousin Thankful now & where is Warren. & how is his health? Did he visit Vermont with T. this summer? has just curled up in the rocking chair

13 Mon. A.M. I am in the midst of washing but <*but*> Abby has a chill coming on & wants Mama to rock her, so I improve the time in writing – Abby does not like to be bathed in cold water, she frequently says on [waking?] in the morning & during the day, "Mama, need Abby be washed?"

Abby don't want to be washed" – Willis Tickenor brought her a pretty Maltese kitten the other day which is a great comfort to her – many remark on hearing her talk, that she speaks very plain for one of her age, but she is not constantly jabbering like some children –

We lived in Mr. Purington's house about three months & have since been in our own. It is in quite an unfinished state, we shall not be able to have more than one room plastered this winter –

We have not made much taking boarders, don't know but we cleared 50 cts. per week. Think it was better to board Mr. Purington than to paid a dollar in or even 75 cts money. he called his board 1.50 & the house rent the same

Mr. Canfield the young man who boarded with us 14 weeks has lately gone home to Vt. [Vermont] Are now alone – expect before long to board a mare to pay for some work done on the house –

Mrs. Root & her children expect to go East soon & spend the winter with her parents her father's name is Wilcos cannot think of his first name in Alford a small town near Stockbridge – Mr. Root is in rather embarrassed circumstances – I would like to have you & the rest see her though I have no particular anxiety perhaps it may be convenient for you to go up. I do not know as she would think as she could go to see you & I should have no objection on account of house &c.

You have probably heard or read something of the Society for promoting National popular Education – I think there are a Committee of six – do not now recollect any but Pres. Beecher & Ex Governor Slade – teachers are sent out by the Soc. chiefly to the West. Miss Catherine Beecher gives the lectures &c. previous to their coming – we have one here in Prairieville – Miss Baker from Lancaster N.H. she commenced with a very small school but it increases & she is very much liked – I sent for her to tea one P.M. found that she has been familiar with the hist. [history] of the Hol. Sem. [Mount Holyoke Female Seminary] from its commencement. Came [very?] near going there &c – spoke of the high repute of the Ips. Sem. [Ipswich Female Seminary] while under the care of Miss Grant – of the respect & admiration & veneration & with wh. [which] she was regarded –

I want you should ask Aunt Sally if she knows what it was that Dr. <Bide> Welch applied to her Daniel head to check the swelling when he was so bad with Erysipelas – I am anxious to know & tell what she bathed him in. She told me but I was so careless as to forget. Also will you ask Mr. Moses Cowle's people of what that syrup is composed wh. they consider such an excellent remedy for a cough – cured Lorenzo Roys they think – I asked Abby to send me word about these things but she has been so sick I presume it will not be attended to – I also asked her to ask Parna the way that she used camphor for sore nipples, but you need not find that out if you do not wish to. I ought to have remembered – do not know as we shall ever have occasion to use any of these remedies ourselves, but we may have & others do have – my love to all my friends & yours – I feel anxious about Ralph I don't know how he will grow up –

Very aff. [affectionately] yr [your] sister Caroline.

[notes along sides:] Direct letters to Wankesha Co.

Abby's hair <wants> is not long enough to put behind her ears it lacks about an inch & a half – it is no darker than it was last year – I intend to make a net for her –

I want you not to fail of going to father Grants when you get home. I have some fear that this letter will not reach you before you leave Phi [Philadelphia] though I think it will – if it is not too much trouble I wish you would send a paper on the reception of this if you cannot find time to write, as I shall be anxious to know whether you get it.

I have forgotten all of the names of those cousins that Thankful told about being in Wis. [Wisconsin] & Ill. [Illinois]

When you get home if those papers are not attended to you can see to it – D. will be getting uneasily – also about the Dodge Co. [land?]

Is not Ralph [...] going to College? If he does not [...], he must certainly sometime a long time at school yet & study very hard too – Mary Burr

[Addressed to] Mr. Daniel Grant
Praireville [Prairieville]
Milwaukie Co [Milwaukee County]
Wis. Ter. [Wisconsin Territory]

New Haven, Feb. 24, '44
Dear Brother,

Your letter of Dec. 12 mailed Dec. 17 I received on my return here at the close of vacation (Jan 10) [at Yale University]. How long it has been in the office I cannot tell, but probably some days. I was exceedingly glad to hear from you and your letter was the more acceptable because it removed some impressions which your previous letters had made in reference to your feelings. I should have answered it before this time had it not been that we had been getting up a letter at S. [South] Hadley for you and I thought it not best to write until some days after that had gone. I do not intend to finish this for several days but as I have many things to write about I thought I would begin now.

You certainly have been very unfortunate in your connection with Levi Grant, and I can very readily believe that he has cheated you a great deal. The affair of the rails is a very bad one. I had an idea that you understood the matter at least as far as this that he was to get but \$30 worth for you in any case, so that at all events you have paid him \$10 too much. I made no bargain with him before I left Wisconsin but merely told him "Perhaps we should like to have you get some for us." I afterwards wrote to him as follows, (As I used the manifold Letter writer there is no possibility of mistake.) "My Brother Daniel has concluded to take the lot which lies south of yours, and I herewith send you some money with a part of which I wish you to get some rails split for him. If you cannot get them for less than \$7.50 a thousand, you may use \$30 of it for that purpose. But I trust you will be able to get them for something less. If you can get them for \$6 per thousand you may get 5000 but if you can get them for any thing less do not get more than 5000 but apply whatever of the \$30 there may be left to transporting those that are split to the farm during the winter I do not doubt but you will manage the business in the most prudent manner." The letter from which this is an extract is dated Springfield Nov. 16, 1842, and doubtless Levi has a copy of it now. In his reply to it he says, "You stated in yours that you would like to have some rails got out this winter and also that you would like to have me look out and get them. I saw a man a few days ago which lived about two miles from my house that has a plenty of timber and he says he would like the job of splitting a few thousand, and he thought that he would get them for five shillings per hundred or \$6.25 a thousand. I did not make a bargain with him at that time, but promised to see him again and let him [him?] know. I think however that I can get them at the fence about one mile from my house, which will be worth considering."

This is all that I wrote and all that he wrote about it. You may judge of my surprise when I read in your letter that you had paid him \$40 for 3000 rails. My letter to him as you see did not authorise him to get more than \$30 worth at any rate I am very sorry I did not explain this to you, and until I read your letter I had always supposed I did, and it is with difficulty that I can bring myself now to believe I did not. But perhaps it is not too late now to do something about it. If you have actually settled all your accounts in reference to the rails, it probably is, but if you have not and will let me know it the next time you write, I will send a letter to Levi and if he does not pay you \$10 I will see to the matter myself and I think I will make him pay \$20 at least. I think however you had not better say anything to him about it at present. I have proof positive that he was not authorised to expend more than \$30 for rails for at the close of my letter to him I say "The \$20 left of this money is to go towards paying you for the house." If therefore the matter is at all as I left it there can be no doubt about it, but if you chose on your own responsibility to buy of him 3000 rails for \$40 there is no help in the matter. I sent him at the time I wrote my letter \$50.

You never have written me how your accounts with Levi were you should have been his Dr. to the house \$65 to the rails \$30. Total \$95. You should have been his [credits?] for the \$50 I

sent him in the fall of 1842 leaving a balance of \$45. By paying for the rails 40 instead of \$30 you made the balance \$55. But I should not wonder if he had made you pay the whole \$105, thus making no account of the \$50 I sent him. The next time you write do not fail to let me know about these things. I am a little surprised that you did not ascertain by enquiry that rails were not worth \$13.33 a thousand. The enormous price he charged should have excited your suspicion.

