Subject: Books & Reading

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

Norfolk [*Connecticut*] July 4 1837

To Miss Mary Lyon <*Dear Madam*>

Early last spring we engaged Miss Mary Grant daughter of Dea. [*Deacon*] Elijah Grant Colebrook to make application for our two daughters to be admitted into your school at its opening which we suppose she did about the first of April as she told my sister <*then*> Susan Jane Benton [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*] (then a member of the Ipswich Seminary [*Ipswich Female Seminary*]) that they were recieved as candidates for admission next fall this is all we have heard about it We have lately seen a Prospectus of your Seminary [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] & from that get the idea that all the candidates may not be recieved as we are still anxious to have our daughters go & feel uncertain whether they will be admitted I am induced to write

It appears from the Prospectus that considerable information is desired respecting the applicants. Miss Grant is personally acquainted with our daughters they having been her pupils the last two winters & we presume gave her opinion of their characters <*&*> attainments &c. We know however nothing about it & should regret exceedingly having them fail on any account of being received I shall there fore endeavour to give the information you request Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] was 19 years of age last month Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] 17 last Feb. think they have a good knowledge of all the branches required for entering the Junior Class & beside have studied Whelply, compend of Universal History [A Compend of History*, by Samuel Whelpley*] Blakes & Comstocks Natural Philosophy [A System of Natural Philosophy, *by J.L. Comstock or* Conversations on Chemistry, *with explanations of the text by J.L. Comstock, M.D. and a series of questions by Rev. J.L. Blake*] Chemistry Botany Abercrombies Ment[...] Philosophy [The Philosophy of the Moral Feelings, *by John Abercrombie, M.D.*] Parkers exercises in composition [Progressive Exercises in English Composition*, by Richard Green Parker*] Smellies Philosophy of Natural History [The Philosophy of Natural History*, by William Smellie*] astronomy Geology They enjoy tolerably good health almost always able either to attend school or labo<*u*>r have always been accustomed to labo<*u*>r when out of school & do it cheerfully they are both engaged in teaching common district schools this summer <*& so far*> in <*our own*> this town & so far as we know give good satisfaction this is the first of their teaching. They have attended select schools about two years apiece Caroline <*attended*> was a member of Miss Z.P. Grants [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] <*school*> seminary in Ipswich [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] the last summer It is their own wish to become members of your institution & likewise an acquiescence in the wishes of their friends <*likewise*> We would rather prefer saying the first application is for one term although if they are pleased with the school & you pleased with them & think it for their advantage to continue longer in the <*school*> institution I presume we shall be willing to keep them there at least a year or year & an half & probably as much longer as you advise if nothing unforeseen occurs <*in our situation or family*> to prevent as it has long been & still is our design to give them so thorough an education as to qualify them to teach the English branches in any female seminary in our Country should they have opportunity But our circumstances are far from affluent we are therefore very glad to avail ourselves of the pecuneary advantages afforded by your institution If making application for only one term first will prevent their being recieved at the commencement of your school we would be all mean apply for a longer time our situation is such that we think it may be more convenient for us to spare them & pay their expenses now than at another time Pupils are requested to bring common school books We have <*of Arithmeticks*> Colburns First Lessons & Sequel [First Lessons in Arithmetic*, by Warren Colburn*] & Dabolls <*Murrays*> Arithmetick [Daboll's Schoolmaster's Assistant: Being a Plain Practical System of Arithmetic*, by Nathan Daboll*] Murrays Grammar & Exercises [Murray's Introduction to English Grammar, *by Lindley Murray* & Exercises, Adapted to Murray's English Grammar*, by Lindley Murray*] & Greeleafs Grammar [A Concise System of Grammatical Punctuation, and Syntax, *by*

Benjamin Greenleaf] Blakes Philosophy Chemistry [Conversations on Natural Philosophy, *with illustrative notes, and a dictionary of philosophical terms, by Rev. J.L. Blake*] Goodrich United States History [A History of the United States of America, *by Rev. Charles A. Goodrich*] Whelpleys History [A Compend of History*, by Samuel Whelpley*] Watts on the Mind [The Improvement of the Mind, *by Isaac Watts*] Woodbridges Small Geography [Rudiments of Geography*, by William C. Woodbridge*] of reading books National Preceptor [The National Preceptor: or, Selections in Prose and Poetry*, by J. Olney*] Common Reader & some older works If is <*will*> is not too much trouble should be obliged if you would mention such of the preceeding list of books as you thing they will be likely to need because their little brothers at home will probably want some of them & <*they may not*> it may not be convenient to carry all As they will have Websters Large Dictionary & the first volume of Scotts Commentary on the New Testament to carry & as much more of his Commentary as you wish [...] Should like an answer soon as convenient that they may know how long they can continue their schools & also that we may have sufficient time to prepare them for going <*Hope*> Wish very much they <*will*> may both be recieved but if that cannot be hope you will at least take one Perhaps some applicants may as well go next summer when our girls could come home & <*per*> probably teach Please inform when your school commences & how washing is to be done still wish to have them stand <*as*> candidates for admission the first opportunity

Mrs [*Pamela Benton Burr*]

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*] June 2, 1843

My dear Parents, Sister & Brothers,

We are now in Wisconsin at cousin Levi's [*Levi Grant*]. I can't realize it I dont seem possible. We arrive this morning about 9 oclock were received quite cordially by Mr. & Mrs. Grant who said they had been looking for us two or three weeks Levi is not quite as tall or large as Daniel, blazing red hair freckled face & hands, butternut colored eyes, Smooth voice & converses very well — his wife [*Lucinda Octavia Tryton Grant*] about my height perhaps a little taller rather more fleshy, though her face not much if any larger — complexion neither very dark or light hair dark as my own, blue eyes very mild, pretty voice, looks a little like Catie Wright but prettier <*though perhaps not much more than I do*> her name was Lucinda Tryon — parents now reside in Ohio — removed thither from Southington Hartford Co. Conn [*Connecticut*] am really quite pleased with her — think I shall enjoy her society considerably — age 22 last March her husband 25 last Sept — They have been married more than 2 1/2 years — have a little daughter Frances Augusta 11 months runs around — fat little thing — black eyes — rather sandy hair — quite large & active for one of her age —

It is now nearly 1/2 past 7 Friday eve — laid my writing aside an hour or so during a shower of rain & hail, accompanied by wind, thunder & lightning — they say such storms are frequent & violent some think so much thunder & lightning to be attributed to the minerals abounding here Mrs. Grant & myself were alone our husbands being gone to Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] for our goods — I felt very calm this time but dread them some

Sat. morn. Daniel & Levi started for Milwaukie yesterday after dinner & will not probably be at home until to day noon — we rise about 6. had for breakfast some codfish very nice — potato mashed warm wheat cake & butter & tea. Lucinda is now getting her little child asleep —

I suppose you feel anxious to know about our journey — I will first briefly say we left Albany Sat. noon reached Buffalo in one week from that time sailed from B [*Buffalo*]. Sat P.M. arrived at Milwaukie Thursday Morn 15 days from the time we left home had on the whole a very pleasant prosperous time — what was the most vexatious was being detained in Albany nearly 2 days before starting & then getting along so very slow on the canal boat — suppose we might just

as well have been in Buffalo a day or two sooner I do not feel nearly as tired as I anticipated — but about as usual — very well —

Our passage here has cost us <*between 50*> 61 dollars & little more D [*Daniel*]. has an exact account from Albany to Buffalo 'twas nearly $18 — our fare $3 each & board ourselves — freight nearly $12 — little more than 26 hundred. 45 cts. hund. From B [*Buffalo*]. to Milwaukie the freight exclusive of the wagon was called 15 barrel bulk — $1 barrel & the waggon $5 making $20 for freight from Buf [*Buffalo*] our fare from B [*Buffalo*]. was $9 each — deck passage — cabin passage would have been twice as much — it would have been much more pleasant but think we shall be glad of our $11 or $13 saved — Daniel was not sick at all on the Lake — & I not but very little — it cost us little more than $6 getting from Milwaukie here — storage of the goods in M [*Milwaukie*] $1.50 — horse hire to come here $150 — D [*Daniel*].& L [*Levi*]. stay in M [*Milwaukie*]. & our [...] $3 & more — & now after we have fairly got here Daniel has left $184 — for which he owes no one — he has also that $100. note of his father —

It was not very convenient for me to write much on the boat, so I just noted down a little now & then on a slip of paper which I will transcribe after writing a little before we left Albany — We just drove up to Mr. Butlers & talked a few moments with Jennette she said Ann Phelps was going to Chicago soon 90 miles from us — called at the school house & <*just*> said "Good Bye" to Desiah — as we passed along a little below Mr. Sam Gaylords Daniel sung Bounding Billows &c. several verses — some quite pretty & appropriate — it did me good — perhaps you can get them of some one — The first day as you probably learned of Joel, D [*Daniel*]. rode with him some leaving me to drive then Joel rode with me a little way saw no pleasanter farms coming to Wisconsin than in Sheffield & beyond — the next morning Joel & I went on to Albany 26 miles had a good visit reached there about 10 — called at a public house where I remained until 2 o'clock then I went on board the canal boat. Brockport, Capt. Chappel <*Capt*> when we reached Albany Joel went immediately to ascertain about a passage for us. Daniel arrived with the goods past 12 — & for some reason I was taken to the boat without looking for any carpet filling — J [*Joel Grant*] said he would get some I want to know about it I did not get any sacking for the settee because I thought we could get it here without the money & Joel said he presume 'twould be as cheap. Soon after we went onto the boat Jo [*Joel*]. came down & almost immediately word was given that we were to go to the other side of the river — So he bid us good bye & hastened out — an hour or so after Capt. brought from him a note saying that he had been looking at some stoves & thought twould be well for us to get one — D. [*Daniel*] looked & purchased one for $16 — funnel two spit boxes $5. I think it a very pretty stove — should think rather smaller than Uncle Silas' & much handsomer —

The furniture of the stove consists of a tin boiler with copper bottoms, a copper tea kettle larger than ours at home a pot. larger than yours an iron kettle not very heavy which will hold about 8 quarts — a spider very pretty & not as heavy as ours — an iron dripping pan — two long tin platters for pies, two 3 pint basins & a dipper which holds about a pint with a handle going straight up for several inches & then curved —

When we went on the boat the Capt. said he should start that night or the next morning — but he waited & waited for more passengers & freight & finally went out Sat. noon — I spent my time in looking & going about & seeing every thing that was going on — I did not feel very impatient, but [D?] felt as if he wanted to be going

Friday morning there went on the boat three sisters going about 200 miles on the canal, quite pleasant young ladies, or rather old maids, Also Mr. Stanberg from N.Y. city [*New York City*], his sons & daughter 16 going to Chicago Ill. — believe he was a mason — were rather gay, full of life, but had no religion nor much principle, liked to play cards, go to Theatre, read novels &c. — yet still I found I thought a good deal of meeting them on the steam boat on the lake — as we knew no other face —

Friday P.M. there went on board a family of Jewetts from Northampton Mass — Old Mr. & Mrs. Jewett, their daughter Isabella about 22. I think, sons Albert 18. & Edward 16 & a married son with two children George 5 & Mary 14 months — lovely children — Mary one of the sweetest [...] things I ever saw. They were all very pleasant & good company I felt quite attached to them — particularly Mrs. Henry Jewett — were going to Bricksville Ohio — not far from Cleveland — we left them at Buffalo —

There was also Mrs. Jackson on the boat from Northampton going to visit her married daughters in Ohio & N. York — left her husband & daughter at home.

Sat. 1/4 before 12 — Have got fairly started from Albany just passed the first lock, When the country through which a canal passes is not level locks are necessary in order for the boats to ascend or descend — when we got in sight of a lock there are gates which would seem to prevent our passing, but on approaching they are thrown open by large levers, log like & we pass on they are then closed & we find another gate in front — then we are completely penned — with gates before & behind & walls of stone on each side — from 8 to 6 feet in height though generally about 10 & Ralph how do you think we get out? By machinery, raising iron rods the water comes foaming, roaring, dashing in & raises us <*the top of*> to a level with the wall, the gates are then opened & on we pass or if we wish to descend the water is let out & we go down several feet —

Nearly 10 o'clock — are passing through Troy — which is on both sides of the river — cannot get a sight of Mrs. Willards Sem. [*Troy Female Seminary, started by Emma Willard*] — are now off the boat while it is being weighed — freight & boat*

* boat weights 30 tons

exclusive of the passengers about 52 tons for which the Capt. has to pay about $86 totl. It is considered a light load — In West Troy is an arsenal — are several buildings — do not think they are quite as handsome as those in Springfield — between 3 & 4 P.M. passed Cohose falls — thought of [M?] Calo. Butler & the little mineral on the shelf — the falls are no great sight — though very pretty —

Sat Eve — past 8 the cook has just come to the cabin to make the [berths?] there are 18 put up — in the ladies cabin & 12 in the gentleman's — the cabin is one room except a division of a curtain — the smaller room is called the Ladies Cabin I took an upper berth slept soundly —

Sab. [*Sabbath*] morn awoke & found our boat going — notwithstanding we understood [...] to stop on the Sabbath — All along the canal [...] & shops were open — if I had not remembered it as Sunday I should not have known it — it seemed dreadful I felt wicked enough — conscience smitten — afraid but I could not help myself — Daniel spoke to the Capt about stopping — he said a little & went off — [on?] — D [*Daniel*]. staid in the cabin most of the day & we read in the Bible & the Reformation Book & slept some for the first few days I sat down on the Settee & slept an hour or so each day
& slept soundly nights too — so you see I got rested Sab. [*Sabbath*] P.M. we came in sight of a place that reminded us of the gorge between Holyoke & [Tom?] — it really looked beautifully & more — as we approached it & passed between the mountains & saw the ledges of rocks the trees & shrubs on the mountain side — 150 feet perhaps was conscious of emotions of sublimity — I enjoyed it much — very much —

Monday — This morning when I awoke found our boat passing through a lock — it is said there are 99 between Albany & Buffalo — about 9 o'clock came to another — got off the boat & walked with Daniel 2 or 3 miles — felt refreshed — dined at 1 — ate bread & butter tongue & — Half past 1 just entered Utica which is on both sides the canal — the part of the city that we [saw?] is not handsome — looks as if there was a good deal of business done — about a mile <*this side*> out of the city is the state lunatic asylum — a large stone building very handsome

This P.M. sat on deck some & sewed some on sheets I dont work or read much for I cannot confine my mind to reading & I liked better to see all I can than to sew — though we could work as well most of the time for all the motion of the boat as in a house To day a boat was nearly with us containing I believe 45 or 50 mormons going to Nauvoo, Ill. A priest came on board & spent a few hours, laboring to convert I suppose eat for supper bread & butter, cake & pie