But setting this aside, let us have a little talk about land &c. you do not think your land was very well chosen nor do I feel disposed to assert that you cannot now see where money could *<not>* have been laid out to better advantage. All I would claim is that at the time a better choice would not have been made. Still on some accounts your location is not so bad you already have a road laid out by your house, and it will probably be opened next summer, nor have I any idea that it will be many years before there will be one at or near the west end of your farm. But be this as it may, you evidently wish you were rid of your land and that you had an opportunity to get some other place. Under the influence of this feeling and urged on by one of your neighbors, "who is considered by all who know him a man of good judgement," and who "tells you you had better leave your farm if you do not get a cent for it" I fear you will be parting with it for some trifle. Now I know the farm is not worth less, and all the talk of all the neighbors you have or ever had or ever will have would not convince me to the contrary. Now I am willing to take the farm from you for more than it has cost you although that will be much worse for me than if I had never sold it you. Last May you paid me for the farm \$3000. I gave you then \$100 making the expense to you \$200. After getting there you had to pay Levi \$55 (the whole expense for the house and rails being \$105 of which I had already paid \$50.) making the farm cost you \$255 Next May the interest on that will be a trifle more than \$15 making a total of \$270. I will now offer you for it \$300 and allow you to have all the crops you have taken the pains to sow, and you may go where you will. I might however attach one or two conditions to the payment of it for I do not think I can raise \$300 at once. \$150 I will pay at any time besides so much of my money as you now have in your hands (I know not how much it is I suppose \$40 or \$50 please let me know next time you write) and the residue with interest I will endeavor to make up next fall. Perhaps you would like to exchange your lot for the one you bought for me last summer, if so I will give you \$150 to boot. In case you should think it best to accept my offer of buying your farm I should like to have you sell the 40 acre lot though I think it ought not to go for less than \$200. I am getting to be in want of money or shall soon be especially if I buy your farm, but I am very sorry you are not permitted to suit yourself in reference to a place and will therefore do almost any thing to assist you. I would not have you think, however, that I wish you to sell your place to me, provided you can sell it to someone else to a better advantage, only I exhort you to be careful to whom you sell and do not trust any one without the very best security. I make this offer to you that you may know you can dispose of your farm on terms which will at least clear you from lop, and of two purchasers offering the same or nearly the same price, I expect you will prefer me. Beside if after purchasing another place you should find that its unforeseen inconveniences were greater and its *<anticipation>* conveniences less than you anticipated if I should not sell the farm I would let you have it at a reasonable price, though I will not promise it at the price I give you and the interest thereon. suppose, however, you are fully satisfied that once off from it you would never wish to come back. But can you get places equally convenient to town to meetings, post office, &. things which will be every year more important for you? I hope you will not delay a week to write to me what you would like to do and what in view of the offers I have made you, you are willing to do. I suppose Mr. Knapp will probably come out in the spring, and if he should I suppose you would like to buy a place where he does. I would on some accounts be pleasant to do so, but doubtless should you have him for a neighbor you would find in him some qualities you never dreamed of before, which would make him disagreeable to some extend. He is a very excellent man but has his fault, as all other excellent men have. We are perhaps liable to infer too much from the fact that any one has an excellent character, at all events we do so when we infer that all he does will please us.

So it seems you do not think school teachers would have very good encouragement, with you, I presume the decision of [S]ister Caroline is correct. I suppose there are children enough that need teaching *<and>* to employ abundance of teachers, but there parents do not know how important is education, nor when their teacher is a good one, nor are they willing to pay their money for such objects, so that good teachers who go there must go as missionaries with the

desire to do good not to make money. It will not be best I presume for Cousin Margaret to go there, although I wish she might do so. In reference to preaching the difficulty is I presume the same—that is, the people have more preachers altogether than they are willing to employ, but not half so many as they ought to have, and those not of the right kind. However, I think I shall come to some region of the West when I finish my course, though it is by no means certain or even probably that I can be near you.

March 11 I have delayed my letter a long time partly because Mother who is still a[t?] S. [South] Hadley [at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary], hoped we might be able to send you more decisive information concerning Martha. M. [Martha] has been much worse than when Mother send you the letter, nor is she now as well as at that time, though better than she has been at intervals between that and this time. Almost fifteen weeks have passed since she was prostrated on a bed of sickness (Nov 30) and she does not seem to make any advances towards the recovery of her health of course we have very great fears that she will never be any better. She is very weak indeed not able to sit up any. She expresses perfect resignation to God's will respecting her and to him alone can we commit her as the help of man has proved indeed vain in this case. Physicians have done her no good nor does it seem probably that she can leave her soon, unless indeed death should terminate the disease. The Dr. says it must be a long time before she recovers if she recovers at all. You can easily imagine that our family must be in the deepest affliction possible short of being called to mourn her death. At home they are there are only Father and Marcus. Father has been to S. [South] Hadley twice since Martha was sick.

I hope you will be careful to answer this letter immediate as spring is now close at hand. If Mr. Knapp goes to Wisconsin he will wish to start early and I shall be anxious to know something about your calculations. Our term here lasts but six weeks more, and if you cannot send the letter so that it will get here by April 24, you must direct it to Mill Brook [Connecticut] I hope by all means to receive one, as soon as I get home, and if possible before.

What do you think of [...]socation? I have a somewhat better opinion of it than when I last saw you. I do not know but it might be well for you if you wish to leave your place to go into one as on some account I think you might like it. You would have a comfortable place to live, and as much company as you would like I suppose, without the trouble of buying stock, waggons, &. I think I will send you some publications on the subject that you may look them over and form an opinion for yourself I would not have you say thing about it in letters wh. [which] you send home as Father does not like it at all. Indeed I have no hesitation in saying there is a great deal of nonsense in their pretensions, but still I think the idea of getting together and helping one another along some is a good one. Something of the kind will be I think eventually adopted though not according to the plan of the Fourierites.

I think you ought to write home somewhat often you need not do it all at once but keep a sheet of paper by you and every few days write a few lines and thus you will before a great while have a sheet filled to send home. It is a very great comfort to Mother to hear from you as well as to all for us. If there are any particular books you would like to have, if you can write me before I go home I will try to get them & send them to you by Mr. Knapp.

I have not much more to say at present. John sends his love but has not time to write now. He has an oration to prepare for Junior Exhibition [at Yale University] – is a good scholar and in good health. Good-bye dear brother, remember to take with patience the unavoidable evils of this life and to look for the consummation of all your joys in a future and better world. Do all the good you can to your neighbors, and strive in all ways to make your own house the abode of peace and contentment

your aff. [affectionate] brother Joel.

Dear sister Caroline, If I have not written any part of the above letter directly to you it is not because I do not think often of you, and rejoice that Daniel is permit-to spend his time with one who is so anxious for his happiness and so well calculated to promote it. I hope you will be able to cheer each other on in life's rugged road and find in each other a happiness which does not depend on the changing and capricious world around you. You have troubles in Wisconsin, so down here, and probably not many less, though of course as this is our native country it is dear on that account, and must be viewed by you with tender feelings. What good ma[y] [c]rown your days with joy is the prayer [...] [your?] aff. [affectionate] brother Joel.

[Addressed to]

Mr. Daniel Grant
Prairieville
Milwaukie [*Milwaukee*] Co
Wisconsin.

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Oct. 29 '45

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

You will probably be somewhat astonished to receive a letter from me dated in this region, which is comparative near you, but here I am in Illinois and that but 35 miles from Chicago. I was married Oct. 12, and the next morning we started for the west and arrived here Oct. 23. I came here with the intention to supply this place with preaching, and as far as things now show themselves, I see no reason why I may not do so. We should have written you before but in the hurry of preparation for our journey and our wedding we scarcely had the time & we flattered ourselves that on our journey out we should find the necessary time. But that time did not offer itself, and we have been here nearly a week and you have not had a letter, but it shall not be our fault if you do not have one soon.

It seems a sort of tantalization to be so near you and yet not see you. I sup-^[pose] you must be regarded as about 150 miles off, for we are nearly south of Chicago and we must go to Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] probably to get to you. As soon as we can, we mean to come and see you, but that will not be just now, perhaps however, it will be in the course of the winter. I want very much to see you and being so near you makes my want still greater.

The Missionary Society [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] sent <me> us here, but this place is so large that I shall not be expected to supply any other while I remain here. It is I think about the size of Prairieville [*Wisconsin*], perhaps a little larger than that was when you went there, though I presume it has grown some since. This place sprung up when the canal which was to connect Lake Michigan and the Illinois River was projected, and it then promised to be a large village. But when the state found itself unable to complete that work, the village was prostrated or at least checked in its growth, Now that the completion of that Canal is rendered certain, the village has started again and promises to grow. Many new houses are now building and the village is so crowded that it is with the greatest difficulty that we find a place to stay even. We could not do so, only we are content to take a room in a garret of what may be called a high one story house a room hardly more than six feet high in the highest part and sloping on each side because it meets the roof. It is about 9 feet long and perhaps eleven wide, and here we have every thing. It is our bed, sitting, dressing, and study room, in short it is every thing but our cooking room, for as we board we have no cooking to do. It would be impossible I presume to find here any place to keep house, at least it would be to find any convenient place at any reasonable price.

We have as yet learned but little of the people. We hardly know where to begin to get acquainted with them. As far as we have met them, they are kind, and we cannot but believe we can do them good. There are in the village and within a circuit of three or four miles, something like 600 people though that curse of the West (and I may say of the church) sectarianism, has thrust its Hydra head into this place. There are here Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians and Presbyterians besides a sprinkling of Catholics, Unitarians & Universalists, and probably a considerable number of infidels. The Presbyterians are I suppose the strongest but they are weak enough. They have the walls and roof of a church erected but there is nothing finished about it.

Our people at home are about as usual. Martha [*Martha Grant*] having despaired of cure by any of the ordinary methods has determined to try the cold water cure and so has gone to Lebanon Springs where she will if it seems best spend a few weeks. If that does not benefit her, I do not know but we must abandon all hope.

I hope you will write to us as soon as you can. One reason why it is difficult for you to write home is that it must necessarily be three or four weeks before you can get an answer and it may be much longer before you will get one. I think you can write to us and expect an answer in less than a fortnight

I have not heard any thing from you since I gave you leave to sell the whole or a part of my lot, and do not know whether that increases your prospect of selling to advantage. I suppose however that the time for selling has passed this year and all such things must be postponed till after the navigation opens next spring. Please let me know. Remember me to my little niece, and with earnest wishes for your temporal and spiritual prosperity I am your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel. [*Joel Grant*]

P.S. Since writing the above we have received a letter from John dated Richmond Va, [*Virginia*] Oct. 14. His school is small not promising as well as he hoped, but his health is good. He wishes to be remembered to you. Brother Phelps not succeeding with his Association in Ohio went East as you know some months since. Susan was present at our wedding But Phelps was at N. York [*New York*] to ascertain if there was any place for him in some New Jersey Association The Ohio Phalanx proved a complete failure as all of them probably will eventually

Lockport. Ill. [*Illinois*] Oct. 29. '45

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

When you were married and came to this western world, I had little thought of so soon following you; much less of coming as your sister. Almost the last words of Caroline to me were, "I hope we shall some day see you at the west." Vain hope, thought I, for why should I ever leave New England. But so it is. Norfolk [*Connecticut*] is no longer my home, but a pleasant village in Ill. [*Illinois*] where all is now new and strange to me, but where there are doubtless many congenial spirits, and much that will help to make life happy. The particulars of our wedding, journey, &c. I will defer till the happy time when we may meet, and have an opportunity to talk of these things. Neither can I tell you much of the people here. Several ladies have called, and seem very cordial, One who was prevented by a sick child, from going out, sent for us to spend Sat. eve with them. We went, and spent an hour or two very pleasantly, indeed all whom we have met, greet us with smiles and kind wishes. We have a good boarding place, <with> in a pleasant family, though from Joel's description of our room you can judge that more would be desirable. But as we care not with the idea that every thing must be for our accommodation, but rather to accommodate ourselves to circumstances, and be happy whatever they may be, we find ourselves contented in this small room, without door, or closet. Still we hope for better things, though it may be a long time before we have them. We should feel ourselves rich indeed, had we a log house like yours, or even two rooms in any other.

A little more than a week before we left, we spent an afternoon at your father Burr's. Mary [*Mary Burr*] was at home, and with her and your mother, we had a rich visit. I do wish it were best for Mary [*Mary Burr*] to come West to teach, provided it could be in [the] your or, our vicinity. You are probably aware that she is now in Philadelphia. The Sab. [*Sabbath*] before we left, your mother gave me a letter partly filled, for us to finish, and send to you. In the hurry of the eve, and our early departure the next morn, I think it was left on my stand at home, though I thought till we arrived here that it was in my trunk, but cannot find it. I had not opened it, which your mother gave me permission to do, so that I know not of how much importance it was.

Mariette Phelps & John Cooke of [Touisteu?] were married Wed. eve after we left. She made a large wedding.

The day before we left, I received an invitation to come with Joel to S. Hadly [*South Hadley*], to attend the wedding of Miss Reed and Mr. Howland. They were to married Tues. morn, & Mr. H. [*Howland*] to be ordained in the P.M. They are going to visit around among their friends till the 10th of Nov. when they with several others sail from Boston for India. Nancy Foote, a teacher last year at the Sem. of Cayuga N.Y. now Mrs. [Treble?], is one of the no. [*number*]

The no. [*number*] at the Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Semianry*] this year is about 200, much smaller than last year. Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] is determined to have a "sort of jubilee this year", a time in wh [*which*] to rest from the severe labor of previous years. Do not you rejoice my sister, that you were once one of the favored no. [*number*] who dwelt within those walls? Many things wh [*which*] are there impressed upon the mind, are of incalculable importance to those who come west.

How is your little daughter? and what is her name. Is she a healthy, happy child? I want to see her. Please give here a kiss from her Aunt Abby.

I hope we shall soon hear from you. Although we are far from home, and eastern friends, we are not very far from each other, and may often speak <of> with our pens. Write all about yourselves and little one. We shall be interested in all that interests you. Mary Woodard spent a day with me about four weeks since. Her family are all well. Martha has fully recovered her health, and can now walk, sing &c as usual. I hope we may see you this winter, still I dare not set my heart too much upon it, lest it should be otherwise -- at any rate we may hope to see you in the course of a year. I suppose the roads are very fine in the summer. That the blessings of Heaven may rest upon you and yours is the desire of your aff [affectionate] sister Abigail. [Abigail Cowles Grant]

[Abigail Cowles Grant to Caroline Burr Grant]

[on stationary imprinted: Home for the Friendless, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. E.M. Boring, Secretary,

Residence, 290 West Madison Street.

Mrs. J. Grant, Matron,

911 Wabash Avenue.]

Nov. 24, 1866

Dear Sister Caroline,

Your valued letter was duly received. -- I am a poor correspondent, partly because I get so little time to attend to any thing out side of this House, & it may be partly for want of thoroughness. I have a great many business letters to write wh. takes time, and the days pass so swiftly, it seems as if they were shorter than ever --

My husband came Thurs. & I have sent for John to spend thanksgiving with us next thurs. It is five years since we were together on that day. I do not expect to see as much of either as I did like to, but the father & son will have a little visit. I should like John to be much more <like> with his father, he always is benefited & will be increasingly so, cd [could] he be more with him --

3

and he has been taught from a child to deny himself for others, to not feel that any amount of waiting upon, on care was a burden -- his experience in Cairo did him great good -- and his teachers in Beloit had more fear from his kind social tendencies, than any thing else -- I have no fear in that line, but cultivate the genialities, and wish him to copy those things in all that tend virtuously that way. not for his pleasure only, but especially for his usefulness -- sweetness, -- kind courtesy, give any person advantage, and should be thought of in early life, & developed. Do you tire of my writing so much about John? Forgive me, for he has been my thought & care so much ever since his dear father left for army life, that I am more interested in every thing pertaining to him -- His father has always feared he was too full of fun, to little inclined to thorough study &c. &c. but he begins to appreciate him, and I hope will him long enough to be proud of him -- I am anxious for J. to sing well, & he will try ere long.

excuse this co...

Tues. morn. Dec. 4. John came Thurs. morn. & returned Fri. P.M. We had a very pleasant little visit with him. He went to his school district Sat. so as to be ready to open his school Mond. He expects to acknowledge God in his first efforts by opening his school daily with prayer -- I am anxious all his energies, & powers be used for Christ, not in a constrained service, but as a cheerful loving spirit doing every thing faithfully & perfectly for the Master.

A friend who came to this town in a very feeble state on Mond. last, died Tues. night -- She was laid on my lounge her choice, when she was brot in, & died there. Her sister was, -- is & with us but she is feeble, & I have had much care [extud?] -- We have the funeral from this house this morn. at 10. My husband officiating. I gave up my rooms, & we have a room above in the 3d story for a few days, all helps to disarrange & delay my pen, you will excuse it I trust. I am so glad you concluded to stay with Father this winter -- I know it must be lonely for you to be away from Da[n]iel. I know too such things can be borne, for I have to endure, because it seems best. The end justifies the means, -- I suppose --

I cannot tell you how my heart leaps for joy at the thought of going to Colebrook to live: just to think of being where I could see you, all often, & revive the delightful associations of youth. O, it was too great a joy for me even to be permitted to have -- It is too much
[written along side] holiday, too much freedom from care for me, well, let it be as God wills. He knows how I hoped we could go there & if He makes not the way plain I submit to Him --

Am very glad the clothes are a comfort to father -- wish I could do more for him, and Marcus -- I thank God often that He inclines you to be there with them, and so kindly care for them. We all feel grateful to you and hope you will be rewarded for all your labor of love --
I am glad Abby is with sister E. if it is pleasant for her. I presume they all enjoy it -- Some day I hope we shall be housekeeping, & she can come & see us.

I do not suppose the luxury of a quiet life is best for me, else it wd not be so far from me all the time -- It is too good to hope for, to go to Colebrook & renew the acquaintances of my early days Life has been so stern & stirring, that I scarce look forward to any thing else -- My cares here are numerous & varied, but I like them, and only feel them a burden, when very tired --

Mr. E. Aiken died very suddenly, tho' he had been sick several days -- I saw him a week before his death, he was sitting up, & hoped in a few days to go to the Bank -- I feel as if I had lost a brother. he was been exceedingly kind to me, has often counseled in business matters -- I am no half thro, tho' paper's used up.

[written along side of first page] I wish you wd write often, I will answer as soon as I can. I am over prest with care, but never forget my friends, or cease to want to hear from them -- I wish I could do more for them. I cannot bear to think of father or Marcus wanting any thing they cannot have. After all their toils they ought to be free from care.

Joel sends love to you all. My love to you all & all the friends every where --

Let us keep better acquainted dear Sister, write as soon as you receive this, & I will answer soon --

It is only 14 min. to the funeral so I must close yr aff. sister

Abby --

How I wish I cd talk with you a week --

[Letterhead] Rev. E.M. Boring, Secretary
Residence, 290 West Madison Street
Mrs. J. Grant, Matron
911 Wabash Avenue

Home for the Friendless,
Chicago Ill. Jan 4 186 7

Dear Sister Caroline,

Your letter is just rec'd and read, and if I delay replying, it may be a long delay; so I sit down at my table a large pile of letters waiting, but this shall be the first answered.