Tues. morn [...] last night [...] rain the first we have had since we left [...] — breakfasted on bread cake & sweetened water — D [*Daniel*]. has <*just*> purchased 2 lbs. beef steak 5 cts lb. shall have some for dinner — sat on deck an hour or two — & after sewed some — Past 2 o'clock are passing through Lodi — the rail road passes under the canal here I think Clarisa Eastman lived in Lodi — D [*Daniel*]. enquired but could hear nothing of her or her family — Possibly she never resided here as there is another tower of the same name in the state —

3 o'clock are now in Syracuse — many handsome houses — like the appearance of the place better than I do Utica — though it is not as large — about 6 o'clock just left Syracuse — rained most of the time while there — there came on board there Mr. John Hall, his wife & 4 small children — thought them an interesting family — he was not Elisa's brother — A little out of Syracuse are the salt works of Salina & Gettysburg — The last is on the canal — In my next think I will tell you more about them in my next letter —

Wed. Just heard the small pox in Syracuse where we called yesterday — but I dont fear it much — 5 o'clock — our boat just passed under a bridge one end of which had settled & was so low as to take some of the baggage from the deck into the canal — believe it was all recovered — this morning before breakfast put my person in order — read in the Bible &c. & sewed some breakfasted at 8 on steak, bread & butter most of the day it has been quite windy — P.M. finished my sheets then sat on deck a little while — eat for supper [rusk?] & milk & cake

Thurs. morn. Are now within 16 miles of Rochester by way of the canal & 8 the stage road — Daniel & another gentleman have got off the boat to walk there as they wished to look around & D [*Daniel*]. though he needed the exercise —
4 o'clock — now in Rochester — canal passes through city — good many large buildings enquired after [...] Sibley Alling — found that <*she*> her husband kept a shoe store & that they lived with her Father a mile from the canal — I would have been very happy to have seen her, but we feared the boat would not stop long enough for us, & beside D [*Daniel*]. had a severe head ache — but we staied 3 hours or more & had we known we should might have gone — we learned before we got to Buffalo not to place much, if any dependence on what the Capt. said —

Friday — our progress to day is faster than any preceding <...> at 9 in the evening reached Lockport — we sat up waiting to go out & see the locks as there are 5 or 6 together that is we got from one right into the other [...] rise in some of [...] but the banks are very high — [...] a thunder shower came up & prevent — Sat at 12 reach Buffalo — [...] 4 miles on the lake — You have probably concluded before this that we did not go to the falls. If our old Capt. had only [...] in Rochester 1 hour sooner than he was we might have gone from there for 25 cents each! there were 2 boats went out — opposition then did however a [Cat?] go out at 7 in the evening in which we might have gone — the fare was more considerable (dont remember how much) but suppose we might have gone from R [*Rochester*]. that day to Buffalo for 7 or 8 dollars — now I suppose you'll say, why didn't you go? We did not know what was best to do. hesitated & doubted — the reason of our doubt was, that if our boat went as fast as the Capt. affirmed it should, we might go from Lockport with probably 4 or 5 dollars less expence — be in season there to take the Sat. morning cars — but we did not know as it was best to depend upon him — thought if we went from Rochester we should be sure of it — & might possibly be sorry if we didnt but we concluded to try him once more & went on — & he went beyond our expectations so that we arrived at Lockport several hours <*several hours*> before we anticipated about an hour after the evening cars left — we might have got off & staid over night & taken the morning cars at 9 — but the Capt. declared we should be in Buffalo before that time, said he should wish to unload the boat that day, & we were afraid some of our things would be lost were we not there to attend to them — thought we might get to B [*Buffalo*]. in season to attend to [...] things & go to the falls from there — but we were unexpectedly detained a few hours, after we left Lockport as we met a boat that was very heavily loaded & had struck a ground so we could not pass it

[*page torn*] [...] about noon the cards had [...] was a boat going out to Milwaukie that P.M. & we got on it, for [...] we had [...] & gone to the falls Mon. did not know when we could go to Milwaukie as they could not tell when a boat would go out — want to know what you think about it all — do not you feel troubled — do not feel very badly — I do not feel as [...] gentleman did, "that he could not die till he had seen Niagara" — D. [*Daniel*] is sorry we did not go from Rochester — he told me then, if I said go, we would do so, but after all I thought he didn't quite think 'twas best — say I must keep my $5. to go with some future time —
Will tell the rest of my journey in my next — I feel in very good spirits — have had but 4 or 5 crying spells since I left home — love D. [*Daniel]* better & better — my health is good — shall send another letter soon as I can write it for I could fill a [...] folio now — the mail only goes from here once in 7 days — Sundays — I want to hear from you — very particular — I thought of Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] on their birth days —

Friday June 9 — We moved into our house yesterday — not being in readiness before — think it will be comfortable Daniel said I must tell you that he is quite pleased with Wisc thinks we have a very good farm — that he has bought a yoke of the best oxen in Wisconsin great things, with a yoke on a good cow & [calves?] 6 weeks old for $70 — [try?] call the oxen $60. w[...] cattle are much higher here than Joel represented [...]

Levi folks seb[...]perets — to relative — all my love to every body — want to know about Wm. Nortons [Cat?]

I want to know how much Ma [*Pamela Benton Burr*] has been sick Love to father Grants [*Elijah Grant*] people — how does Ralph feel & all of you my dear dear parents sister & brothers —

There are several plum trees near our house — a great many strawberry blossoms, & wild flowers — I enjoy them much believe there is most every thing to be bought in Milwaukie — such as dried applies. peaches &c — believe lard is here 5 or 6 cts. lb. [tallow?] twice that — wheat [flour?] $4 or 5 barrel — Muscovado sugar 8 cts — molasses 62 gale — butter 12 1/2 usually & 25 the last winter no shakes have been seen this spring but expect they will be plenty — musquetos are thick better get that broad cloth from Miss Dowd Want to know how much that brown broad cloth was worth in N. also how much strained pails cost. Levi's folks want one of ours very much — there is about 9 2/3 yds. of that black cotton cloth All that we had broken was largest looking glass, wh. was broken very fine, one tumbler, one light, <*tea*> cup. one quart bowl, one white deep plate, one blue pie plate, & our blue edged pie plate can mend most of them with little trouble — Dont feel bad about me — think I shall feel well enough if you do

Very aff. [*affectionately*] Caroline

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Prairieville, W.[*Wisconsin*] Aug. 1. 1843

I will endeavor to write this letter more legibly that I did the last —

And first to my dear little Ralph. [*Ralph E. Burr*]

So you like to go a fishing yet as well as ever. I have thought that perhaps when you were a very good boy, & helped nicely & did not make a cry face in the whole forenoon that Ma & Mary said you might go & get some fish & Sis Mary would cook them for your supper — I hope you will keep away from the deep water, bearing in mind that you are not yet a full grown man & probably have not the judgment of one.

Wonder if you find plenty of chipmunks to shoot. There are here little animals very much resembling chipmunks, called gophers, when I see them I always think of you — When you come to visit us, had better bring your gun — I dont think you would find wolves, for I have neither seen or heard of any — but there are deer around — Daniel saw one the other day about the size of a little colt, & it looks some like one — If you should come this year, do not think you need fear snakes much for I heard but very little said about them, have not seen one of any description to D [*Daniel*]. only one — Last year they were here around considerable — When you went on a shooting expedition you might take a basket & gather of the fruit about here, as you could find, strawberries, raspberries, red & black, whortleberries, blackberries, gooseberries, high bush cranberries, grapes, plums, crab apples, choke cherries, black cherries, hasle nuts & walnuts, or you might gather herbs & roots, wild balk with purple instead of red florets, wild summer savory, mint, pennyroyal, thoroughwort, mayweed, tansy sweet flag, leeks & cattail — And I am sure you would not leave unpicked some of the lovely flowers you would — thousands of wild rose bushes

bearing sweet scented, single red roses, red, yellow, white & pink ladies slipper, painted cup, wild sunflower beside a few scores of which I know not the name

But should you go into the woods in a warm day you would probably encounter several of musquitoes & gnats, <*but*> perhaps you would only feel the bite, & then think no more of it, as Daniel does, but should they poison you as they do me, & cause smarting, & itching & blotching, then salt & water or salt & vinegar is very good to put on.

Almost every thing wild grows much more luxuriant here than on old farms in New England, pennyroyal & sweet flag are not nearly as pleasant as what you gather but have a strong rank taste. It is said that crab apples grow to considerable size, are hard & sour, but still quite eatable, if one can get no better —

Should like to know if your <... *some*> prettiest kitten catches mice. We were quite troubled with mice & brought up Levi's [*Levi Grant*] cat with six small kittens to clear them away — we put them in the chamber & the first night I awoke hearing the cries of a kitten & after a while rose, lighted a candle & found it on the kitchen floor with the cat by its side — It had fallen through a knot hole in the chamber floor seemed to be bruised & had a stiff leg — I had a great mind to cut its little head right off with the hatchet or if D. [*Daniel*] had some percussion caps for his pistol, dont know but I should have shot it — but I finally lay down again, & the next day it seemed better & after a while got well

Now my dear brother if you can think yourself of some thing to write to me & do it without troubling Ma & Mary I should love to have you.

Very affectionately your sister,
Caroline Grant

Prairiesville [*Wisconsin*], Aug. 25, 1843

My dear Mother [*Pamela Benton Burr*],

Is often very often in my thoughts & sometimes the tears run down my cheeks as I think of her in her feebleness, oppressed with care & anxiety, or as I think that perhaps now is suffering by that disease with which she has at times been long afflicted O my dear mother, I want to ask your forgiveness that I have not always waited upon you with all the cheerfulness & patience becoming an affectionate dutiful, christian daughter. I know I labored to alleviate your distress, & should love <*to*> again to have the privilege, but then I think all would be of no avail without the blessing of Heaven, & with it all will be well — I am comforted by thinking that Mary is home, I hope that you will give your self as little solicitude about us as possible. I do not feel that we are peculiarly fit subjects for it, we are blessed with health, a sufficient supply of food & drink are among a Christian people with a devoted pastor, are in a Ter [*Territory*]. where with the Divine blessing we hope in a little time to be able to obtain everything desirable for our taste & I was a going to say comfort but we now have things for our comfort — There <*are many more*> is much more to enjoy here than I supposed, & it seems much more like N. England

As for myself I have a kind husband whom I dearly love who is constantly striving to promote my happiness — I am not obliged to labor hard but have considerable leisure — I have not read very much — hardly know why — some of the warm days I feel languid & as if I didn't want to do any thing or sit up — then I lie down & sleep an hour or two & it is considerable work to keep my dresses & stockings & D's [*Daniel*] clothes in repair — & I do a little of this, & a little of that [*text too faded to read*] don't really sit idle much — & read all the Miss. Heralds [The Missionary Herald, *monthly publication of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] & most of the newspapers & some in the Bible & in my cook books & a little moral. [...] pick fruit & write letters & read Mary's compositions.

Whenever I feel as if I wished for any thing go eat a bit of cheese or dried beef or raisin or black berry pie or stewed dried apples I remember what Ma said go right off & get it — & I believe it is a good way — Cas. E. Pinne put up dried blackberries for several pies — that bit of cheese that I brought is not gone. I do not often care for it & when it is gone I know where I can let a little stocking yarn go for some first rate — a year ago cheese was sold in Milwaukie for 18 cts pound — dont know the price now

Last Fri. Aug. 11 we received a sheet of foolscap well filled from mother Grant [*Elizabeth Phelps Grant*] — said was at our house not long before, sat to the table with you all & drank pure cold

water — ‘twas a good letter — we also rec’d one from John — were glad of it — said he spent an hour very pleasantly about two weeks previous with Martha Woodward — she <*was re*> & her beau Mr. Cummings were riding about & visiting their friends with the hope that it might be a benefit to her health which is not good —

We also at the same time rec’d [*received*] a paper from you & the letter send by Mr. Woodbridge & it was mailed at Milwaukie, have not seen any thing of Mr. W. or any of the Canaan people — You enquire what I did with those tins that were borrowed to bake cake in — I cannot tell — I think I clearly remember that Bill[al?] took only three, & I believe she brought that number — possibly I might have sent to Mr. Pendleton more than we borrowed of her — & her woman not have known — but I intended to make no mistake — Aunt Norton has only the one & I dont know as there was any other sent her — You also say you wonder what I took one of Mary’s good corsets for — when I read it I did not believe I had one — but I looked & found it if I put it in ‘twas by mistake — Mrs. Levi Grant expects to start for Ohio this week Sat. Aug. 9. & I will send it along by her for her Father Grant to take to you if he goes — I wish I had some dried plums to send but they are not ripe till Sept. I did not injure any of my clothing coming on more than one would rather fall — The Crocha shawl is in a good condition & I have thought some of sending it for M. but I do not think I can well get along without it — there are many here that dress genteely & with taste & I think this is no better [than I?]

My dress is very good for the place — I have nothing but that I am glad I have — have seen no prettier hat than my white one — the roads are so filled with black dust that I cannot avoid getting it more soiled than if at home — but I am careful — wear a handkerchief over it —

I wear my buskin calfskin high shoes when I walk at all, almost always change to go to Levi’s The socks are just beginning to wear through a little so as to need underlays D. [*Daniel*] says he can mend them — in the house I wear those calfskin [run?] rounds — the heels all stand erect yet —
& I have not [burnt?] them —

I feel as if I should on no account suffer that large silver spoon to be made over —<*/*> intend to mind the suggestions in the letter so far as I can, but you know that I cannot exactly with regard to the spoons as we lost some — I wear no night dress & a plain coarse cap mostly — Should like the sheep skins — do not need the iron hook much as we use the holder & two crane hooks that D. [*Daniel*] brought. — presume we shall sometime be glad of the churn but have not needed it this summer — we nearly fill a six quart pan at a milking usually, set it in the cellar, & skim it in a 2 qt. pan, when it is nearly full of [cream?] I stir it with a spoon or paddle & have <*from*> generally about 1 1/2 lbs butter — have made this summer about 16 lbs. have put down three or 4 lbs for winter — & hope to more.
Shall like the beer keg —

We did not find the pendulum belonging to the clock — D. [*Daniel*] also left a box of percussion caps for his pistol & a map of all <*the different*> missionary stations — he has two or three light vests here that need new button covers there are no pieces suitable — perhaps you or mother Grant could find some — do not put yourselves to much trouble — think perhaps you might send these articles by Mr. Harvey Grant & Lucinda Levi’s wife can bring them in the Spring —

Of our neighbors you enquire — Levi’s people live down north east 1/4 of a mile — Mr. Hubbard the next nearest neighbor — lives 3/4 mile east — they are not religious people neither should I think them blessed with a great share of knowledge, nor a capacity for receiving it, but seem to be very clever, well disposed, & accommodating neighbors — very near them lives Tim Mayor & his wife, young Irish people — believe they are very <*pretty*> clever & accommodating —

North west from here not farther than a mile lives Mr. Eggleston’s people English suspect they are not in good
Mr. E. rather [is?] a mean man — near them lives old Mr. Brown & his wife — Mrs. Brown is a smart, intelligent cheerful old lady — are Baptists — have a son an Anti Slavery <*lecturer*> & moral reform lecturer His wife delivered a lecture on slavery to a crowded audience the other evening when she had concluded sung a song — we did not hear & not far from them lives Mr. Crocker — another Baptist family, believe Mrs. C [*Crocker*]. is called an intelligent lady they have a fine garden filled with vegetables & flowers We have no garden as we thought it necessary to

go immediately to clearing — I miss it more than I supposed I should — but we have had sent in some lettuce, a few beets, squash, string beans new potatoes & green tomatoes — the tomatoes are pretty good fried & make very good pies —
Fri. Eve 10 o'clock. I intended to write Ma every little incident that occurred daily for several days in succession, but I thought I must write what I have I will endeavor to sometime Good night dear mother My health is good as it was last year — am not sick any only sometimes
very aff — Carry — [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
don't feel much like work — Daniel wants me to give his love to all our people — he has intended to write in some of the letters but found no time —

I want to tell my dear Father that I many times look at that little lock of hair that I cut from his head with a great deal of satisfaction — I do look at all the others too, but there is a peculiar emotion on seeing that, because there are silvery hairs there — I fancy that the next time I see my father I will find about the same number of black ones that I now do of grey —

Believe we have not heard since we last wrote whether our boxes are in Milwaukie — Levi is going there to morrow & says he will search —

By all that we enquire & hear abou[t?] stocking yarn don't think that we can do any better with it than you & perhaps not as well — Give our love to Father Grants people — we wrote to Joel about a week since & directed to Millbrook —
If Mr. Harvey Grant has left for Conn. Before Mrs. Levi reaches there, or if he does not go shall ask her to mail this in Ohio

D. [*Daniel*] is now cutting grass on our marsh south of the house 1/4 mile should think — has quite a stack a little distance from the house

My dear brother Erastus,

Before <*I*> leaving we took Ralph's height but I have forgotten it will you please see that it is taken again & sent — if you have grown any would like to know it — <*You may*>

The time that the kitten fell D. [*Daniel*] had gone to Tenessee to [Ruluf?] & Frederic Grants for some potatoes they have been worth 50 cents [*writing very faded*] [a bushel about?] […] [very fair?] at that — the prospect of an abundant crop this year is very unfavorable it has been so extremely dry — we have had but about two bushels potatoes — wheat bread, & biscuit with milk & butter griddles & hasty pudding & milk of which last D. [*Daniel*] is a very fond — He has eat since he came to Wis [*Wisconsin*]. About as much as you do — says he never eat so much before
People that come here & settle on uncultivated <*new*> land are obliged to labor very hard to out & burn bushes & gather together & burn old logs dig a few stones & "break up" after the land is once broken then one can get [al?] with less hard labor then in N. E. [*New England*]

My [dear?] brother I think of you often this summer & [in?] my prayers too — O I have wept again & again to think that I did not pray & labor & agonize more for you last winter when It seemed as if you had almost entered the kingdom of Heaven but O it is not now too late — the Savior says "come go to a meeting all you can, wont you" & try to be good every day — be assured you have my most sincere love & regard — very affectionately your [sis]ter Caroline
I want to know how your back is also your lungs —
To my <u>dear</u> sister Mary what can I say — My heart is full — You have my sincere sympathy a[s?] I think of you this summer laboring hard &c I suspect I don't grieve as you do not because I love you less but because I have an aff. [*affectionate*] sympathizing heart here that <u>lightens my heart</u>

You are remembered at the throne of grace —

<u>O</u> <u>dont</u> grieve for me so — I trust we will yet spend part of our remaining days together —

We want to hear from home often

[*written in pencil, upside down on bottom of page*]

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], Sept. 18.

My dear Mrs. Grant,

We received this last Saturday by Mr. Harvey Grant — Think perhaps that some portions will interest you Would like to read the letter which you last received from D. [*Daniel*] & C. [*Caroline*] & shall be much obliged if you will send it us the first opportunity should John not come

with it you will notice that Caroline would like some pieces like D's [*Daniel*] light vests — You may know what they are — We do not. Shall probably send something by Mr. Grant

Yours &c.
Mary Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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

[*Addressed to:*] Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
Mr. I. Mills

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*], May 7, 1844.

My dear Parents,

Mr. I. Mills called here unexpectedly last Thurs. P.M. and we were very glad to see him — He observed things pretty closely for he said he supposed our Parents would "quiz" him —

Daniel has been so busy this spring that he has not got the house & yard &c. in as good condition as we should like to have them — in fact we are rather ashamed of the looks of things but hope for better times —

We have not yet got <*that*> a mirror plate as they would ask for putting it in $1. in Mil. [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] & we have had other uses for our money. I have had considerable leisure this Spring for reading — half or more of the time I take is consumed in reading news papers & Miss Heralds [The Missionary Herald, *monthly publication of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] — for the last 6 weeks we have had no milk of our own so that I have had less to do than usual — but the cow has calved to day — & we rejoice — we have had milk occasionally of our neighbors. as our appetites are not all the time very keen we find it rather hard to be deprived of <*milk*> it —

I am glad that you have got a pr. [*pair*] stockings footed for me, for I dont seem to get along with knitting as I do with sewing — I wish to knit Daniel a pr. [*pair*] suspenders, but cannot tell how to get it right — I have commenced two or three times & tried <*till*> long as I thought 'twould be of any use — no one here knows, at least that I have asked perhaps Matilda can tell you so that you can write — does She take off the first stitch & then put over the thread. & then narrow as we generally do? or does she narrow backwards — I suppose you will think I ought not to have forgotten. I think so too, & had no idea I had, till I tried —

<*The heels of the*> The stockings that I heeled for Levi [*Levi Grant*] had apparently rec'd [*received*] but little attention & new heels were needed I thought — Mrs. G. [*Grant*] wished them — I knit them to accommodate & I know dried apples & peaches will not come amiss —

I saw recently in one No. of our Cultivators a cure for Corns. — An individual pared off what he could with a sharp knife & then bathed it freely in sprits of turpentine & put on it a linen cloth wh. [*which*] he wet with turpentine — in a few days the corns came out root & branch. Daniel has just said that one of our neighbors recently applied some turpentine to a corn & it made him very lame & pained him so much that he was obliged to discontinue the use of it. I presume it does not affect persons alike —

We last fall bought some corn & have & expect to feed it to the hogs & oxen, except enough for our own use, as the<*y*> oxen are old & need something beside this marsh hay

Daniel has written a letter to Uncle Pettibone [*Amos Pettibone*] & given some description of land wh. [*which*] would probably interest you though I do not know but Mr. Mills will tell as well. Dan'l [*Daniel*] helped me make nearly half a barrel nice soap a few weeks since —

[*Written across second page:*] My health is pretty good though I dont believe it is perfect.

[*2 maps drawn on third page: one of the plot of land, one of the house*]

Daniel drew this map of our farm & was expecting to describe it to you, but I think he will not have time — there are 40 acres in each square — that crooked line is nearly a dividing line between the marsh & dry land — most of the upland rises rather abruptly from the marsh — the land fr. [*from*] the E. boundary rises slightly as far as the barn — there is quite a pitch between

the house & barn there is a plain west of the house extending about 50 rods & from 10 to 30 rods in width — the remainder westward is broken — the 10 ft. 35 ft &c. on the map means that distance above the marsh. as we guess at it.

I think you will understand the house d. means door — w. window — if we stay here intend to have a closet partitioned off at the east end of the bedroom & perhaps move the partition between the bedroom & pantry so as to have the <*pantry smaller*> bedroom larger

we yet go up chamber with ladder. intend to have the settee stand extending from the S.W. corner of the kitchen to the library shelves. there are three rows of shelves on the N. & W. sides of pantry — the lowest one not quite three ft. from floor — on each end of the upper shelf on the west end stands a pile dishes not often in use, on the north end of the shelf large platters &c. between them are the canisters sugar boxes, &c. — on the second shelf at the S. end of the shelf first is an old tin platter with knives & forks daily used on it — next are the common earthen dishes tumblers &c & then blue cups & saucers plates &c. on the lower shelf at the S. end stands the soap dish the remainder of the shelf is used for milk at the farther end & between that & soap I put dirty dishes — the lower shelf on the N. side is used for milk & tin dishes, the second one for food & the third for candlestick & many "notions."

Dear brother Erastus,

We would like your help & company & I will write for Daniel something that you might expect D. [*Daniel*] says. people get from 12 to 50 bushels per. acre according to the quality of the land, the time of sowing & the manner of plowing & getting in seed to the ground — 50 bushels per acre is a very extraordinary yield — many say 25 " [*bushels per acre*] is an average yield but D. [*Daniel*] thinks 20 is — our land was not plowed well & some of it was sown rather late & D. [*Daniel*] thinks we shall do pretty well if we get 15 bushels per. acre this year — it now looks as well as <*some*> almost any other<*s*> about — The price of wheat is generally 50 cts. [*cents*] per. bushel, many times more & not often less. he does not know how much it will cost to prepare the land & gather crops, or at least cant very well tell now, but perhaps will sometime, but he says you could probably earn from $10 to 11 per month the year around — I think of you a great deal & love you much I want you should form right principles & opinions now & pious ones too — be kind to all — if you do sometimes feel that it is hard to be, Your affectionate sister, Caroline. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

[*Written across last page:*] We have got our crickets partly made

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

[*Addressed to:*] Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk Ct. [*Connecticut*]

East Haddam [*Connecticut*] Jan 31, 1847

Mr Ebenezer Burr

Dear Sir. I yesterday read a letter from Madison Ill. [*Illinios*] stating that the lawyer, with whom I left those claims had gone as a volunteer to the Mexican war in June last. His father states that according to his books he had collected $327. dollars on the Stapp Judgment. & nothing against Sheets & Grower. He had charged to me in May 1845 $100 cash & exchange $2. which I read & distributed. In Feb 1846 $177.78 which I never received although [*although*] his books say it was remitted. For costs paid $72..50 For his fee $25.. making it all $377..28 leaving me indebted to him $57..28 If the $177..78 was put in the mail it must have been taken out it never reached me. The Pinchot affair may be 2 or three years in collecting if collected at all. The Circuit Court sits but 2 times a year in Oct & April & the Supreme Court but once at Washington. Pinchot was sued last July. I have collected but little since I saw you $20 from F. Smith &c I wish I could meet you, Philo, & Frederick & have those old claims disposed of at auction sometime next March, though I would not wish to do so unless we could dispose of them. They are in my estimation growing worse & worse every year, I would in 1843 have given much more for the uncollected claims than I would be willing to give now. But still I am willing to give a fair price or to sell very low indeed.

We are all well & have just written Philo Frederick & Emeline

Most Respectfully

John S. Wallis

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

Flemington, [*New Jersey*.] March 29, 1855.

My dear mother & sister

I thought of writing you last week but William went to Philadelphia & I concluded to wait until he should come home & measure the land. The state of the ground has been such (from frost &c.) that he thought it inconvenient to set stake much before this. The girls have gone to New York to buy furniture for Kate. Mr. Anderson by the advice of his mother in law sold the most of his furniture soon after his wife's death. They are to <*keep*> live this year near the Presbyterian church 2 doors this side of where aunt Hetty used to live I believe Mr. A. [*Anderson*] thinks of building this summer just above fathers two or three or four rods above I suppose which will make it very pleasant for them all. Hetty borrowed my brocha shawl for her trip it not being so much faded as her own. The children are fat & hearty. Laura very active & full of mischief.

I bought this pin of a pedlar for 31 cts. Mrs. Joseph Reading was in here at the time & admired it said she thought it looked like a higher priced pin.

I expect to be confined the latter part of October. William has proposed my going home this spring (that is if I will go without him) but I think that a visit so soon again would probably give you more trouble than pleasure & I have very little idea of going. My girl is to make a visit to New York in May.

My health I expect is about the same as when at home last fall. I have many bad feelings, of course – suppose if Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] were here she would consider me about the same as last Spring. Mary continues to assist in care of children much more than Ann did & I put it upon her. Mother has been in since I began this & sent much love to you.

I hope that you are not overwhelmed with care & trouble & that you receive support from above.

Sammy [*Samuel B. Hill*] knows the most of his letters both large & small. When I am reading he often comes & asks to say his letters & in this way has leaned them.

Yours affectionately

Mary B Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*]

We have had a cold dry March and the winter grain is suffering much – The prospect for a large crop about here is not good – We are quite busy now in shop – making tile and ware – rec'd [*received*] an order the other day for 5.000 lead pots –

On the 27 of March bought a piece of land at the lower corner of land to make our line straight and out to the R Road [*Railroad*], so that now the R Road [*Railroad*] is the boundary in a straight line for half the length of the farm with the exception of about 2 chains a little square of land belonging to Asha Hill which I hope to obtain some day and make the line complete –

I measured the land for M yesterday and will have the deeds made out as soon as I can get them done – The piece contains about 10 acres –

Cheese now retails here at 16 cts per lb – and not very plenty at that – How do potatoes sell with you – here they are worth 237 ½ per bu – We have been getting up a car load of man [*manure*] 100 bu to try on potatoe crop and a little to top dress land (grass) – Cost about 15 cts. per bushel, about the same as lime, Do not know whether it will do as much good in small quantities as lime but want to give it a trial

---

Perhaps Super Phosphate of Lime would improve your pastures – it seems as if they ought to be renovated – now cheese is so high priced WB Hill

Wrote as far as above and went to breakfast taking care of myself and Laura [*Laura Hill*] who always meets one at table with a perfect string of Papa's and no one else answers half as well as Papa – Poor little thing if she knew how often her Father wishes her in bed or somewhere else would she be so eager for a seat on his knee Must away to office and work with love to all I am yours as ever

William Hill

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

[*2 copies of typed subscription solicitation letter as follows:*]

Redding, Fairfield County, Conn., January 5th, 1878.

DEAR SIR :—

THE "HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE BURR FAMILY IN AMERICA" is about ready for the press, and I desire to invite your attention to the following table of contents:

I. Preface – with an introductory essay on the "Value of Genealogical inquiries," published in Harford *Times*, Oct. 22, 1877.

II. An Essay on the "name," shows its derivation and proper orthography; also giving an account of titled families of the name in England, with a description of their coats of arms.

III. General History of the Family.

IV. Biography – comprising sketches of Jehu Burr, founder of the Fairfield branch, (1630); Benjamin Burr, founder of the Hartford branch, (1635); Rev. Jonathan Burr, founder of the Dorchester, Massachusetts, branch (1639); William Burr, founder of the New Jersey branch, (1681); Major John, Col. John, Col. Andrew, Judge Peter Burr – all Magistrates and Assistants of the Connecticut Colony; Aaron Burr, President of Princeton College; of his son, Col. Aaron Burr, Vice President of the United States; and of numerous others who by their attainments and public services reflect credit on the name.