I am truly glad to hear from you & all about <y>our people. Father is really infirm; how he must miss his early activities! I often wonder if it is not the same sort of paralysis that affects Father G. that has earlier shown itself in poor brother John: none of the family seem to have very good health. I am glad my husband can be a comfort to John in this time of his trial. How much he has to endure: You and I can well sympathize in this life separated from our husbands. It is not pleasant, not the way to live, but circumstances make it best. I look forward with hope knowing that the same necessity will not always exist. I am more than paid for all my toil & care, by the certainty of knowing that I am helping my husband & that by this means we are able to do as we wish at educating John. Mr. Grant often has said "Is it best to spend so much upon John, He will not make a better business man for it & may be that is all he is fitted for" &c -- &c -- But I am hard to persuade on that point, if God spares my health, he shall have a thorough education & I believe God will call him to do something for Him. I want him to be what he will make the most of a man at -- a th<r>ough earnest Christian man. I expect him to be a Christian, to act upon the highest Christian principle in every thing, when J. wrote me he was going to teach, I wrote him that of course he will not think of beginning his life work without asking God's blessing. He said he

should do it, & does open his school with prayer every day – Isn't that a thing to thank God for! I give thanks often as I am engaged in numerous cares here, & ask God to do yet more for him, to lead him upward to the intensest devotion in His cause. John's geniality, and hearty good nature insures him friends always.

Eve. My love to father & Marcus, and all your family when you write to them – also to the friends whenever you see them. We are having a good deal of snow this winter, but not so blockaded by it as in your vicinity. It has been snowing fast all day and is yet (10 o'clock). How quiet these days & nights must be with you! They are so full of noise & bustle here, so hurried to get [thro?] with the meals, & all the work, so many calls to see to & entertain. I am thankful I can do. God give me strength to go on – with much love, I am your aff. sister

Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Write often –

[Letterhead]

Rev. E.M. Boring, Secretary
Residence, 290 West Madison St.
Home for the Friendless,

Mrs. J. Grant, Matron
911 Wabash Avenue

Chicago, Oct. 7, 1867

My dear sister C.

This is Mond. morn & our breakfast & prayers are over, and before I begin the labors of the week, I want to talk with you a little. I think of you often, & know you must feel intensely lonsome at times, for I do here, & it is only because I am so driven by cares, and activities here that I can endure my heart's loneliness at times. What is best, not what we please, seems to be the way we have to look at things.

I have not heard that you have decided anything about your future yet, suppose it is hard to know the best way, tho' I think it will open to you.

It must be very lonesome at the old dear house now. Mother & Father gone, your heart must ever be glad that you could do so much for them, & then you did it so kindly! we all thank God for you kind spirit to our beloved parents, and thank you for so faithfully & continuously ministering to their wants.

I hear weekly from John. He told me of his nice silver napkin ring given him by his aunt Caroline. He seems to be getting along well. I am so glad he can room at Mr. Baldwin's, for I think Mrs. B. w'd know if he was sick.

Our future, i.e. my husband's & mine together are known only to God. – May He direct.

From three weeks after my return, I was so weak that at times I feared I w'd have to give up this work, but am feeling pretty well now, tho' my head is not always clear.

We were all frightened by waking with a bright light pouring into our windows, & the cry of fire, & 4 engines planted at various points around. It was a number of buildings, 1 ½ blocks to our rear. Had th e wind blown from the west, nothing could have saved all between us & it, & we too should have probably been burned. It is my first sight of a near fire, & I do not want a nearer.

The man who has lost his all, is our carpenter, and has been so kind to us, that we feel an unusual sympathy for him. he was not insured; his fine valuable [pet?] house was burned up. 4 sets of harness, all his tools, every thing.

I cannot write longer but meant to tell you how pleasant the remembrance of my visit with you is. I am so glad to have been there at the time I was.

Do write to me, soon as you can all about your husband & children. Give my love to them & to brother Marcus & to accept much love for yourself, from your aff. sister

Abby. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

[attached envelope addressed:]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Yours was duly rec'd. Am glad there was no occasion for the "accident tickets." Also glad you found Abby more comfortable. Have no doubt the very thought of your coming tended to make her feel less nervous & more as if she was going to get along well. It must have been pleasant for you to be there thru Commencement week -- & especially to hear Mr. Burr -- I hope you have good news from Daniel & Eddy.

We are getting on in the usual way. Miss Shean left last week Fri. Miss Hovey came the morning before, & takes her place. She relieves me entirely at the children's meals. Miss Bowman left on the early A.M. train just after Miss H. came on Thurs. -- I have heard from her twice -- she leaves Middletown to-day for Ver [*Vermont*] -- says she wants to get back here, & "shall be in ample time for the meeting of the Am. B'd [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*]." She visited her sister Mat. who is well as can be expected -- Joel was here last week; also John got back from his northward trip Sat. A.M. two hours before time to join his father on his way to Cambridge -- thus both felt sorry not to see you here -- Had a letter from them this A.M. J. C. likes C. so much better than Bristol, he will stop here a day as he returns to Lake F.

Harriet Butler is visiting me with the rest of her friends in this city -- she is this P.M. at Mr. Gray's to tea -- Mrs. G. & Maria Phelps called to see her here yesterday -- Maria said she was sorry not to see you again. She did not think I cared to see her, because I never called on her &c -- She is blind as ever, & very fleshy --

Mrs. B. has just returned from tea -- had a nice time &c -- Geo & Maria bro't her home -- I know you will repine & may be put on crape (*white*) when I tell you that Augusta has gone to a home; went yesterday -- we miss her -- Agnes, Nellie, & Delia Grave are also gone -- Changes are so continual here -- we have received over 50 this month.

Kate does very well in the bath room -- she cleaned it all over again yesterday -- I have had the hooks for the hats & caps put down in the Bath room; it is more convenient -- also we have moved the old benches into the new School room & the other is painted ready for furnishing --

We have an awning over the front door giving a pleasant affect to the hall, & protecting from the morning sun, & evening dew. I hope for the fountains some day. Edward is in a shop down town, where gold leaf is pounded out: he likes it & is so much happier for having something to do.

Mr. Bell is faithful as ever, is now fixing up a play house for the children & getting the lumber in shape in the yard --

Miss Bowman's brother Henry's wife, sent 'special love to you -- Miss B. also.

My love to Mr. & Mrs. Shurtleff, to your children & to yourself, from y'r aff sister, Abby --

I hope Abby will not be discouraged, or too apprehensive -- She has a host of sympathizers who are ready to congratulate, at the earliest opportunity -- I shall be glad to hear from you any time & always --

[*written across first page*] None of us have been paid yet, as soon as we are, I will send yours on -- by P.O. order or by D'ft --

[*Abigail Cowles Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

[*Printed: Home for the Friendless,
911 Wabash Avenue,
Chicago,] Dec. 23. 1870*

Dear Sister Caroline,

I was very glad to receive your letter some time since. The same reason for delaying to reply that exists always here, is my excuse for so long silence -- Every day & hour is full or care, & far into the night I often write, just as I used to when you were here

The Home has never been so full of inmates as the last month, and this & the vigilance required to keep every thing shining, gives us all, all we can do -- The same employees are here, & Kate Davis is still in the Bath room: so we run pretty smoothly -- The Christmas fixins are this P.M. arranged for by M.C.C.P. Holden giving me \$16. to get filling for thin stockings, wh. are to be

filled Sund. night -- Our tree, & general jubilations are to be Thurs. the 29. so you can think of as poor tired mortals Thurs. & all the week as having had a good time at the expense of muscle & sinew --

Joel & John C. met here for Thanksgiving, & we all enjoyed it much --

Both were here again Tues eve of this week. John C. for a half hour, (he was in to the Yale banquet) & Joel to spend a day & two nights -- J. is well, & likes Cambridge, & the people like him -- I have delayed going there for a few weeks or perhaps months, as the parsonage is not quite completed -- I have been threatened with lung trouble again, but am better, & hope to escape a second time -- the weather now is fine; the cold, clear air is bracing, & makes me breathe easier --

Our new building in all costing \$40,000 is paid for, & as you will see by the annual Report, when out, all is in a prosperous condition -- the Industrial school commences Jan. 2 -- in our new school room -- Miss Hovey to see to the sewing &c -- and a Miss Simonds to be teacher -- she is 28 yrs old -- a Missionary's daughter &c.

I hope you are well, & happy with Abby & the dear little baby; how time passes, and how old it makes one feel to have Abby a wife & mother! What is the young lady's name? and who does she look like? Does she cry after her father yet? Abby must not forget to teach her that. Love to them all, & a kiss for the little one. Yr aff. sister, Abby --

[*written across verso*] I shall be glad to hear from you at any time -- What do you hear from Daniel & Edward; any thing encouraging?

[*written across front*] Rec'd a letter from Marcus & wife Tues -- M is teaching as last winter, & busy as ever making the old house appear new -- she has painted & papered the bed room off the middle room --

M. wrote that Desiah N. was at the Asylum & not improving -- I hope Prof. & Mrs. Shurtleff are well my love to them.

What do you hear of sister Elizabeth?

Miss Bowman sends love to you, the others would if they knew I was writing.

Mary often asks about you and the baby, she cannot comprehend that your daughter is the mother -- she is almost crazy about Christmas -- She has squirrel furs --

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

[*Printed*: Home for the Friendless,
911 Wabash Avenue,
Chicago,] Jan. 11. 1872.

Dear Sister Caroline,

Your letter was rec'd, this morning; was glad to hear from you & yours --

I am glad Abby & family keep well. I doubt not little Carrie is a great comfort to them all -- It is too bad that brother Daniel should be so continually disappointed -- I often think of him, and seem to see him, weary, yet hopeful. I hope some time he will be really successful -- it would cheer me to hear him wake up some fine morning with a large fortune -- I hope Edward is not to have such a discouraged life, it is too bad, though of course he can leave when he wishes --

We have had such a very busy life since the fire that we scarce have rested at all -- You did not say whether you see our little paper -- it has gone thr'o vicissitudes, but comes out with a new interest, & we hope will be as good as before -- Miss Bowman arranges it, and her experience & skill is equal to it -- Miss B. & Hovey, Mrs. Osthon & Bike are here still -- Miss Gould has not been here since last summer -- except the Tues. night after the fire she came & staid till Sat. morning -- those were days of dread & terror, days to be ever remembered -- days when friends from near & from far, poured in, & worked & sympathized, & helped -- My husband reached here Thurs. morning & John C. Sat -- neither staid long, but they came to give thanks for spared wife, & mother, & "Home" -- Both are well as usual & with prosperity as for some time before -- John G. is pleased with the Nebraska plan -- so is his father. I did like to go to the Colony to live, but doubt if I get soon away from this Home -- The fire did not affect Englewood -- but it made me thankful I did not own property in this city -- The west side lot I sold last spring, & have the money at 10 pr. ct interest -- Some time, we hope for a little quiet home, but it may

[written across last page] never come. I do not worry about it but feel trustful in some degree --
Tell me if you do not get our paper --

[written across first page] My love to your sister & family -- You have doubtless heard of brother John's illness, & recovery, also of the death of my co. James Cowles -- I do not like to feel that I am growing old so fast, yet it crowds upon me, & soon the fact will come

I am always glad to hear from you --

Miss Bowman sends love, so does Mrs. Ostram & Miss Hovey.

Very aff'ly Your sister Abby,

The \$1 came safely.

Tell me if I have Mr. Hill's initials right --

[Stationary] Home for the Friendless

No. 911 Wabash Avenue

Chicago, Ill. [handwriting starts] May 1st, 1875.

Dear Sister Caroline,

I was very glad to get your letter yesterday, and you see my effort at promptness in replying.

You have not been forgotten in these long winter months, but you have shared like the rest of my personal friends, in the results of my care. Business letters must be ans. but those of affection can wait, and the love does not grow cold -- The anniversary of my dear husbands death was living once so [...] again, realizing afresh the agonizing fact. God helps me to look upward, to have a little more faith & trust. I try to see beyond the transitory state to the mansions prepared for those that love the Lord. "Perfect love [castile?] out fear", I want that assurance, that will make me fearless in view of death. I have so many precious memories of the past, my life has been so full of rich blessing, that I feel called upon always to Praise the Lord.

It is sad to have our family so fast going: brother Phelps, & Aunt B: [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] we are fast leaving the places to others. Sister Susan & Jennie spent a day with me, on their way back to Omaha -- Sisters love for the husband of her youth showed itself so beautifully. Have heard from her once since she returned to O. I hope to see sister Elizabeth during the summer -- & it may possibly be go on to Omaha --

It must be delightful for you to visit sister & daughter & grandchildren, all at the same time. I had a letter from Abby recently, and John C. said he would like to answer it. so she will hear from us some day.

I sent the Cook Book, the day after yours was rec'd -- Hope Mary will like it. Of the Edition of 5000, 4500 have been sold --

We are in the midst of calcimining painting &c -- have been for three weeks. How glad we shall be to be through: next month, I hope to go Hannibal Mo. for a week, to visit Mr. Turner -- 'Guster is here, is queer as ever; she often asks for Mrs. Caroline Grant & says she loves her next to her Mother --

Lottie Somers remembers you, and Amanda Hahn well several others -- Mrs. Ostrom is gone, & Mr. Bell, and Mrs. Kelly,

I have written to brother Daniel this winter, & know of the state of things there: have several acquaintances in the grasshopper region -- I know they have suffered, but I do not think half as much as if the grasshopper had not visited them -- then there had been no excuse for a call for help which they really needed. Daniel writes pretty cheerfully, I hope he can so arrange as to come home before long. He knows best what he will be satisfied with --

Miss Bowman, Hough Johnson, Mary G. & all the rest send love to you --

Have sent the memorials. Your Af. sister Abby. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant

Flemington, N.J.

Ark. City May 17 1875

My Dear Wife,

I have misplaced your last letter and cannot now find it. I will write briefly without it. I asked to know if you rec'd former letter because I feared I had made a mistake in the superscription. Glad to know you got it. I am getting on very well thanks to your effort. I feel younger than I did. Such an uncertainty how I was to get along hung upon me that it weighed me down but your timely aid has relieved me. Thank God.

You have relieved others also. 2800 lbs corn and potatoes arrived at Wichita depot just as the \$15, you sent reached me. The corn and potatoes were held for \$21, 85/100 charges against it. The question was how would we raise the money to redeem them and save them for this suffering people. The only way seemed to be to sell enough to raise the money out of it. This would take nearly all probably all the corn viz. 36 bush and leave the potatoes about 8 bush, to be distributed after paying expenses from Wichita a distance of 65 miles but your aid arrived by the help of it I got one of my neighbors to go with me with a small team wh. with my team was able to hall the stuff so with some of our labor and your money we were able to distribute nearly all the corn and potatoes.

Many were made glad for a few days.

Times now are appearing brighter. A large amount of corn is planted wh. is now up and looking well. Wheat also looks promising. One month more and harvest will commence. We will then have wheat of our own, gardens will be producing, green corn will be ready and people will begin to live. A good crop and we are all right.

I have received aunt B's [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] legacy. The amount is \$440, At the same time came the advertisement announcing the land sale.

Is Abbie at Flemington? How does she get her living? Give her my love. It is all I have to give. I am very busy now but will try and write again soon as I can consistently.

I suppose you are at New Marlborough now and this will find you there

As Ever Thine
D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant,
Clayton Berkshire Co.
Mass. <Conn>

[*Stationary*] Home for the Friendless
911 Wabash Avenue

Chicago, [*Handwriting begins*] Aug. 8, 1874

Dear Sister C.

It will be impossible for me to visit you at [...] Aunts. I am not able to make many visits except at [...] Mr B, [...] N. I think you had better come to brother Marcus, & all can visit there & at the [other?] friends, giving us a good deal of time -- I shall expect you certainly --

Miss Johnson, our teacher, goes [East?] with me -- We leave Mond. Aug 10th go by Pt. & Ft. Wayne R.R. get to John's Tues. P.M.

Shall go to [Hemisted?] Fri or Sat & go up to Marcus' about Wed or Thurs of the next week --

Shall hope to meet you there -- It will bring many precious memories back: I want it to. I want to go where my blessed husband was home & where his parents & brothers & sisters lived - - It will make my heart ache, and will also comfort me --

I love for time to think of all these things am so hurried here as to feel hungry for though - - time --

With love [your?] aff sister
Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

John C. is on a trip to Dulutte -- been gone near a week. Mary has gone to Miss B's Mothers in
[Tower?]

Flemington [New Jersey] July 27 1876

Dear Sister

It is a long time since I have written you and now want a little information about the Potato crop in your part of the Country. Wish you would ask Uncle Collar about the price of new potatoes & whether they are ready for market. Here we have no vegetables of any kind on account of the very severe & protracted dry weather.

I went to N York [New York] yesterday to buy potatoes, turnips, cabbage tomatoes & squashes, found them of good quality but not very cheap—Our crops will all be very light & corn nothing unless we have rain within a very short time. I had 96 Bu of oats from 4 acres and they only weigh 26 ½ lb per bu. Shall have enough to last my horse through the year. Pasture as brown as a [counter?] and feed meal to cow twice a day.

We never have had such a poor garden in the 27 years that we have kept house.

Our house is pretty full from top to bottom, but we get along pretty comfortably since the weather has become cooler!

The first night we slept in the attic it was like the torrid zone, but now the nights are cool.

Have had no rain to wet the ground for about six weeks and all the showers go either north or south of us.

We were all glad to see Ed but sorry that he could not stay longer. Expect he has told you all about the Centennial. I do not think Mary & J can go before the middle of October.

I think I would almost enjoy a week among the hills of Mass as the Centennial, but expect it would not do to go when we are so near by and have friends in the City with whom we can stay.

We find our boarders quite as pleasant as we expected and hope we shall be able to please them.

Mr. Vansyokle has a team of horses & driver. They stay at the Hotel in the Village.

They go out riding once every day & sometimes twice.

Last Saturday, I had a holiday & took out Carrie [Caroline Lynette Burr]. Mrs. Earl & Miss Bethel in the morning, & Mary & Allie in the evening, it was a pleasant day & we all enjoyed it.

Had a letter from [M ...] forepart of the week she was well happy & doing pretty well with her studies. Has been examined in French and was complimented by the teacher upon her proficiency in the Language. Sam has had a felon on his left hand doing nothing for more than a week, so that I had the milking to do & water to draw from the well in the field for five cows. Our well at the barn has been dry for about 10 days. Sam has gone to work again today – How did you all stand the extreme heat? And are you through your haying? We shall have wheat enough off of our little farm to give us bread for the year to come.

Nothing in the way of news about town. Dinner is nearly ready so will turn myself to sharpening the carving knife cutting this letter short.