V. Genealogical Record. – This embraces the period between 1570 and 1877, — ten generations in all. It traces the various members of the family, scattered throughout the country, to their first ancestor in America, and preserves the memory of the generations to future ages. The author is a member of the family of which he treats; he brought a literary experience of ten years, and a genuine love for the work to his task, and has spared no labor or expense to make it complete, accurate, interesting and lasting – a fit memorial of the noble family of which it treats. Of the difficulties of the work he will say nothing – they must be apparent to all; neither is it fitting that he should eulogize his own work, and he cannot spread it in its entirety before those whom he addresses, but he guarantees that it will meet expectations. It will be an octavo of between *three and four hundred pages*, printed on good paper, and well bound, and will be embellished with a full page engraving of the BURR COAT OF ARMS, several portraits, and nine autographs of prominent members of the family. It will be ready for the press soon; but before venturing on its publication the author asks for a subscription of at least 300 copies, at $5 each, to aid him in publishing. That sum represents the cost of issuing the first volume, and the author's compensation, if any, must come from those sold afterward. The book will not be sold singly at a lower rate, and when once out of print cannot be procured at any price. To those, however, who would like several copies for distribution to friends, or to preserve as heirlooms to future generations – five or more copies will be sent at a discount of ten per cent. from above rates. The book will be sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of price, or by express C.O.D. – the purchaser paying the express charges on the book only. The former method is cheaper and more preferable.

Respectfully,

CHARLES BURR TODD, Redding, Fairfield Country, Conn.

A few testimonials from those who have seen the work, or portions of it, are appended :—

REDDING, Conn., January 5, 1878.

MR. TODD is a member of my church, and I can cheerfully testify to his probity as a man, as well as to his skill and industry as a writer. JOHN DICKINSON,

Pastor of the M.E. Church, Redding.

"Mr. Todd's book is the product of a large fund of knowledge, and of an enthusiastic love of the subject."

—*Hartford Times*, Editorial.

REDDING, Conn., January 1, 1878.

I have been familiar with this enterprise from the first and must say that, completed, it far exceeds my most sanguine expectations. I would not have supposed it possible that so accurate and valuable a history could have been constructed.

WILLIAM H. BURR.

Mr. Todd's work is done and *well done*. I can heartily commend it to the attention of the family.

GEORGE L. BURR, 138 and 140 Fulton Street, New York.

Your subscription is solicited.

[*Written across side of page:*] *Your lineage is traced in this work.*

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

[*Addressed to:*] Master Ralph Ebeneser Burr [*Ralph E. Burr*]
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
Mr. I. Mills.

Prairieville, Wis. Ter. [*Wisconsin Territory*] May 4, 1844.

My dear brother Ralph,

A thousand thanks to you for your good letter on that folio sheet & to pay for it you shall have a letter by yourself — I hope you will write every time you can & write every thing you can think of about the people, — tell who have died, who moved away &c., it will help Ma a great deal — am glad you go to the Academy now dont let there be many better scholars than you, does Warren board at his uncle Fosters? Give my love to him & tell him I want he should be a minister—

I think you have improved considerable in your hand writing. Do you grow fast? Do you try to restrain angry feelings when you feel them rising? I hope you do. you will be glad when you are older if you do. I want to caution you again about using a gun. now dear Ralph dont you think you know so much about a gun that there is no need of your being careful. many persons that have used a gun much more than you have met with sad accidents — deer skip & bound here though I have chanced to see but two live ones although I suppose they have many times passed very near our house — I believe I wrote you last fall that I had neither seen nor heard of wolves about here, but since then I have heard that in some parts of the Ter. [*Territory*] there are a good many & about five or six miles from here are some — there are but very few just about here — we dont know that we have heard them — there are two kind of wolves, the large grey wolves & those that are called prairie wolves the last are smaller than the others & less ferocious — expect there are some wild cats about — I last winter saw the skin of one stuffed that a man in our neighborhood killed — There are wild "prairie hens" about here, have been told that they look just like a common speckled hen. we sometimes hear the cocks crow in the morning. the round does not much resemble that of domestic cocks but is a coarse, cooing sound — believe the flesh of these hens is as good as any — they sometimes fill their crops with wheat, dont know that they do any other harm.

We send you & Erastus & Marcus a book which I hope you will own in partnership. I would commence it & read in course it is very amusing, & want you to tell me if you do not think the author gives a pretty good description of your school boy days —

I dont know but you are so good at school that there is no need of my telling you to be a "good boy" I hope you are, how does your head stand it?

May 7. Tues. I wrote the foregoing last Sat. eve. about as fast as I could. During the day I wrote a letter to Mother Grant, & yesterday I wrote a little to Aunt Susan S. Brown & Abigail Cowles. I intend to devote to day & to morrow in writing to "our folks."

There have been from 15 to 20 deaths about us with the scarlet fever. Several children & youth have died

Yesterday a little girl of our minister died — she was three or fours years old. believe all the other children of the family are sick — Joseph who is 13. Ashur 11 — Sarah 5 or 6 & a babe

— but they are very good children, have given their hearts to their Savior & endeavor to spend their youthful days to please him. Will you not do thus my dear little brother, then when sickness & death come you will not fear. Christ will be with you — Jesus loves you now — then fly to his arms — & dear brother Erastus too — I want he should take this as written to him & also the whole letter — I will try to write him a little — I have seen a good many flowers up <*in*> with in a short distance from our house — We hear Whip-poor-wills almost every summer evening — they have been singing for two or three weeks — owls hoot evening & morning — partridge's drum day & night. have not seen any wood chucks about — your little dog does bravely — I can think how you look playing with your kittens — I am afraid that your furious animal that knocked Erastus down will yet kill one or both of you. or some others — do be careful. I suppose Ethan & Levi & Russell look & act pretty much as they used to — Our ministers boys help their mother a great deal — wash dishes &c —

Your aff. [*affectionate*] sister
Caroline Grant —

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

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

Seminary. Friday Morn

My Dear Caroline

I cannot let pass so good an opportunity without writing you a few words

How is your health now? I hope it is better than it was last fall

I am anticipating the pleasure of having you for a class mate next year, and hope I shall not be disappointed. I often think of the many happy moments we have spent here together. Do you remember our reading class? “The frost and the flower garden?” ?

I have been here but a week and consequently have become acquainted with but a few of the new scholars, from appearances should think them a very pleasant circle of young ladies — you probably know who are our teachers

I think they demean themselves with the utmost propriety

It seems more like a dream than reality that our dear, sweet, [little?] Helen has a seat with them.

I need not tell you how much we all regret to part with your dear sister [*Mary Burr*]

I had anticipated much from her society, and now as soon as I get here she goes away, but so it is with all our earthly hopes. How thankful should we be that there is a hope which will not disappoint, that there is a home where friends will never part. Oh, Dear C. [*Caroline*] how I wish I could see you & have a good long talk with you

Good bye
Affectionately yours
Mary W. Chapin.

Martha sends much love.

[*Added in another hand:*] The writer, Mary W. Chapin of Somers, Ct. [*Connecticut*] Principal of Mt. Hol. Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] 1853. C. Grant

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

[*Addressed to:*] Miss Caroline Bur, [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Norfolk,
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Miss M. Burr.

Mt Holyoke [*Massachusetts*], March 19, 1840.

Dear Caroline ~

You will not I trust give this not an unwelcome reception, tho it is a little one. Mary goes tomorrow & I have so little time that I must [needs?] be brief if I write at all. I am sorry to have her leave us & I am sure we should all be quite unreconciled if her health did not require her to go home. I hope that under the kind nursing of a judicious mother & a dear sister & relieved from study, she will soon find her health much improved.

Now I have a plan for you both? Can you not make your arrangements to come to the examination? I should think you would love to one, & I am sure Mary would enjoy it. You would find a goodly number here who were here with you. I suppose you & Mary will help to form the Senior class of next year. I should think M. [*Mary*] would be almost glad to write that she may finish with a sister. I think there is a prospect of a fine class for next year. There are several here now who could nearly have finished this year & who will, I presume, do themselves and the Institution [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] credit when they do finish. I hope for your sake you will have some study in [advance?] when you return for the last year is so full that it is nothing but study, study all the time. I would not have any thing left out, the studies are all interesting – yes delightful – but if we had ten more weeks or ten weeks study in advance it would be much pleasanter & perhaps more profitable. Mary will tell you that the course is soon to be four years. I think very little need be added to fill up the time. I do not know that any thing more than Latin is to be added. You have a feast before you in Upham's Intellectual Philosophy [Outlines of imperfect and disordered mental action. *By Thomas C. Upham, professor of mental and moral philosophy in Bowdoin College*]. We have just finished the first volume & the arrangement is so good & the whole work so beautifully transparent that it seemed as though we could look back through the whole & follow him from beginning to end in such a manner as to afford real satisfaction to the mind. O, you will have fine times here next year.

You will find many improvements in the system, since you left. There is an evident advance towards perfection each year. Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] has (I rather think) the Model of a perfect young lady in her mind & she is unwearied in her efforts to make all her young ladies thus perfect. — I should like to peep in here twenty years hence & see to what the school & family will have attained. I hardly dare hope that Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] will be sparred so long as that but if she should be, I fancy the standard here will be so high that we, groveling mortals, will have to open wide our eyes to look at it — O I must be studying or I shall find myself sadly below the present standard I shall be very happy to hear from you & Mary & hope I may before the close of the year.

Yours truly

Catharine L. Leach.

Miss C. Burr.

[*Added in another hand:*] Married Dec. 1843 to Rev. E. [Y.?] Swift of Chillicothe Ohio — Removed to Northampton 1845 — to South Hadley 1851 — Mr. Swift preaches in So. Hadley — is Secretary of the Board of Trustees — 1853 — Caroline Grant –

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

[*Addressed to:*] Miss Caroline Burr [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Norfolk
Ct [*Connecticut*]

By Mary Burr}

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] March 20, 1840

Dear Caroline

Your little black eyed sweet sister Mary, is going to leave us this morning ~ I cannot let her go without saying one word to you. And first I wish you had been here to make Mary come & see us more

She has rarely been in our room, this year & forsooth she says because she always finds a room full, which I do not admit. I have just lectured her for it. Yet she is very dear to me & ever will be.

Mary will tell you all about the school [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] so I will only say, we are very happy this year, for we have a precious school. The grape in our yards is freshening beneath the light rain which is just now falling upon it.

— There — a bird is wakening his sweet notes, in the tree. We shall have a splendid yard this year, the tulips snow drops & daffodils are up. We shall think of you when at work in it.

How is my Caroline employed this year Usefully — I trust, & usefully in the greatest degree. We should make improvement you in mind person & heart. Have you read much I would read some, We are just reading the Memoirs of Mrs. Smith [Memoirs of the late venerable and pious Mrs. Mary Smith, of Newark, in New-Jersey, relict of the late Hon. William Peartree Smith, Esq. *By Timothy Alden ; with the address delivered at her funeral, by James Richards*] perhaps you can obtain it & read it. Then I hope you write occasionally a composition will you not write something for our missionary meeting

The young ladies write for it entirely And you as ready as ever to say a smiling thing? Have you made your mother very happy, so that she thinks you worth your weight in gold? Is your mind your intellectual taste your everything growing? More than all is your soul growing into the perfect likeness of Christ. Can you apply to yourself that description of Charity in the 13th. Chap. of 1st Cor. [*Corinthians*] Is your closet cleaner & still cleaner to you, do you find your aspirations rising more and more to your heavenly father that you may glorify him, I hope you will grow brighter & brighter as a Christian till you reach the blessed abode above. I have but a moment before comes my class in Nat. Phi [*Natural Philosophy*] then Astronomy then Calisthen [*Calisthenics*?] & dinner, before that is over, Mary will be wheeling away. So I must speak quick. I intended to say that I feel God has been with us as truly this year as last. I hope as effectually But he came more in the still small [voice?] Do not forget us in your petitions. Dear Caroline I love you very much & hope we shall some time meet again

Most affectionately yours

Abby Moore [*Abigail Moore Burgess*]

[*Added in another hand*:] Niece of Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] Teacher & Associate Principal in Mt. Hol. Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] From 1835 to 1846 — Married 1846 to Rev. Ebenezer Burgess Missionary to India — Mrs. B. [*Mary Grant Burgess*] died Apr. 1853 — The first Mrs. Burgess was Mary Grant sister of my husband — C. Grant

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

[*Addressed to*:] Miss Caroline Burr. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Holyoke [*Massachusetts*]. Sabbath eve. Jan 23

My own dear Caroline

Sisters should hold intercourse with each other, should they not? This is my apology for writing: that I am a dweller at Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], and an assistant pupil, here, is my excuse for doing it on so small a scale — for time is wanting to me even to keep up an intercourse with the sisters who are clustered here.

But dear Carra. I could not let Mary go without at least a note to you, for I have many things to tell you. And first I must tell you my own delinquencies, and my sorrow because of them. I have been an unfaithful friend and sister to Mary dear, and perhaps she will tell you that weeks have passed away in which she has had no proof of my remembrance. Could she have seen my heart she would have known herself beloved and cared for — but I fear that now she thinks me indifferent. I will not attempt to exculpate myself — for Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] tells us the want of time is generally equivalent to a want of “character,” and this is my only plea.

I hope I shall not always live as I have done during these 16 weeks, for the have sometimes seemed to me the most unhappy of my life, from their very hurry.

I am sometimes ready to say this cannot be our own Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] — for so many are the changes in the building — that it is not an easy matter to trace out last year’s seems. But I have had no time to make myself unhappy on this score — [new?] yet because so many beloved forms were absent, and now I am getting quite reconciled to new rooms and new faces.

Are you still an inhabitant of the school-room? the guardian spirit of the little group? Mary has told me you were so engaged in the early part of the winter. And I suppose you find much to [make?] you happy for the consciousness of being useful makes us so. I have often thought of you — and desired for you the smiles of your Heavenly Father's countenance.

We have had much here to humble us — and much to make us earnest and constant in prayer — but we have been slow to learn these sweet lessons. Sometimes it has seemed that Christians would never arouse from their slumbers — and that the year would pass and leave us unblessed with the outpouring of the Spirit. Yet God has not left himself without witness — for sometimes we have felt his presence and some have had their eyes opened — and are rejoicing that now they see.

I should dearly love to show you my black-eyed timid Addy, who sits here at the table by my side, and to have a nice long visit with you, in our pleasant No. 17. then perhaps we might fly over the mountains and leave a kiss on Lottie's lips — if nothing more — she is in Becket. Mass [*Massachusetts*] — where my father is recently located.