With love to all I am yours truly,

William Hill

2219. Wabash Av. Chicago. Ill

Apr. 3rd 1881.

Dear Sister C,

I was most glad to hear from you, a few days since. It is a great blessing that your health continues. Your cares must be great. It is wonderful that your Aunt lives, eating so little & suffering so much # !

[Written across side of first page in different handwriting: # I did not write that Aunt suffered now, but she knows she did suffer with rheumatism & suppose she thought she did still. C.]

I am glad your kind care can be for her comfort. I do not know of any one who would do as much as you have done, & do, for aged feebleness, & helplessness -- God will bless you for it in the end, if you do not see it day by day -- I think of you very often, & know how full of care you are --

It is good news from Abby that you write! how little we hear of revival now, & yet the way of salvation is just the same, by repentance & faith in Jesus Christ.

We noticed the 23d of M'ch & spoke of Edward's new happiness, & gave him our best hopes, & warmest congratulations -- you did not say where they were to live, or what E. was doing.

I have hoped dear brother Daniel w'd come home some time, & still hope so, but who can tell what a day may bring forth! His life may be longer for the rough way of living, or may not. he evidently enjoys it -- & has large

[*Written in gutter between second and third pages in different handwriting:*] You may return this -- Abby has an Ovarian Tumor -- has been tapped twice -- is not expected she can ever <recover> be well again.

hope -- Am glad to hear so well of Willy at Marcu's & of them all. I did not know where Gertie [*Sarah Gertrude Day Grant*] was, or if she was doing any thing Am glad, for she will be so much happier for it, & can help Willy. neither she, or M. have written me in many, many months.

I have had bad health for a long time, & our Board in March voted me a leave of absence for three months! so I am with John & Susan, in their small but comfortable place, just before 22d St -- almost in sight of the "Home," & hear from it every day, & oftener. All is well there, & work is plenty -- Miss Bowman "holds the fort" --

John & partner, a Mr. Schubrujn, a Swiss scholar, have a very successful school of 80. pupils, & are encouraged -- J. & Susan enjoy their housekeeping vry much -- & I am so thankful to have this house to come to. It is quiet, & every thing done for my comfort -- I bro't a girl to take care of me, for I need a good deal of waiting on, & have little strength -- Have been here since March 10th am going to try with J'C's help to go down stairs to dinner this P.M. at 5 -- It will tire me but may not be worse for me -- have not been down since I came up --

[*Written across last page*] Love to your sister M. & family.

[*Written across first page*] Am always glad to hear from you. Our love to yourself, Daniel, & your children & grand children. Remember me most kindly to your Aunt C [E?]. I hope she may be better & more than all that her hopes for eternity may be bright.

Very afly y'r sister,

Abby. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

Flemington NJ
Aug 15/82

Dear Uncle & Aunt

I write to thank you for your real kindness in sending me that eight dollars.

I am just attempting to start a "dry plate" trade. May be you dont know what that is, or rather what dry plates are. They are an improvement over' what photographer usually call "wet plates," these plates either "wet" or "dry" are what are put in the camera and receive the impression of the image, before the camera, through the action of light: they are sensitive to light, the "dry plate" much more so than the "wet" so much more so that the picture can be taken in a fifth or sixth the time it takes with the "wet plate" The wet plate has to be made used and "developed" all with in a limited space of time (only a few minutes) but the dry plate will keep months, even years, and can be "exposed" now, and "developed" a month hence. Photographers usually (they have not yet come into universal use, it is only two or three years, hardly that, that they have been brought to their present state of reliability) do not make their own "dry plates"

even those that use them almost exclusively, as they require considerable experience and care in their manufacture. They buy them of those who make it a business to make them. As a great many are used <made>, and there are less than a dozen makers of them in this country who advertise them for sale I thought I would try to sell some, now that I am for the present out of employment.

Louis and I spent considerable time and money experimenting with them till we could make good ones and I thought I would try and make it turn me in something.

Last Thursday I went to Lambertville to try and sell some I had made, so as to get them introduced. Sold what I had with me, but found when <when> I attempted to sell any more I ought to have printed directions for their use. Having spent almost all my money I was wondering on my way home how I would raise enough to go on with what I had laid out for my self to do. When I got home I found your check awaiting me, so you can see how oportunely it came.

I presume mother has told you about all the news. We have just now several boarders, four of them small children. I know about a little of what is going on at your house as though I lived in China, in fact I am not sure how many children to inquire after, though I think I have heard there are two. Before our fire it had been my intention to come home by way of Carman and Norfolk and stop a few hours, but the fire and then right after it Aunt Kate's death entirely changed my plans.

How are you getting along, and Ed and his family too. When you were down to New Jersey Uncle Erastus, I was sorry I could not be home to see you. I have just asked Minnie if you got as homesick as you did the time before. She said she guessed not. Thank you again, and for the present, good by

Your aff nephew

S.B. Hill [*Samuel B. Hill*]

[Pokeipsie?] Dutchess Co. N.Y.

Dec. 23d 1883

Dear Cousin Carrie

12-30. I am just home from morning service & here 3/4 of an hour before dinner. I am determined to begin a letter to you trusting I may be allowed the time to finish it this year. I have had you on my list of correspondents ever since Mr. B. wrote you in the summer or fall. I do not know whether he answered your very agreeable letter in reply to his -- which is lying open before me. I asked him to leave it with me as I wished to write to you. He left us Sep. 17th for the West. He has been in my entire care for so long -- that when the parting came I felt I had nothing more to live for. That my work was done. He left on the 8-15 -- P.M. train. Took a Sleeper to Niagara (I urged him to stop at N. Though he might as well take all in he could as the outlay? was large to begin with) For days after he left I was miserable. It did seem as if I could not suffer more had death caused the separation. When I heard from him from N. he too was suffering & the stop at Niagara in his distressed state of mind -- was a mistake. He wrote very blue -- & said the roar of the Cataract sounded like a funeral dirgo. He remained a week. Then went to Racine Wisconsin to <see> visit an old classmate of William's College Col. [McMynn?] who had been writing for him. There -- to his surprise -- he met another classmate a D.D. & the three had eleven days of real enjoyment together. From there he went to Chicago & visited my relatives. I have three cousins very handsomely situated there -- One on Prairie Ave. and one on Indiana Ave. There also he had a delightful time. The daughter of Cousin Morris Johnston was married a week ago & a full account of the wedding in the C. paper -- I sent it to Mr. B. or would sent it to you. It was an elegant affair. They are all very rich. Are Baltimorians. From there Mr. Burton struck out alone & for [himself?]. And then I trembled. He went to Lincoln Nebraska stayed there some weeks & then went to Seward -- remained there awhile & went to Aurora Hamilton Co. Nebraska. He is there now. I expect him back in about 2 weeks. It will be a sad [Christmas?] without him. The first we have spent apart since we were married 18 years ago. Mr. B. has kept well all the time. Indeed his health has improved It has agreed with him. The weather has been delightful & the climate out there very fine so far all has gone well. He expects to turn his face homeward on the 26th unless my nephew -- Dr. Yarnall of Washington wishes him to attend to some more business

out in Iowa for him. He has considerable land out there. Mr. B will return to Chicago. I want him to return by the way of St. Louis & Washington & Flemington. I have only 8 gentlemen cousins in the first named place. And my old home is in W. & his relations he would see at F. He says when he starts for us he doesn't think he can stop any where. I hope & pray he will get back safely. You know we moved here the 25th of last June. We were in our house in Hudson from the Middle of Aug. to the middle of last June. Were indeed very sorry [Jim?] could not visit us. Had I not been taken sick I intended writing for Mr. & Mrs. David Burton to visit us also -- but you know what an unhealthy winter it was & I took cold & was quite delicate for several weeks. I was up & about -- but had to be very careful. It was in some respects a very pleasant sojourn in the dear old home -- but O.' so sad to me! I could not go into that house where I had been so exquisitely happy -- after so many sad changes -- & take up the thread again & go on. O' No! At every stop I missed the loved ones that had been with me & joined with me in my happiness. My babes had died there. My dear husband broke down & I nursed him 3 years there. I missed him when I went back -- he was so changed. But much better than I ever expected <him> at one time he ever would <so> be. He wanted to return to that house & live out some of those pleasant days again. I do think he enjoyed every day of it until Spring and then we had an offer for the whole place (home & office) & I urged his selling & leaving H. altogether. Like Mrs. Thomas Carlyle when they left Craigenpultock -- I wished to "burn our ships" and to prevent the possibility of return. If Mr. B had been able to resume business -- I should have contented myself in H. but as it was the place has grown stupid & Mr. B would have gone into the old ruts again. I saw plainly he could not resume the practice of law -- then why stay there? Our choice lay between Albany & this place. We finally decided in favor to the latter. I wished Marie to have every advantage in the way of education. I wished her to go to Vassar College and therefore Pokeipsie is the place to prepare. She is now in Dr. [Height's?] Academy. He says she can be prepared in 2 years but I don't wish any crowding. She can take 3 if necessary to health. She is very well now is a tall fine looking girl -- I considered very bright -- is doing finely in Latin. Takes to languages as a duck does to water -- Not a very elegant comparison I admit. We have a delightful boarding place. Many have called upon me here and I have had invitations to Receptions -- but I care very little for that kind of enjoyment now. I love lectures & Concerts -- We are now enjoying the Lyceum season of 1883 & 1884. They wind up Feb. 15th with a grand concert. The next lecture Jan. 11th will be by Rev. Joseph Cook of Boston Subject "God in Natural Law..." we are to have Gough once more. I do not rave over him. P. is a lovely place. It is so much nearer to N.Y. which is an advantage. We do talk of furnishing rooms & going with "light housekeeping take our breakfast as our home" & our dinners out. If so we will be glad to have you visit us. I am sorry you did not come to us in H.