As to all the other things to be done and said should we meet again, it was fully to predict for the present I am quite removed from the atmosphere of my classmates — and while they explore the beauties of Milton — the depths of Olmsted — or the pages of Wayland — I plod on with Geology — "History and Euclid" But a truce to my pen for the bell is no less potent than in olden time. Yours still
Julia

[*Added in another hand*:] Julia Hyde, daughter of Rev. Mr. Hyde of Becket Mass [*Massachusetts*] — Married 1844 Rev. Edward Clarke — Residence in 1852 in Middlefield, Mass.
C. Grant

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

[*Addressed to*] [*Alletta Hill Hulsizer*]

Bennington, Vt. [*Vermont*]
Wednesday April 4/ [*18*]80

Dear Lettie [*Alletta Hill Hulsizer*]

What under the sun have you been doing; but I guess I'll "hold my peace" as I've nothing to say against it. Now let me congratulate you, for I think Mr. H. [*Abraham Chamers Hulsizer*] will make you a real kind and good husband. I rather suspected that this is the way it would end if Chalmers could have his way in the matter. I'll forgive you for not writing oftener I can easily see what has taken up your time.

Am glad Halsizer [*Abraham Chamers Hulsizer*] passed well in his examination

Wonder of wonders that Mother [*Mary Burr Hill*] should have gone to Princeton [*New Jersey*]. How on earth did you get her off. That accounts for the cold snap we have just had. Did Mother see Cousin Frank [*Frank E. Burr*] when she was down, and how did she enjoy herself?

I heard of Alice Irwin's marriage when I was home Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] told me

Well I should think you had rec'd [*received*] a splendid present. Please tell me more about it. What Encyclopedia is it. How kind is Cousin Warren. I did mention to Lewis that you had such a present, but said nothing about the name of the giver, and of course he could never guess. Fannie's husband is a carpenter. So far as I know they are still at home. They, that is the Baldwin's have moved into their new house. Bessie has been sick with the "beasles" Nellie is a little better <they> she says. I am afraid the arbutus that I sent home did not amount to much. That we kept here, although it was kept in water has the most of it withered

Lewis & I got up before half past six Sunday morning to go for it and we were back before nine. It was cold and windy but we walked fast enough to keep warm. Yesterday it began to grow warm and today it has been quite like spring. I'm sure I hope it will continue so that we can enjoy going after wild flowers. I wish I knew some way I could get that compound microscope. I

tell you what it is, I don't want to be a know-nothing. Besides the pleasure of studying botany I want to know something that will make me appear a little intelligent.

There is a Ladies Sewing Society in the "Congo" [*Congregational*] Church. It meets every Wednesday evening (I believe) At six o'clock they have tea, at which the gentlemen are invited to be present. (That is if they will give 10 cts.)

This evening I went. Its been a long time since I've had so pleasant an evening out. I had not been there more than 4 or 5 minutes when a real nice old lady came up and spoke to me by name, saying she had heard Mr. Read call me by that name. In course of the conservation I incidentally mentioned that I knew but few there. She said she supposed I did not know her name. As I did not I asked her if I might know it, and she gave it to me. She said she had seen me at the prayer meeting and they like to have young men to help them. (Mr. Read calls on me once in a while to offer prayer). I sat by the old lady (Mrs. Harman) at table and near Mr. Read. I enjoyed the conversation very much. Every body seemed to be ful of fun and sociable. After tea Mr. Read introduced me to some of the young ladies. (Lewis says they are among the <u>best</u> society the town affords, and I think he must be right, they seemed intelligent and refined. Altogether I had a splendid time

One of the young ladies asked me to their house to see a cabinet of curiosities which her Aunt has gathered, in her travels. She has had good oportunity for such a collection having been (if I remember right) to the Sandwich Islands besides other places that I dont now remember

Lewis and I are going there some<day> evening before long

Now good night I may add more to this tomorrow if I have time. Recd [*received*] a card from Carrie last night.

Thursday morning 7 A. M. We have had no fire since some time yesterday and the thermometer is at 56° now. Don't suppose we will need any at all today. Guess I'll send this now as I'll have no time to add to it today

Tell Halsizer [*Abraham Chamers Hulsizer*] I'll be down there one of these days to see what he means by such actions. Love to all. Your aff. [*affectionate*] bro. [*brother*]

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

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

West <u>W</u>insted June 16,/61. [*in pencil*: 1861]

Dear Aunt, [*in pencil: (Mary Burr*)]

I really meant to have answered your kind letter long before this, and I trust I shall not be so tardy again

I do the milking have all the care of the cow and chickens, and get the tea.

I do not believe I can sit down and write a sober letter about sober things. I am so excited I cannot talk anything, think anything or write any thing but war.

And I have been doubly excited since Mr. Eddy went, and our first and second Conn. [*Connecticut*] Regiments have been stationed half a mile beyond any other U.S. troops. The companys from about here are in the second reg. and our own dear Mr. Eddy is its chaplain he received his appointment Saturday and went Tuesday. I was examined for admission to the church the Monday evening before he left. Oh! He is so good and he has the right spirit too. I'll tell you what I'd like to see him hold of a rebel.

I saw two drops of Col. Elsworth's blood the other day, they were upon the standard of a banister which came from the Marshall house within two feet of where he fell and his blood had spattered on to it. And when I hear about the Ohio troops how when they were reinforced and came back for [their?] dead and wounded, the rebels had severed every finger which had a ring upon it. I declare it is terrible hard work to stand it, it is enough to make any patriots blood boil, and Oh! How I wish I were a man

Millbrook July 26.

I have been home about two weeks and [and?] am fixing up my clothes and am just as tired as I can consistently be.

I was up to Norfolk day before yesterday and made a few calls. Aunt [Crissey?] was not very well.

Sarah and Henry Gaylord came home with us and staid until this morning.

Eddie [*Edward Grant*] sprained his wrist last Saturday so that he has not been able to do much of anything until to-day.

I am studying Arithmetic (Greenleafs National) Latin, and Grammar, and have got along pretty well in them

Mr. Eddy is among the missing of the battle of Bulls-Run and [I?] one other Winsted Volunteer though I have not yet heard definitely about that, all I am certain of is that Mr. Eddy is gone. The last that was seen of him was he was on the field after the <*wounded*> battle carrying water [to/the?] wounded.

We expect Aunt Gertie up here before very long and rather think cousin Mary Burton will come with her.

Please give my love to all.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] niece

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

It was the last battle fought at Bulls Run <*they [guess?]*> that Mr. Eddy was lost. Mother thinks it is called the battle of Manassas.

I think a great many times how awful hateful I used to be to you, and how impatient when you tried to teach me any-thing. I am really very sorry and hope I shall never do so to any one again.

Please give my love to Miss Cowless, and if you have an opportunity remember me to Mr. Clark and tell him that I still remember his Sabbath school teachings with a great deal of pleasure.

Give my love to Grandmother Aunt Kate and All the rest,

Abbie. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

I am going back to Winsted this week.

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

[*Transcription: original not in collection*]

[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant

Savannah [*Georgia*], Jan. 19, 1832

My dear Parents,

You probably have received a letter which I commenced writing Jan. 14 which was finished by cousin Roscana. That informed you of my sudden departure from Ipswich. Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] accompanied me to Boston Wednes. P. M. to assist me in making arrangements for my passage to this place. Then I expected to go on to Providence [*Rhode Island*], & from thence to N. Y. [*New York*] & set sail for Savan [*Savannah*]. But on arriving in Boston, I found a ship was soon to sail from there & it was judged best for me to come in it. It was expected then that it would sail on Fri. so I was full of business Thurs. Miss Lyons advised & assisted me in making necessary purchases which we nearly completed at one o'clock. We then prepared to accept an invitation to dinner at Hon. Samuel Hubbard's. I enjoyed this visit much. It is a remarkably well regulated family. Mr. H. [*Hubbard*] has seven children, five by his former wife, & two by his present one. Miss Eliza Hubbard, his eldest daughter, is now here. She has been journeying with Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] for many months. Thurs. eve. the Capt. the ship Olive Branch in which I was expecting to sail came & spent the evening at Capt. Lovett's. No. 19. Hancock St. where we were boarding. We sent an invitation to him the morning previous. He, Capt. Dyer is a plain, but sensible man, & I shall ever feel grateful to him for his kind attentions during the passage. I was the only lady on board. There was one passenger besides myself. Mr. Herring lieutenant in the U. S. army. He was a Virginian educated at West Pt. [*West Point*] He was intelligent & rather gentlemanly. Sabbath morn about 11 o'clock we left Central wharf at Boston in the ship Olive Branch. The ship was well built, about 120 ft. long & of 400 tons burthen. The day we set sail was mild & very warm for New Eng. [*England*] Not a wave but small ripples were to be seen. About four miles from the wharf we passed between the islands on which the forts are situated. Fort Independence on Castle Is. [*Island*]. is west & Fort Warren the old fort east of the place where ships enter the harbor. About 100 men are stationed at Fort In. [*Fort Independence*] Walls of brick are raised 30 ft. I should think, on the east & south sides of it.

These walls are white washed almost every summer. The earth is raised some higher than the wall, & there appear to be some fine buildings upon the island. We passed on pleasantly. About 6 miles from shore the pilot returned. I spent most of the day on deck hoping by that means to be less sea sick. I felt rather lonely. The crew were remarkably orderly, there were about 18 persons on board, including all, a cat, & about 14 fowls. I was sea sick only the first three days. After this, I relished our food as much as ever, which was wholesome. On an island, eight miles from the wharf, is the light house to guide eastern vessels & about a mile further is one to guide vessels into the port of Boston. The quarantine is on Painesford Island. Vessels are not detained there now. Capt. Dyer stayed there 10 days last Feb. on account of the cholera. There is a hospital, a surgeon's house, & some buildings on the island. I took some beef soup for dinner, thickened with rice & a few slices of turnips boiled in it. Soup was our first dish every day on board made either of beef, mutton or fowl <*beef*>. I suppose I could not have had better accommodations, & nothing more could I wish but a companion. I mean some lady's company. I had a state room, in which were four berths to myself. Saw the towns of Hull [*Massachusetts*] & Hingham [*Massachusetts*] to the west of us. Scituate [*Rhode Island*] meeting house was in sight most of Sab. [*Sabbath*] P. M. I took a cup of black tea & retired to rest about six o'clock, sea sick. After this we saw no more land till the next week. Fri. morn, a period of 11 days.

Mon. morning. I rose about sun rise sea sick, & hastened to go on deck, where the fresh air & some vomiting soon relieve me. No place about a ship is so pleasant as the deck. I never became weary looking at the waves & the motion of the vessel mounting a wave & then descending sometimes appeared very majestically. I rested considerable the first two nights indeed. I slept pretty well, excepting two nights all the time. - Tues. A. M. was cold & cloudy, though I stayed on deck most of the time because I felt much better than in the cabin. We had a fine turky for dinner. It rained in the P. M. & the wind blew hard from the S. E. The boat rocked very much. I had not been able to support myself for some time, but now this was not only my case, but that of all on board. You would be amused to take your meals on board a ship when the wind blows. The table is made fast to the floor, & the dishes are prevented from sliding from it be a frame. Even then it was often difficult to keep our seats & see to our coffee & plates. The Capt. first mate, Mr. Herring & myself took our meals together. Tues. evening about 10 o'clock the wind suddenly changed to the N. W. & blew in a gale for 12 hours. No one slept any more, or but very little that night. It did seem that we certainly should capsize. I never passed such a night, & I then felt that nothing would ever incite me to take another voyage. I found some comfort in committing myself to Him who controls the winds & waves, & in feeling the Judge of all earth does all things well. The Sab [*Sabbath*] before I committed those verses in the 10th Ps. [*Psalm*] which contain an interesting description of a storm at sea from verses 23 – 31. Perhaps some of the children would like to learn those verses. In the serm [*sermon*] at Ips [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] just before I left about $70.00 was collected for the Seamens Friend Soc. [*Seamen's Friend Society*] & almost 100 for a Theological Sem. [*Seminary*] in Jefferson Co. Ohio. Miss Lyon mentioned four reasons why the seamen had a claim on our benevolence. 1. Because they were exposed to great hard ships in this life. 2. Great exposure to a premature death. 3. The salvation of their soul. 4. Their instrumentality in converting the world. These increase in importance the last outweighing all the others. Mr. Hubbard of Boston thinks no society more in need of assistance now, than this.

Wednes. morn. Was rejoiced to find the wind abating. I went on deck the sea was high. The spray often rose so high as to sprinkle me. It repays for some suffering to see the ocean in such a situation. I do not think I have language to describe it to you. At one time the waves were from 30 to 40 ft. high & they were several times from 15 to 20 or 25 ft. Sometimes a hill of water would be moving towards the ship much higher than we were & it seemed as if it wd. [*would*] soon bury us, but the ship wd. [*would*] rise, or the wave die away. It is wonderful how the ships do avoid them so much. I saw a great number of porpoises darting through the water. They would weigh 100 pds. [*pounds*] are chiefly valuable for their oil, & are caught with harpoons. I suffered very little more from sickness. Friday I finished reading a tract "The Backslider" which I think very good. Wednes. P.M. The Capt. & mates kept trying the heat of the water to ascertain of we were in the Gulf Stream. At four o'clock the thermometers rose to 76 degrees so that the Capt. had no doubt but we were in the G.S. [*Gulf Stream*] He hoped not to get so far east as the stream, but the wind was unfavorable, & it cd. [*could*] not be avoided. The Gulf Stream is from 60