Monday 2-30. Our dear daughter is busy arranging her [Christmas?] Cards. We Miss dear papa so much. I have just heard from him will be so glad to get him back. It seems impossible that he is so far away from me. My dear church will fill up the vacuum. Service at seven a.m. than the carols at 9a.m. Then full service at quarter to eleven when we are sad & lonely at the loss of our dear ones. What a comfort to be able to attend such delightful services in our Mother Church. There is every thing here to make it a pleasant [Christmas?] but his absence. I hope dear Cousin Carrie we will some day -- not far distant meet & enjoy some long long talks. You dont know how I miss Aunt Collar. To feel she & Uncle C. are both gone! They will spend their [Christmas?] in realms above. Where is your home now? Has Mr. Grant gone East as you thought he would & as he [...] in his letter to Mr. B? I shall try & write soon to Flemington. How are they all in N. Haven? Has Mrs. Braley any child or children? Not much happiness in this world without then. I would rather have 2 dozen than none at all. I had six. Had Mr. B. kept his health I suppose I should have had 6 or 8 more. As he lost his health & his business it was a blessing to the dear children that they were taken from him the troubles of this world. I do not believe in having many children unless you can do well for them. I do not believe in raising up paupers. Have as many as you can do a good part by & no more. -----

Dec 25th 3-15 --

Marie is [...] by & sends love. She has been enjoying her [Christmas?]. He have been to church Have had an elegant dinner. Heard from my dear husband & he is well. We have much to be thankful for. Mr. has me wish you a very happy New Year I should love to hear from you.

Your affectionate cousin

Mary H Benton

104. Montgomery [So-.?] Pokeipsie

[Addressed to] Mrs Daniel Grant
New Marlboro.
Berkshire Co.
Mass.

Baldwin Cottage
Oberlin Ohio.
Feb 20th. '89

Dear Aunty:

How many times I have thought of you and thought I should get letter off long ago, but have been as busy as a bee, I think your birthday is Friday the 22nd is it not? I wish you many happy returns.

No doubt they have told you how unexpectedly the opportunity came to return to Oberlin I have salary of (\$500.) per year iE school year of course the greater part of vacation will be spent at home My work is to keep record of marks of all students in Preparatory, College and Theological Departments I have an office of my own but it is not well furnished, It is in the South west corner of the chapel I am in office usually from 1/2 past Eight until twelve and from half past one until five Do not return to office after tea Just now am working some in the Evening but do not Expect to usually If I am to be away from home I could not be in a pleasanter place than Oberlin for me One of the Professors Prof. [Peing?] and his wife were both class-mates. All of the Older Profs remember me and have met me most pleasantly

Mrs. Johnston is very kind and my [times?] have fallen in pleasant places

Mrs Shurtleff is very good I have been in frequently Prof. Shurtleff is out Goes to Office and Laura is much better They too Expect to go South about the 1st of March, Last but not least Carrie Burr has been here since just before Christmas It has been a real pleasure to me to have her here to take over matters with her She is quiet, but has very pleasant manners, like her Mother in that. has a sweet face. wearing glasses is a great improvement to her

We had thought that Carrie would go to Flemington [*New Jersey*] but they Almon and Abby have finally decided that it is best to have her return to Beloit [*Wisconsin*] and I presume she will go next week. I will send letter received from Abbie a few days ago

Carrie Hill has not been very well, but, Dr Parish has taken her in hand, And she is to go away for a short visit taking Sophie [Hulsiger?] with her probably they will go to Phil.

One of Halsey Hulburts grandsons is in the Senior class here His name Halsey Hulburt Matterson He called on me last Sat. Eve He came to my office on business and his name made me think he must be a connection He says his Aunt Julia is quite [stout?], Expects his Grandfather here for Commencement We do thank you for the Catalogue also for the lace you need not send the muslin We do not want it so do not have it on your mind

How is Edward getting on Improving I hope Are the girls Fannie and Carrie still with you Am glad you could make use of things sent Wish I could see you but that is out of the question just [now?] Give my love to Ed. and Lucy

One of my pleasures here is attending Faculty Club The Faculty meet Every two weeks One Eve. they read Shakespeare Another Eve the conservatory Faculty played and sang for us Last Monday Eve we met at Prof. Monroe's and Prof. Frost read a paper As an officer of the College I can attend the conservatory Rehearsals every week.

I am boarding this term at Baldwin Cottage one of the handsome new stone buildings There are but thirty girls here Miss Mary Fairchild is Matron but next term I Expect to go to Talcott Hall as board is fifty cents per week cheaper Both these houses are heated My table board, room rent, heat and light, (our lamps are student lamps and kept filled for us) costs me (\$4.25) per week My washing about fifty cents more

I borrowed fifty dollars to come here and I want to get that paid back.

When Carries bond is paid I think probably I can get Prof. Shurtleff to invest it She will have to use Every cent of her interest money to pay for her teeth I would love to write more but I think I must go to bed I am so sleepy

Give love to Uncle David and to all the friends I do want to see the children so badly
Will is such a loving little fellow
I hope Friday will be a pleasant day for you

Your loving niece
Minnie H. [*Mary P.B. Hill Wright*]

When you have time write to me and tell me how your own health is You have had too much to do this last year but I know you could not help it

[*Addressed to*]

Mrs Daniel Grant
New Marlboro
Berkshire Co
Mass [*Massachusetts*]

March 7, 1889

Dear Carrie --

I should have been glad to write you in time for you to have received it on your 69th birthday but could not I hope you had as comfortable a day as I did on mine & hope you may have many more birth days, I know you are living & have lived a very useful life & the world is much better for your having lived in it, which cannot be said of Every one.

Sam came home to spend the '22'nd with us & brought a young friend with him He is looking nicely & doing well All Enjoyed their visit much although it was short as he felt that he must return Sat. morning as he could not well be spared from his business, as he is head one in his department. The young man is one that boarded at the Edes' last summer & became acquainted with us & is much pleased with Sue. He expects to enter Amherst College next summer. Sue & Mollie are still in the High school here & doing well We are all very well Sewing circle was to have met with us yesterday but it was so rainy only one came a new neighbor but it broke up the afternoon & they will probably meet here next week "Grandpa" Haynes' folk were here this morning week [noon?] to dinner & supper. It was kind in you to write so much about your & husbands health & Edwards I hope they will not keep Edward on too low a diet

According to our late reading a pretty generous diet is recommended for nervous persons & indeed for many invalids & cousin of Amory's was sent to a Hospital in Boston he had a bad sore on his arm & they had him Eat all the beef stead & roast beef &c he could. I think he is getting better I am glad for Minnie she has got so good a [situation?] I will return her interesting letter & will not write more lengthly now hoping soon to hear from you again soon. I should think Edward would be very much discouraged with that farm on his & himself so feeble but you all know what is best for him to do under the circumstances We all send love

Affectionately
S.J.W.

Bittersweet

Flemington N.J.
May 6th, 1889

Dear Auntie

I feel rather conscience stricken for not having written before but have been too lazy on Sundays and took the time to rest instead of writing and go to bed at night almost as soon as the work is done. Our girl has been gone three weeks and we are kept pretty busy with churning and boarders and housecleaning and sewing. The Sutphins are still with us, but they Expect to go back to their house next week provided they can get it cleaned, and Mrs S. is able to be moved.

Have four rooms cleaned -- am speaking of our own house now -- but cannot get on with the cleaning very fast, as we cannot get help just when we want it. Father is busy with the garden now. Is still in Mr Emerys Office. Has not been feeling very well lately and gets tired very soon. The children are well and play outdoors most of the time and get in all sorts of mischief

They are perfectly happy if they can muss with water or dig in he dirt. Will was discovered trying to milk one of the cows the other day. He had dragged the stool up to the cow, and had an old tin pail, and had succeeded in getting a few drops of milk. He can do about Every thing he tries to do, and handles rakes, and shovels, and hoes remarkably well for so small a youngster. He is very strong and sturdy. Sophie digs dandelions very nicely and Alletta and Chalmers are as well as usual.

Sam has not been feeling very well, was unable to work for a day or two. In his last letter said he was feeling better. Do not know what the trouble is. When I was there he thought he had dyspepsia, and was Eating some fruit Every day. Either an apple or an orange. He is interested just now in taking photographs by flash light and has succeeded in getting some very good negatives. Louis and Susie are going on as usual. Louis paints watercolors some, besides the photographing and making of picture frames Sam says L. works all the time and takes very little time for rest. A brother and sister of Susies are keeping them.

[Min?] expected to go home with Mr Matterson to Seville last week to spend Sunday I think. Probably she will write to you about it.