to 80 m. [*miles*] wide, & extends to the coast of Newfoundland. Sea weed is floating about it in great abundance which resembles ground pine. The air here was peculiarly soft & warm as May days in New Eng. [*England*] Wednes. night the rain fell in torrents. Squalls were frequent all the time the ship was in the G.S. [*Gulf Stream*] Thursday stayed below because of the rain. Spent most of the time reading Memoir of Felix Neff. The gale I mentioned on Tues. night, should have been Thurs. night. This was much more violent than the first. During the evening there was much thunder, & sharp lightning. After this, the wind blew from the N. W. One of sails was taken away. The Capt. thought it very fortunate that the sails were furled, otherwise he thought the whole might have sunk. Fri. I went on deck before breakfast, & remained there about five min. The ocean was indeed a grand sight. I did not go on deck again till Sat. We saw three vessels sailing most of the day. Sat. P. M. was very mild & Sab. [*Sabbath*] very pleasant I read the book of Hos. [*Hosea*] When on deck saw large collections of sea weed. At a distance it appeared yellow. Its color depends in a measure on its situation in the water. If two or three ft. [*feet*] below the surface it was a beautiful green. When on the surface, not so lively. Probably this is in part owing to the age of the weed. About sunset on deck I witnessed a scene which I fancy had I been blessed by the muses I should have seized as favorable to write poetry. The waters were gently undulating, & on every side of each [.... ....] hill of waters were numberless ripples. The horizon was skirted with broken clouds. The light of the fading day still lingered in west for some time only one gem twinkled in the heavens then one & another peeped out. The wind was soft & refreshing. I silently enjoyed it till the Capt. asked me down to tea. About poetry.....Abigail & John would learn to love poetry. When I was in Taunton [*Massachusetts*], Mr. Reed's children I thought had a pretty way of amusing themselves by capping poetry as they termed it. One would repeat a line, then another wd. [*would*] repeat one commencing with the same letter which ended the previous line, as if one should say, Deep in the waves is a coral grove, E is the last letter. The next line might be, Eye hath not seen it, my gentle boy, the next line begins with Y I think. Martha & even Marcus would like to it sometimes Mr. Joseph Emerson said at I. [*Ipswich*] last summer that poetry ought to receive 1000 times the attention it has yet received. Repeat poetry proper lines if you repeat at all. Mon. morning the waves were quite high but the motion was pleasant, no rocking but resembling swings, the head of the ship rising & then the stern. the waves usually break to the leeward that is if the wind is N. W. they fall away to the S. E. Tues. & Wednes. we were nearly in the latitude of Savannah but 300 miles from the coast & the direction of the wind such as the render the prospect discouraging as to what time we shd. [*should*] arrive at Savannah, but Wednes. night the wind changed & continued favorable the remainder of the passage. We were soon wafted over the Gulf Stream & Friday morning the land was in sight & a pilot was received on board. Sat. about ten o'clock I arrived at Savannah & sent to the P. O. for a letter which Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] had lodged there that I might know where to find her. About 11 I found her & now am pleasantly situated in a boarding house with Aunt & Miss Hubbard. Coming up the river the scenery was very pleasant. Flocks of duck, crows & rice birds were flying about in all directions – Aunt & Miss H. [*Hubbard*] are expecting to accompany me to Forsythe [*Georgia*]. They will probably remain there about one month. Aunt expects to be in Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] next summer. We expect to go by steam boat to Augusta [*Georgia*], from thence by stage to Milledgeville [*Georgia*], then to Macon [*Georgia*]. Forsythe [*Georgia*] is 24 miles beyond Macon [*Georgia*]. I do not know what my school is to be yet. There are two departments male & female. Mr. Parsons the principal has a general superintendence of the female department though I suppose they are principally committed to me. You may direct your letters to Forsythe, Monroe Co. Ga. [*Georgia*] The accent of Forsythe is on the last syllable. The th has the aspirate sound. I expect to remain there a year. My dear father have you though that you have not written me one word since I left home, though I doubt not I have your best wishes & parental regard but will you write me one letter this winter. I suppose you are not so pressed with business as in summer. I wish you wd. [*would*] describe to me the state of the church & society in Colebrook [*Connecticut*], also the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school. Brother Daniel will you write me a minute description of our house? Abigail, will you write me about the school & our friends. Give my love to our cousins, aunts & uncles. Aunt received a letter containing the news of Aunt Pettibone's death last Sat. the day I arrived here. We sympathize with them & hope they will be comforted.

From your affectionate,

Mary [*Mary Grant*]
[*along the center of the letter is a greeting from Aunt Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] "I love you all, Zilpah Grant"

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant
Colebrook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
One of sister Mary Grant's letters wh. [*which*] my children may like to look over She was then 22 yrs. old

Forsyth. Geo. [*Georgia*] May 29, 1833

My dear Parents,

A long time has again elapsed since I have written to, or received any intelligence from you. Aunt & Miss Hubbard left here the 28th of Apr. & I suppose, if prospered they are now in, or near, New Eng [*New England*]. I received a letter from them written in Lexington, N.C. [*North Carolina*] 350 miles from Forsyth.

The weather is very warm here now, I think about as warm as any part of the season at home. I usually carry an umbrella to screen me from the sun The nights are pretty cool, & the evenings & mornings, when pleasant or clear are very fine. I have taken one morning walk, but I generally keep my room after supper. I rise with the sun usually, & retire before ten. In this family, we breakfast a little past six, dine about one, & have supper about seven. I should prefer supper an hour & half earlier, but am pleased with the regularity of our meals. – I think vegetation two months in advance of Conn [*Connecticut*]. What time there are the peach & apple tress in blossom? Strawberries began to be red the last of April though not ripe. Raspberries are now in their best state. Mr. Lumpkin has a fine supply. We have them in pies, or in milk for dinner. Peas, beans beets, & Irish potatoes are now abundant. Some of the potatoes are quite grown. A few days since we had some green apple dumplins [*dumplings*] for dinner. Plumbs begin to be ripe. Peach trees are loaded with fruit. Next month they will begin to ripen. So much for food & vegetations. One thing more. I said something in one of my letters about the variety of meat & bread at out table, I think you might gain an incorrect idea from it. These are all we ever have. I think the difference between this, & other boarding houses is that all or almost all the variety we ever have, is on the table every meal. I sometimes feel tired of hot bread, fresh meats, etc. Of late, we have had some cold wheat bread on the table. A great many live mostly to eat & dress in this state, I think.

May 30 Wednes. eve.

I believe I have written to you respecting the scarlet fever prevailing here. The sickness still continues, & often proves fatal. Today the funeral of a young man was attended, & yesterday two children were buried. This young man had been sick about four days. The first case of sickness was about March 1, a wagoner was brought here sick in the evening & died that night. Soon two little negroes in the family where the man died were violently seized, & each within 24 hours was a corpse. The physicians knew not how to account for the disease. Some thought it was the cholera, & some that the children were poisoned. One child was dissected, which satisfied them the children were not poisoned. The first symptoms are vomiting coldness of the extremities, or fever, if death soon ensues, spasms usually attend the dying agonies.

There have been 18 deaths in this village, more, many more than have occurred since the settlement of Forsyth [*Georgia*]. This disease prevails in various parts of the state, & in Alabama. Some of the most eminent physicians do not hesitate to pronounce the disease, the <u>real</u>, <u>Asiatic</u> Cholera. Indeed, quite as much alarm prevails as did last summer in New Eng [*England*]. Parents who had sent their children here to school, have sent for them, & some who live in the village have feared to send their children to school. It is thought the number of scholars would have been 50 greater, had there been no unusual sickness. I do not write this my dear parents, to alarm you, but I thought should I have the disease, & not recover, you would prefer I should write just what is felt by the community. I have not been afraid at all, nor do I now suffer from fear, yet I feel, that I know not what a day may bring forth. I have been exposed by being with the sick considerably, but am still well. I do not yet regret coming here, though the prospects

of the school are nothing so favorable as they were. Mr. Parsons now assists me three hours & a half a day in my school. I have about 40 pupils. Many of them have been sick, five of them are now so. Some of them are rather difficult to manage, though they generally do well. Scholars here have less encouragement<s> to study than with us. Parents, & other members of families are not readers, particularly the female part of community, & often undervalue education. They feel that they [confer...?] a favor on teachers to send their children [to?] school, & some easily take offence, & remove their children. We must, however, remember that this county has been settled but ten y[*ea*]rs. It is the testimony of all whom I have heard speak on the subject, that there is a gradual improvement in many respects every year. There is less fighting, less swearing less Sab. [*Sabbath*] breaking, (the profanation of the Sab. [*Sabbath*] is now very lamentable) & much less of the vice of intemperate drinking. At a recent meeting of the Tem. Soc. [*Temperance Society*] 20 new members were added. I hope & think our school will do something towards raising the standards of education.

Next Sab. [*Sabbath*] a Sab. school is to [*be*] organized. You may wonder why this has not been done before. I know of <of> no justifiable reason. Parents generally are not interested. Sab. schools have been opened two or three times here but not succeeding well, have been relinquished. Some professors of religion openly say they are opposed to Sab. schools. I know not why they are opposed. There are this season to be two schools, one in the Meth. Soc. [*Methodist Society*] the other Bap. [*Baptist*] & Pres. [*Presbitarians*] united. The Meth. [*Methodist*] school will be much the largest. How does the Sab. school in Colebrook flourish? Where or in what part of the bible are they studying? Do you recite the lesson at home Sat evening, together as you did last winter I was at home? Who teaches the various schools in town? Is Elizabeth Rockwell teaching? Is Louisa R married?

June 2. I received a letter from Aunt & Miss H. written by, Miss H. last evening. It was May 18, about 35 miles from Charlottesville, Va. [*Virginia*] They had then been detained by impassable streams about a week within five miles of the private family in which they stayed. Not a word said how Aunt endured the fatigue of the journey, only at one time she was unable to proceed, & at another she feared the damp weather. I know it is trying to her health to ride to far, but I hope in the end it might be no injury to her health.

They spent a day at Charlottesville [*Virginia*] & visited the University also Jefferson's seat at Monticello three miles from C. [*Charlottesville*] With the situation of his seat they were delighted , but the place is now going to ruins His grave is surrounded by a stone wall, in the woods, & is a sorry looking place. It was a disappointment to be prevented from proceeding on their way. I do wish you would both write to me. I suppose you have a great many cares, & I will be contented that your letters be rather few, but you can influence the children to write. I want to know all about you, & my brothers & sisters, relatives & neighbors. I love them all. Tell them so. Does Mr. Holden live with you yet. What hired help have you? How is your health? That you may live to the glory God here, & when your [*hole in letter*.?..] in this vale of tears is run, be [admitted?] through the redemption [*hole in letter*.?..] Christ, to Heaven, is the desire of your daughter.

Mary [*Mary Grant*]

Abigail, you will be 13 yrs. [*years*] old, before this letter reaches you? Do you grow as your years increase, in whatsoever is lovely, & good report? Pay great attention to forming good habits, habits of self government. Do what ever you do, well To do right is to promote the greatest happiness & suffer yourself to do nothing you feel to be wrong. What books do you read? I hope I shall see you, & all my friends again.

Do you feel that you have been born again, born of the spirit, & is it now your care that your body be a fit temple for the residence of the Spirit. My dear sister, will you write, & tell me.

From your affectionate sister,

Mary

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

[*Addressed to:*] Mr. Elijah Grant
Colebrook
Con. [*Connecticut*]

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Mar 1834
[*Postmarked March 31*]

My dear Brother,

Since I <*last*> wrote you about Lovina, I have written to Mrs. Briggs & received an answer. She has recently made an engagement with the little girl, who has been with her during the winter to do all that Kezia cannot do, so that she cannot take Lovina & board her for less than from $100. to 125. a year. Her bill for board here for 52 weeks <*would*> at $1.75 a week including washing & lights would be $91. & her fuel & some other continges would perhaps be $9. making $100. Her tuition would be more here than at Dedham [*Massachuetts*]. As it is, I think I had better place her in our school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & decide to pay her whole expenses, including her traveling expenses, & some aid in her clothing. Beside what I mentioned in my last, I can furnish her with some night gowns & white cotton skirts if necessary. Such things as pocket hdkfs [*handkerchiefs*], stockings, shoes & other things that she will not make herself, she may as well procure here as at home. It will not be desirable, that she should come on before the latter part of May. Our term commences the last Wednesday of May. She might take her journey in company with Mary. Perhaps in the intermediate time, she may even earn something.

While I say I will do <*somet*> such & such things for Lovina, I do not say I will do no more; but I want to see you & to know more about her before I promise much. When under my care I shall not see her want. But I have so much on my hands now, it would not be prudent for me to undertake much more at present<.> than I have named. It would be extremely undesirable, that Lovina should receive the impression, I can aid her without effort, frugality & economy; or that she can depart from those habits of care in her expenditures, in which she has been brought up. I feel it to be our duty to save her from the temptation that now awaits her, & I mean to all that I ought.

I expected you would use your own judgment about reading my other letter to her.

I should be glad to know how much she has studied on arith [*arithmetic*], geog [*geography*], gram [*grammar*], &c. It is quite important that before she enters our school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] she should be well acquainted with Colburn's First Lessons, written arithmetic through reduction, & be able to answer the questions on the map in some common geography, & very desirable that she should have studied the history of the U.S. — It may be so that she can study a few hours each day, till she leaves home. If she is deficient in what I have mentioned, I would have her study if she can have the instruction she needs rather than have her earn something.

With sincere love to your family, & in great haste,

Your very affectionate sister,
Z.P. Grant.[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

[*Written across side*] It is not probable I shall be able to leave Ipswich till several days after the close of our term. I think it will be best for Elizabeth to go directly home with Roxana & not wait for me. Z.P. Grant [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

[*Written across in another handwriting:*] Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve March, 30.

Dear Friends,

In about four weeks, I hope to see you all again. The school closes three weeks fr. [*from*] next Tuesday night. I rejoice in the prospect of seeing <u>all</u> our family again. I fear something will happen that we shall not all be together.

I suppose Marcus has grown a good deal & continues to be a kind good boy. I dare say <*you*> M. [*Mary Grant Burgess*] J. [*John Grant*] D. [*Daniel Grant*] J. [*Joel Grant*] & A.[*Abigail Grant*] and especially Mary have altered some, but I think I shall not be at a loss to call your names, when I see you.

Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] is coming to Conn. [*Connecticut*] this spring & I hope she will return with me, and go on with me to Ohio, if I go.

Have you heard from Mary recently? I hope she will be prospered on her journey home.

I am studying Whately's Rhetoric. He dwells much on public speaking in some parts of it. I am sure Joel wd [*would*] like to study it. I wish he wd [*would*] write me once more before school closes. I thank you for your letters. but if I write more I shall be tardy to bed.

There is to be a protracted meeting here next week.

This week Thursday is fast.

Much love to all of you

Yrs. [*yours*] affec. [*affectionately*] Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*].

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

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], July 24. 1834.