Belle Mott is to be married on Wednesday in the Church. Cards were sent out to all the Congregation, and her young unmarried friends are invited to a reception at the house. She is to be married at 1.30 P.M. and the reception is from two to four. I have a card to the reception and Expect to go. Hope to go down tomorrow to help trim the Church, with the other girls. It is time I went to bed now so I must stop. Am feeling better than I did and am trying to rest and get better yet.

Aunt [Hettie?] has had a very bad cold but is better now. Hope [rd?] will improve now that pleasant weather has come. The first trees are all in blossom here.

Love from us all to yourself and Uncle

Affectionately yours
Caroline

Kiss the little ones for me.

[Addressed to]

Mrs. Daniel Grant
New Marlboro
Berkshire Co. Mass.

Bittersweet [New Jersey]
April ' 17 ' 84

Dear Aunty,

I return Abbey's letters also the one you wished of Fathers. Am sorry we have delayed so long but various reasons have been the cause

Mrs Herland has been here a little more than two weeks as a kitchen girl She leaves on Tuesday and goes to housekeeping again the 1st of May

We have been doing all the housecleaning we could while Mrs H. was here

Tomorrow we will finish the 3rd story. Attic and all and have already cleaned three bed rooms on 2nd floor so you see we will be able to manage the rest alone Mrs H. does not clean much but she helps get the meals and washes dishes Etc

Very unexpectedly to us one week ago last Wednesday night [Lizzie?] told me that Cliff had decided to move back to his Aunts to board until their house was finished

C. thinks it too far from business here at least that is the reason he gives. I am glad he is no relation to one He is nothing but a spoiled boy. Even Aunt H. says that. Lizzie has to give up to keep peace in the family.

They C & [L. ?] moved a week ago yesterday we did not like the short notice they gone and told them so we had made arrangements which we would not have made had we known our income would be curtailed in this way

But somebody will come I hope Have had several applications but no engagement as yet

The present clerk at Post Office leaves May 1st Possibly I may get the place Shall do so if I can A regular sum coming in is better to depend upon than boarders

Father would try office had he not been elected Freeholder Chalmers is Justice of Peace and moves into office of his own this week for which we are all glad

Our chickens have done well this Spring we get nearly forty eggs per day Have two broods of little chicks already

We sell all our cream milk three cows and will milk 4 after a little Are raising Sweetbriars calf which is two or three weeks old.

More than half the garden is dug and planted very early for us Chalmers helps with digging

Sophie and Will have been vaccinated three times The third time Will's took and this last week his arm has been very sore and the poor little boy has been cross His father takes most of the care of him at night He is better to day and more like himself Sophie is to be vaccinated from Will

Will is a bright little fellow tries to talk and many words can say very distinctly

He is crazy to get out doors and always wishes to go to barn to see "cows" will cry if not taken there

Runs to where his cloak hangs and says "out" "out" He seems to have more fun and mischief in him than Sophie had Climbs like a little circus boy on all the chairs rocking chairs included Seems to have no fear and needs constant watching Sophie is very fond of him and some times sings him to sleep as they lie together in their big bed in their Mama's room

Sophie is learning to pick up her play things and to go on errands and helps her Mama very often

Aunt H does not seem so strong this Spring has worked too hard the past year but will have more time to rest now that Charly Hyde has gone

Father is pretty well tho troubled with rheumatism some Is so ambitious that he will work too hard when he gets into garden. Father washed off all the old [halumine?] from the walls of his room and [rekalsomined?] it and it has been painted and looks very clean and fresh

We are all longing for pleasant days Have had a cold spring so far

I am feeling better than I did several weeks ago but want to feel stronger yet

We are well along with sewing that could be done Early

Do you know that you never said whether the little shirts would do for Carrie Grant or not Give love from us all to Edward and Lucy and the little girls I think the baby's name a pretty one

I must stop now and retire Glad you see Mary Sage now and then

Was Glad to read Abby's letters Am so sorry to know that Carrie Burr is not strong Poor girl There are trouble enough for those who are well

Hope she may outgrow some of her trouble Really got to it and wrote Abbey last week

----- Monday Noon

A severe storm of hail and snow Hinders some with cleaning but we are making progress

Before we know that C & L. were going to leave we had ordered new shades for parlor & sitting room

They are "Windsor sage" in color, perfectly [plain?] holland with fringe across the bottom We had saved [skim?] milk money to pay for them The old ones after twelve years use are exceedingly shabby Hope you will feel able to write soon and report progress in preparations for Hadley Have we written that Charly Anderson has a little daughter Katherine Henrietta

Aunty and Lizzie are going to Vineland soon to make a visit would like to write to Julia Burr to congratulate them on birth of boy but cannot now. Have a plan in my mind for a table cover for your parlor table Hope to get at it some day

With much love to Uncle Daniel and yourself

Affectionately

Minnie

Give my kind regards to Mrs [...] if she remembers me & is still in New M.
Will send a picture of Will by [Abbie's?] request in a few days

Bolton Dec 22 .86

My Dear Niece,

I received yours dated 16th Ins. The next morning after it was mailed. I was very glad to hear from you once more. I had wondered what was the reason you did not write. I feared you might be sick but am glad to know you are able to write & you & husband are in tolerable health. Mary & Bessie were in Boston all last week & did not get home till this week Monday night. There was a Woman Suffrage Bazaar gotten up to raise funds for the cause & to arouse more interest on the subject &c. & there were addresses & speaking & it was quite an interesting occasion & they are glad they went although came home pretty tired especially Mary but she is getting rested. They had some errands, & shopping to do & the stores were crowded (just before Christmas you know).

It was difficult to get to the counters & had to wait a long time for the parcels & the change. They got materials for each of the girls a dress & Bessie a hat & various other things. The Bazaar was open from Monday evng [...] Sat evng inclusive. I have seen it stated they netted about \$5000. which was doing very well. Sue & Mollie kept house while their mother was gone <b ...> but their father & grandma were about & lent a helping hand. They attended school all the time. Sue plays the organ in the High School & she also plays the organ for the Unitarian Church Sundays and she goes to Clinton once a week to take lessons on the Piano. She learns quite easily & is praised. I presume she will go only once more this winter as that will end the quarter.

Amory Bessie Sue & Mollie are down to the Hall this evening. The Baptist Society give an entertainment to get funds for something I don't know just what. I am glad you could get around & visit your friends & I am very glad to hear of them through you. I thank you for sending the letter from Minnie. I am sorry for them

It cost \$4 for you & husband to make your weeks visit. It cost Mary Bessie to go & return from Boston \$2.20<4.12> the fare is only 55 cents now. They of course had to pay for board besides. They had a good visit with Sam. He likes them. We expect he will come home to spend Christmas & return Mon. morning. Mr. Wallis has not wholly recovered from his lameness & does not labor at all & I doubt if he ever will be able to do much more. He's better than he was a month or two ago. He keeps pretty [...]. If he even goes to the Post Office it makes him worse. He is pretty comfortably sick if he keeps still. I don't know what is the matter with him. He calls it rheumatism. It is different from any I ever knew about. I guess it is nothing very alarming. He is very careful of himself & is comfortable & has a good appetite but does not eat as much as he might for fear it might not be good for him. He takes Hood's Sarsaparilla & thinks it is going to purify the blood & cure him. I presume it is as good & harmless as anything he could take. I am unusually well so far this winter. I feel very much better in winter weather. The air is so invigorating to me. Mary's family are well. In getting out the mittens a month or more ago I found three pairs that our children had outgrown, two pairs I had mended very much but I did not know but they might come right for Edwards children to wear some time so I did them up & when I went to the office I found it would cost but two cents to send them but I concluded I would wait till I got a letter from you & when I answered it I would send them.

I think Mary & children are going to send you some Christmas cards but they are so busy I don't know as they will get them ready in time but I guess they will. They are to go up to "Grand Pa Haynes'" Christmas. It is nearly 12oclock [mid]night & I must stop writing. I see I have written crookedly. I have written hurriedly & cannot see the lines. Write again as soon as you can. I shall be glad to see the book you speak of sending. Thurs. P.M. Bessie [...] invited by a friend she met at the Bazaar to go out to Watertown & spend the night with and she went. Had a pleasant time. From there she went to Waltham & spent the day & had a pleasant visit. I furnished the means of this expedition. I want them to have some of the good of my savings while I live & as they need it. They hired a room near Sam's boarding house for \$2.00 a week, & took their meals

part of the time at Sam's boarding place & some times at restaurants & got along comfortably. They also patronized the Bazaar tables which were very nice. Now Mary & the children & meself intend to send you some cards to go out tomorrow morning & Bessie sends some poetry which Sam gave them *<it>* the covers had become soiled in the store where he is & it was cast aside & Sam saved it. Bessie took off the soiled covers & put on a new cover & painted the ferns & flowers on it but while she was painting it accidentally got laid down on a wet blue brush & made a daub on it but nevertheless as the poetry was so good she decides to send it with the blemish. It probably wan not less than .50 cents when fresh. Now please don't take the trouble to send us any thing for Christmas or New Years. We would rather you would save yourself the trouble.

Mary & Bessie send a great deal of love. No one else knows of my writing.

With love,

S. J. Wallis

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