My dear Parents [*Elijah Grant* and *Elizabeth Grant*],

Was the letter mostly written by Miss Cowles [*Abigail Cowles Grant?*] duly received? I suppose you perused it. Aside from one letter mailed about two weeks since to Elizabeth, & one business letter I penned for Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*], I have written but two letters since I came here. Miss Cowles has not heard, neither have I from home. Cousin Lovina received a letter from Grant and Miss Beach has heard a number of times, so that we have felt contented feeling that you all were usually well, yet I feel that a letter from home would indeed be acceptable My health has been good, for a week past a cold has troubled me some. Miss Cowles has been gaining strength, she has been absent from school but one half day — then because of the sick head ache. We enjoy rooming together well. Lovina is making good improvement I think, & is happy. Half of the term is gone, we are to have a short vacation soon here. The school is very pleasant, I do not know but I mentioned in my last that one section of 24 young ladies were committed to me. They are generally about 17 years of age from five different states. I never felt the privilege of living and laboring so great as this summer. I have often felt grateful that a kind Providence has brought me again to Ipswich [*Ipswich Female Seminary*]. I ardently desire that my principles may now become so fixed that I may be prepared for more extensive usefulness than formerly. Miss Lyon I think is more & more spiritual & enlarged in her views. She is confident one way in which the renovation of the world is to be accomplished, is the more general diffusion of correct female education, & I do think schools will eventually be formed where the domestic labor will all be performed by the pupils, & Miss Lyon will do something. It is known that she intends leaving Ipswich & she often receives applications, but she says, she thinks it would be wrong for her to accept any situation however desirable, unless on the domestic labor plan. She has given two lectures on fem. [*female*] education of about an hour each. She would have the intellectual advantages equal to any school now in operation. A few ideas in one of her lectures follow. Learn to philosophize upon what educated men & women ought to do in various ways, & what you ought to do & then do your part. I mean fem. [*female*] ed. [*education*] in general not principally our relations. The man without children may have that benevolence & comprehensive view of the subject as to render his interest ten times deeper than many men with ten daughters Throughout the country a man interested for himself alone is considered mean, but not so mean for an educated female to be contracted as an ed. [*educated*] gentleman. Females cannot rise so much above those around them as men. This one reason why the mass shd. [*should*] be raised — Aspire for an enlarged view. — education to go forth into the world to be actively useful. — God has blessed fem. education, & next to the preaching of the gospel a means of bringing forth the glory promised. — Investigate — write upon the subject find out what is lacking, what is superfluous. — physical system to receive attention — to understand philosophy of the mind, & of human nature, how the passions are excited & allayed, & prepare for action on society, eminently philosophical able to investigate general principles on every subject. — Should be no incongruity between theory & practice. Her own passions under perfect self control. — A great loss of moral power by being obliged to warn others by our follies, rather than by our correct deportment — Our country is not awake to its importance — the advance is slower than generally supposed, & has not been principally to extend the privileges to a greater number. These are a few of her remarks which I noted down at the time. Some of them may be so unconnected that you may not understand them. Miss L. [*Mary Lyon*] always has general

attention in her lectures. Her face & voice express a great deal, & her sincerity & deep feeling can but fix attention. I do think it much to be lamented that the vast majority of females have not the means to become prepared for expansive usefulness. We have heard of a small society in Jacksonville, Ill. [*Illinois*] composed of females who lend money to indigent promising females that they may gain an education, & for two or three days at table we have been discussing the utility of such a society in New Eng. [*New England*] conducted something on the principles of the Amer. Ed. Soc. [*American Education Society*] Mother, I thought had you been here you would have entered into it with all your heart. Do you take the Nat. Preacher? If you do not, Uncle Cowles does. It is taken here by the society in school for general improvement. The Jan. & May No's contain some sermons by Prof. Hitchcock on Intemperance in eating. I have read them, & wish you could all take the time to carefully read them Perhaps you might have it read aloud when all the family were together, or some Sat. evening calculate to have all the work done early & read one sermon. As you both mean to be awake in every good cause, I have no doubt you would like to understand, & not be behind on this subject. And I think it would do the children good, particularly the older ones. Perhaps they will read them if you cannot during this warm, busy season. I think of you these warm days, — good hayweather, I suppose. The thermometer stood at 96° in the shade at one <*in*> this P.M. Sat. July 26. It is now three the thermometer was taken & hung on the [b]arn in the sun where it rose to 108.°.

Father, have you ever read Edward's' history of redemption. Miss Lyon & Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] both think it very valuable. They made some efforts last winter to get it republished in an abridged form, as there are no copies to be obtained of the former edition. Some notes are to be omitted & the print to be smaller. Last winter when they anticipated to [hav]ing it in their power to recommend it as a ... wor[th]y <*their*> careful perusal, they received word th[at] the hard times prevented their procedure. This summer through the influence of the Rev. Bela. B. Edwards Boston, they thought it would be done. But its contents are too solid, & sp<*r*>iritual to sell, the bookseller said it was not sufficiently inviting for sale. Then Miss Lyon sent to know for what number of subscribers they would publish it. They informed her, 300. The number of subscribers is not made out. The single book will cost 75 cts. [*cents*] By the dozen a little l[es]s, probably 52 1/2 cents. It is a sorrowful thought that the great & wonderful plan of redemption has no charms for enslaved man, whose bondage is infinitely more dreadful than that of the colored man within our borders. The book is valuable for every one over 14. particularly for Christians. Could you not get a dozen subscribers within two weeks. Please write within that time & tell me what you think about whether you get any or none. If published at all, it will be soon after that time. I subscribed for two copies. You may say there are already too many books, but our people <*might*> must & will read something, & if a taste for solid feasting upon what is really elevating and good is already formed, no work can be more palatable or profitable than this. It wd. [*would*] tend to lead any one to be ashamed to live for themselves, & to ardently desire to cooperated with God both heart & hand in redeeming the world. Cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*] will bring them on, & will pay for them in Boston, & receive pay there of those who subscribe. It is not subscribing for a work whose merits have not been tested. Will you all, the family I mean, see what you can do, & write however the case may be. Remember yr. [*your*] daughter Mary at the throne of grace.

Yours, very affectionately, Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

[*written across second page*] Mother. I think this work on redemption would be interesting to read together in the Maternal Association. & have conversation on its contents intermingled It is suited to elevate & show the great object of living. It is also suited to encourage us in our labors.

[*written across first page*] Love to Uncle & Aunt Phelps & cousins E. & M. also to all other relations & neighbors. I should from them, & write them, if more urgent duties did not command my time. What do you think of Bush's work on the Millennium. Good bye.

[*written across fourth page*]
My dear Abigail [*Abigail Grant*] July 28, 1834

I have been expecting a letter from Elizabeth, & was in hopes I should hear before I completed this sheet, but Miss Lyon has heard from Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] five or six

times, & through her I have learned some things respecting her school, & Granville. One of their company wrote a fine description of G [*Granville*] & its inhabitants which was read at table. One of the teachers here, Miss Foot from Lee, Mass. [*Massachusetts*] has spent considerable time in Granville she says, E. [*Elizabeth*] has a very good boarding place. <*Since*> Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] left there, has since been at Chillicathe, Cincinnati & was about a week since at Yellow Springs not far from Xenia, towards the W. part of Ohio. She will leave for Detroit about this time, I suppose. Her health has not been usually good for a week past, but she was better when she last wrote.

Have you studied Arithmetic much? How far? I hope you will on an average get an hour a day. If you should ever come here or attend Miss L. [*Mary Lyon*] domestic labor school, you would proceed much faster for having a thorough kowledge of arith. [*arithmetic*] Do not say, you have so much to do, you cannot get any time. Your age & strength both require some rest from bodily fatigue, & by mingling mental & physical strength, you may relax, & increase the value of both. Have you kept an account of the time I hope you have, if not, will you begin now & let me know every time I hear from home. How is you health? Your bending forward proves your stomach to be weak, & I fear much for your health. Miss L [*Mary Lyon*] has given her pupils one maxim, & their attention to it no doubt has increased our happiness much the last month. Maxim. "Gain entire self control with regard to bodily sufferings & bodily appetites." Dear sister, I would like you to confine your times to taking food during the day to a certain number, say three, or five if you require luncheon, & quite probably you do, & then not taste any thing during the other parts of the day. Never taste any thing after supper. Write me how you succeed. Your sister, Mary

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

[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Colebrook
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

[*Letter written on a printed broadside that begins:* To the Friends and Patrons of Ipswich Female Seminary ... Ipswich, (Mass.) September 8, 1834.]

Ipswich, Sept. 18. 1834.

My dear Mother,

I thank you for your letter, & wish you to write as often as possible. The preceding pages will show you that the time for efficie[nt] action on the behalf of the proposed Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] has come. I do think there will be some difficulty in collecting the $1000. as soon as desirable. Will not the maternal association rejoice to lend a helping hand. If mother, you can do any thing for this object, it is the cause of God & virtue. And from this fountain many streams will flow forth fertilizing the men[ta]l powers, & enriching moral feelings. Not on[ly i]n New Eng. but the example will be imitated by the West & South. <*If*> Whether we may live to see this, or not we shall never regret we made vigorous efforts. I never have been more interested in the success of any project, for I do think it intimately connected with the prosperity of the church. If the educated will show they desire such an institution, by very soon raising sufficient to support an agent it is to be hoped the school will be opened one year from next spring. $.10 now may do more than 20. or 30 when the agent presents the subject. Hand this circular to Mrs. O. Stillman would she not contribute $10. also. Dea. [*Deacon*] Stillman's wife & daughters. I do hope Colebrook [*Connecticut*] ladies will avail themselves of this opportunity to do something to raise our country, & benefit the ch. [*church*] I trust they will not merely coldly approve, but be willing to sacrifice some thing to aid this noble, & very important enterprize. For further particulars I refer you to cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*]. I am expecting the stage every moment to call for her. I remain here during vacation, study Ecclesiastical Hist [*History*] some, & sew some. Pray my dear mother, that such young ladies may come here next winter as may be profited, remember the teachers, & me particularly. Love to you all.

Your affectionate

Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*].

[*written across side*] May every sister in the ch. [*church*] to whom this subject is presented understand & do her duty.

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

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] Nov. 23. 1834

Dear sister Abigail,

I received your note by Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*], & was glad you were going to Windsor. I hope you will endeavor to gain improvement from all your intercourse with society, & also to impart something valuable whenever it is proper. Make it an object to converse properly, it will prepare you for greater usefulness. Avoid ungrammatical expressions, & incorrect pronunciations, also very strong exclamations, as dreadful, &c. The maxim "whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well" you may bring to mind many times a day. Next time you write, let me know if you have tried to improve on these ... also how you have succeeded. And tell me how you spend your time, indeed, it interest me to know all about my dear brothers & sisters. What definite things do you wish to eradicate, & what to gain to be prepared to promote the greatest amounts of good. Dear A. [*Abigail*] this life is short at the longest, you cannot do ... for God & the world to work with your might while it ... longed to you. You say you do not enjoy that communicated with your Father in heaven you ought. Do not dear ... longer dishonor God by living without comfort in ... Come to him as you did at first, determined not to be satisfied till you are anew converted, till you do behold the light of his countenance. The example of James B. Taylor contained in his memoir from the 65th page & onward affords encouragement. Have not your closest duties been neglected or formally performed. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] meets the young ladies who hope they are pious an hour every Sab. [*Sabbath*] for instruction & prayer. You probably understand it is a regulation in this Sem [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] that each one may have half an hour morning & evening uninterrupted & alone. The manner of spending this time is a subject which Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has taken up at our last two meetings. Before prayer we should think definitely what we want, & of the readiness & <*fullness*> of God to give, & then throu' [*through*] Christ come with high expectations to him who wills the sanctification of his children & during these stated seasons of communion with God, we must not neglect his word which he has magnified & will magnify above his other works for the conversions & sanctification of men. Dwell on those passages you do understand, till you feel <*its*> their truth deeply, feast on the truth of God, & seek particularly to improve all the means of grace you enjoy. Are your Sabbaths profitable? Write me soon. I should like you & Daniel & John to fill me a sheet. Let Daniel consider what I have written to him. Do you sit any more erect than last spring? I should like you D. [*Daniel*], John, Martha & Marcus to cultivate pleasant, interested countenances. Give my love to them, I try to give them all to God, & pray that they may be active in his service in whatever field God may see fit to place them.

Ipswich, Dec. 18, 1834

I wish to write a few things to my brother and sisters at home when I can get a few moments. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] remonished ? to day in school that duties never clashed, that all duty could be done. And I thought I would be industrious, and complete a letter to get to you before next new year. I will write a few words first to brothers John and Marcus & sister Martha. I suppose they are now attending school. I hope they daily improve their minds, hearts, and manners. — Dear brother John, you are more than 12 [? *paper torn*] yrs. old, you have heard the Bible read every day since your remembrance, and have been to the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school a long time, but when Pres. [*President*] Edwards had studied the bible more than any one book for many yrs. [*years*] at the age of 53 he thought he knew in comparison of what was contained in this precious book, but as a drop to the ocean, and how much do you know. Have you ever read the whole Bible? do you try to receive its meaning as it is read in the family? and do you try to practice it as you know it. Do you feel that your Creator has a right to require you to do what ever he pleases. His requirements are tended to promote the greatest happiness, are suited to promote your happiness and mine, and in no way but in obedience to these holy and just commands then it be secured. Are you studying geog. [*geography*] this term. I think your knowledge of the planet we inhabit may be sufficient for you to devote your attention

to some other branches of Arithmetic, I believe you are fond. I think you would find it so, and only regret that I did not avail myself more of the privilege. When you study or read about any place, get as vivid a conception as possible of it, so clear that you will seem to see it.

[*written along left edge*] Cousin Maria Pettibone's Geometry is here. I did not know it till after cousin M. Cowles returned home. The first opportunity I will send it. My love to all my cousins & inquiring friends.

[*written on verso*] Ipswich, Jan. 14, 1835

Dear sister Martha,

You see by the preceding page I commenced my letter about a month since, and then I hoped I should finish it in time to wish you all a happy new year. I have been reading over what I wrote to J. [*John*] and thought some of taking a new sheet, but feared if I did, I should not get it done for a month longer. And Martha, what will make this a happy year to you. Me thinks your answer, doing right. Doing right is promoting the greatest good, or the greatest happiness. This is the aim or standard of our Creator, and he wishes us to make this our aim. When you wake in the morning while you are on your bed, and then when you are dressing, inquire of yourself, what must I do today in order to do right? What should be the tone of my voice? What the expression of my countenance? Then ask the assistance of Christ to help you to do what your conscience tells you is right. Then as you lie down at night, and have one day less to live, inquire, have I done right. If you have the whole or even part of a day [...] forget to give thanks, if you have failed of thinking, speaking and acting right at home, or at school, then sincerely seek forgiveness and be not satisfied till you obtain it.

From your affectionate sister,

Mary Grant [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

My dear Marcus,

Last vacation I visited the museum at Salem. This is the finest collection of curiosities in New Eng. [*New England*] I there saw a large root of a banian tree, where do they grow? Can you learn five things about this species of tree? Also the head of a New Zealander embalmed, said to be natural. When the boys are sliding down hill here, what season is it in New Zealand? Why will you learn four things about those islands, or the inhabitants? I saw an electric eel. How does this eel differ from the common kind. A great number of Chinese figures representing the dress of the different classes, their employments and religious services. Who are called mandarins? What do you know of Mr. Gutzloss? — Some stamped pieces of metal found in Pompeii. Learn a few things about this place. I should be happy to know next time I receive a letter from home if you have ascertain about these things. — The weather has been very cold here this winter. After one storm, which was accompanied with a light wind for two days each surge of the ocean as it washed the shore, could be distinctly heard here. The distance of three miles. I hope, brother Marcus, you will try to be useful in every way you can be cultivate neat habits. Keep your skin and clothes as clean as you can. Now, seek to Jesus for forgiveness and a new heart. Your parents have given you to God, and they wish to have you labor to do good, and I give you to Christ and pray to him to make you a blessing to the world. From your friend, Mary.

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Colebrook
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], July 23, 1836.

My ever dear Mother,

Your letter was duly & gratefully received. I have often thought of you, & did not think so long a time would pass without writing you a single word. I study a part of the time this term. Have studied a small work on Geology & Butler's Analogy of natural & revealed religion to the constitution & course of nature, & attend to singing & drawing. These things with the care of my section, with what I teach & visits, walks & necessary writing & reading have so filled up my time that I have deferred it till now. I have filled out a large folio sheet to sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] & cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*]. I received a letter from sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant*] to day. She is very well, better than usual, had a good visit with Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], says she loves him more than ever does not think of returning this fall, & I think I choose she should not. Miss Bridges & Miss Adams the teachers who were with her last winter spent two days here a few weeks since. I was very happy to hear so directly from E. & her school. Miss Bridges left Granville in the latter part of May, & expects to return the forepart of Sept. She is to spend a few weeks here first. Mr. Rose a clergyman from a town joining Granville, is now in New Eng. [*New England*] as an agent to procure funds for a boarding house in G. [*Granville*] He went from Gran. [*Granville*] Mass. [*Massachusetts*] at the age of five years to Ohio, saw the first tree felled in Granville. O [*Ohio*] in 1806. He feels as well as the people generally that the school at Granville must be sustained, though the teachers as useful or more so than many ministers there. Was quite acceptable in his remarks, I wish you could see him. I received a letter from Elizabeth Rockwell this week in which she says she has just heard indirectly that brother Phelps has come home. Is it so? Miss C. Beecher [*Catherine Beecher?*] spent some time here a few weeks since I wrote to Miss Palmer after it, & expected you would hear from me thro' [*through*] her. I hope she will answer mine soon. Mr. Laberce, president of a college in Tenn. [*Tennessee*] next came into school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & gave an account of the state of society, education & religion, also the productions, face of the country &c, of that state, quite interesting & valuable — great want of educated ministers & teachers. Next Mr. Lewis agent for the school in [Ind.?] which Mr. Twining plead for last winter, & which Mr. Twining is now engaged in teaching. Then Mr. Rose of Granville — & Monday this week Rev. Thomas Brainerd, Cincinnati addressed us, giving us an idea of the vast tide of population crowding into the western states, of the principal periodicals in the Miss. [*Mississippi*] valley — of the state of Catholicism, all these statements were valuable, & suited to lead to self denying action. I have read most of Maria Monk, people generally believe it, & I see no reason why they should not. It seems that the great principle of the papists is, that <*the*> any thing is right which promotes the interests of their church. There are now 600 sisters of charity who have taken vows of celibacy & to teach for life, planted in schools in different parts of the land. They are like nuns, except not secluded.

Mon. July 25. Often since I commenced this sheet have I thought a year ago at this time dear sister A. [*Abigail Grant*] was lying on her sick bed, & I doubt not but you have often thought of & felt it too. Today is the anniversary of her death, & has she enjoyed the glorious privilege of swingling in that society, so harmonious, so pure, so benevolent, so Christ like, & been made more like onto Christ herself for a year? Our gratitude should be called forth that we may hope she has joined the company of the redeemed. And are we now living as she would wish us too, were she acquainted with our ways. Are we trying to comply with her last request, to prepare to meet her in heaven. I feel reproved for the little I have done the last year, but feel determined to go on forgetting, as it were, the things that are behind, I trust you have near access to God, & that though you meet with trying scenes, you find it sweet to cast yr. [*your*] care on him who careth for you. These trials are necessary for us here. May we ever so view our trials that they may work for our good. How interesting to observe Paul's prayers for the churches to whom he wrote. Yesterday I thought particularly of Col. [*Colossians*] 1:11.12, Strengthened with all might according to his glorious power unto all patience & long suffering with joyfulness. I think these petitions such as Christians may make for each other now so strengthened by God as to [love?] all with patience, long suffering, & yet joyful.

July 29. We have beautiful weather now tho' [*though*] the season has been uncommonly variable & damp this summer. I have a pleasant room & room mate, & Ipswich Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] I think one of the most blessed places of earth. Here is intelligence, refinement, benevolence & piety. Half the school are professors of religion, one gives some evidence of having been recently renewed. Miss Caldwell has been spending a few days at her mother's in town. I enjoyed visiting with her much.

July 30. Aunt's [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] health is usually good this summer I should like to be here next winter on some accounts, as it would be for my improvement, but Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] & I both think, on the whole, I had better have a school at home, as I did last winter, to continue from three to five months. My health has been uniformly good. It is decided that I do not leave this country till a year from next fall, & perhaps not till a year from next spring. I generally feel that this is the path my God would have me walk indeed, I have not felt otherwise since I became fully decided.

Miss E. Rochwell wrote me that Jerusha Gilbert was going to the I.S. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] this fall. Give my love to her, & her sisters. Tell E. I most sincerely thank her for writing me, & for the more, as she does not claim a reply unless I can make consistent with other duties. I shall not forget it, but do not think it probable I can write her this term. In seven weeks I shall probably be at home.

My love to E. Eno, & to all my scholars whom you may meet. I expected Margaret, Desia & Martha would write me before this. I have been hoping to find time to write to S. Boyd [*Susan Boyd Grant*] ever since I heard of the death of her sister Mrs. Hubbel. Much love to her, & to Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], tell Phelps I want a letter fr. [*from*] him much very much. How do Martha & Desiah get along with arith. [*arithmetic*] or does D. go to school to Miss Norton. I hope Margaret or some of you will write me very soon. Do you know why Miss Paler does not write me.

Aunt says she thinks it will not be consistent for her to visit Ct. [*Connecticut*] this fall. When does P. expect to be married. when leave for Ohio. I have invited Mr. B. to come to Colebrook [*Connecticut*] this fall, as I thought he might never see Phelps unless he came then. He has been here once to see me. He asked me if you would like him to send you the Evangelist, as he could as well as not. He heard you speak of that paper, I told him I thought you would. My best love D.J. M&M also Aunt N. Margaret & Desia. Aunt Phelps & all cousins. Has Uncle Phelps returned from Ohio Did Mary Ann Coweles get her bill?

Affectionately yours.
M. Grant [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant
Colebrook
Con. [*Connecticut*]

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Aug 11, 1836.

My dear Brother,

I wish to consult you in reference to some notes I hold against Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], & proceed directly to the point.

I have before me four notes, which he has given me, & the [fare?] of each is fifty dollars. The first is dated New Haven, Oct. 1, 1831, & signed Elijah P. Grant, payable two years from date. The other three are each payable two yrs [*years*] from date. One was given March 1, 1832, one March 31, 1832, the other bears date March 31, 1832, but on the back side is written by my own hand "forwarded the money $50. for this note July 1[], 1832" On the back side of each of the three last mentioned, is the name of "W. S. Hoyt & the [mash?] $50." Phelps stated to me, that Mr. Hoyt had generously offered to be his endorser, but he could <*for*> not at that time advance the money.

I must take up some money this ensuing fall, & I would rather take what these notes would furnish than any other. (I prefer not to take what you have the care of, unless it is a great burden to you.) I have written to Phelps, that I want the amount due on his notes before he leaves. I mentioned, that it was probable, the man who encouraged his borrowing of me could now supply him. If he could not, I suppose some other business man among his friends would do it. I should choose not to have a debt due from one so far off, especially a relative. I do not know the best way of attending to his business, & if you can aid me, I will thank you to inform me. Shall I send the notes to you, or do you prefer I would send them to some other person. If the latter, to

whom [shall?] I send them. I propose to forward them by Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*]. It is her purpose to reach home much after next on Saturday.

If I hear nothing from you before Mary leaves, I shall send the notes to you, & commission you to attend to the business according to your judgment. I suppose there will be ample time for you to write, so that I can hear before Mary leaves.

Mary is well & is devoting almost her whole time to study. She has been studying Butler's Analogy, & is now attending to Smellie's Philosophy of Nat. History & to Alexander's Evidences of Christianity. These kinds of knowledge she will need, to teach the heathen, or more especially as the companion of a missionary. I do not know, whether we should any of us, have given her up cheerfully to the missionary cause, if she had always had good health. But afflictive providences often show us that our friends are not our own.

Miss Bridges is now here. She says Elizabeth is in very good health, & quite fleshy. It appears, that the Granville school is doing much good.

Joel writes me now & then: I am much pleased with his letters. I hope he will do much for the cause of truth.

May all your children be rich blessings in the world. As this is not a public letter I send no messages.

Your ever affectionate sister,
Z.P. Grant [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Colebrook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*], March 28, 1838.

Ever Dear Friend,

Having an opportunity to send a letter by Miss Burr, I write a few lines. I remained in Hartford [*Connecticut*] till Wednes. P.M. & then came to Springfield [*Massachusetts*] in a boat, stay a Mr. Lucius Clarke's over night, & the next morn about 9 oclock arrived here by stage. Here I have enjoyed my visit much. Yesterday the term closed. The examination which occupied Mon. P.M. & all of Tues. did credit to the institution [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Miss Lyon is as happy as any one I know. She feels that her cup overflows with merries, particularly in getting established with so many conveniences, & in having scholars of so much character & conscience, & of such a spirit of accommodation as to render the enterprise pleasant & easy. The building here is indeed very fine & commodious, & I think the prospect great that the institution will be a rich blessing. Miss B. [*Burr*] will tell you more about it, if you see her. Sheets pillow cases, towels from any friends of the school will be gratefully received, as they are not supplied.

On my arrival here, I found a letter from Mr. Burgess, saying that Mr. Read was to leave Babylon in April, & therefore it would not be convenient for him to instruct me. I have written to know at what time <*to*> Miss Farrar can attend to me either at Ips [*Ipswich, Massachusetts*] or Boston.

Last Friday I received a letter from Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. She was at Ips. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] said she was intending to be there till the term closed April 11. & she anticipates being able to be there next summer, to give instruction upon moral subjects more or less every week. Her health has improved the past months. She says she shall insist upon Miss Farrar & I being at Ipswich if Miss F. [*Farrar*] can leave her relatives. Miss Caldwell goes to Amherst tomorrow, & I have concluded to accompany her, & remain there with her till Mon. when I shall go to Boston Providence permitting, & soon after to Ips. [*Ipswich*]

Miss C. wishes an affectionate remembrance to you all & also to Aunt Phelps & Elizabeth.

In this town & in several towns in the vicinity interesting revivals of religion are in progress. May Colebrook & the neighboring towns thus be visited. Do not forget me in your prayers.

I have commenced writing sister Elizabeth. When you write me direct to Ipswich.

As ever your aff. [*affectionate*] friend daughter & sister,

Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

Sister Martha,

I would like to have you see Mt. Holyoke & the Sem. of that name here [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Every thing is convenient & the young ladies do not need to work over 10 or 11 hours each a week to do all the work. 90 is their number. I wish you to make s special effort to sit erect, to avoid any ungrammatical or improper expressions, & to be useful as possible at home this summer. They intend to receive no more young ladies into this institution who are not thoroughly acquainted with arithmetic, geog. [*geography*] U.S. History Watts on the mind & some knowledge of grammar. The ground is covered with snow here which fell yesterday. I think you will all remember the catechism lesson.

Love to all. Your affectionate sister,
M. [*Mary*] Grant.

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

[*Addressed from*] Poplartown Md. [*Maryland*]
Oct. 29.
[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant
Colebook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Poplartown, Oct. 24, 1838.

Dear Father,

I write to you now not so much because I have any thing to communicate in respect to myself as because I wish to make one more attempt to enlist your feelings with my own; and persuade you if possible that it is best for brother John to come here and spend the winter with me. You know that when I was at home I felt desirous that he should accompany me when I return but as you did not seem to think it best I concluded for the present to drop the subject. But as from time to time it has since recurred to my thoughts, the subject has lost none of the desirableness with which it at first presented itself to my mind. Indeed its importance has appeared to me so much greater than it did when I left home that I have at last concluded to write to you about it. I believe I understand well the ground of your fears in respect to the proposals I made in respect to John last summer, and though they are doubtless all of them well founded, yet I will briefly state some reasons why I do not think they are entitled to the <*weight*> influence they probably have on your mind; Your views in respect to the importance of his obtaining a Collegiate education are probably much the same as mine, though it may be it appears to me more desirable than to you. If however any very serious objection could be brought against it I believe I could without difficulty, give up the idea. But this I do not believe can be done. I have had some experience in the matter, and I can truly say that nothing that has already passed or that I can perceive in my future prospects leads me to regret at all the course I have taken. My life will probably be like that of other people a life of toil and anxiety but for that I was made, and from that I should not have escaped by remaining in any other situation in life. When I went to College [*Yale University*] it was my intention though perhaps I did not at that time express it to amply repay you for the expense and self denial I knew I was bringing upon you; by giving to some of the family a like privilege. Now I feel as if an opportunity was afforded me by taking John under my care, to do it. I wish him to commence his studies now, and with me, for several reasons some of which I will mention. 1st. It is time he was commencing his studies. If he should not commence till <*for*> two or three years after this I should not feel as if it was best for him to commence at all. I feel as it would be best by all means for him to teach school for two or three years after graduating from College [*Yale University*] and it is not very pleasant for a man who feels as if he was old enough to be employed in some profession, and settled down for life, to endure such a delay after leaving College. This I know from the declarations of some of my classmates, who are in that situation. Besides I can think of no reason that can make it really desirable for John to delay preparations for College any longer. He is of sufficient age and if I mistake not is quite well advanced in common branches of study.

2nd He can never pursue his studies at less expense than here with me, unless indeed he were to study at home which would not be best when he first commences. He can travel from Colebrook [*Connecticut*] here for $7 probably or at most for $10. When here all his expenses will be $2 a week as I can furnish him with all the books he needs. This is the cheapest place to live that I ever knew. A person has but little opportunity to spend money foolishly. If John should endeavor to get instruction at any other place he will have bills for tuition, room rent, fuel, lights, books &c none of which he will have here, and which though at first sight they do not appear large, I know from experience make a very important item in the expenses of an individual.

But 3dly, I wish him to come here because I think I can give him as good instruction as he can get any where, and better than he will be at all likely to get. Few persons with whom I ever had acquaintance have struggled against so many difficulties in a preparation for College as I did, and there are but few that better understand the difficulties with which a beginner finds his way beset. Perhaps you may think me egotistical in saying this but the occasion seems <*to me*> to call for it.

4thly, I wish John to come here because I want his company. This I own as a rather selfish reason and perhaps you may not deem it worthy of much weight nor indeed do I, but you doubtless know that it would be very pleasant for <*us*> me here so far from home to have some intercourse with a person from my own country and especially from my own family. However you may regard this reason in whatever light you please. Suffice it to say I will cheerfully pay his board here, and his passage home next May if we should both live till that time. Then I think he will be able to pursue his studies by himself with profit and pleasure. I think it is as good a way for him to spend the winter as he can find, and if hereafter he should be obliged for any reason to give up the idea of going to College I do not think it will do him any injury.

I have thus stated to you to some extent my feelings on the subject though I have failed entirely of exhibiting them as they appear to my own mind. You remarked when I was at home that you thought I ought to be clear of debt before I was at any expense on John's account. For your encouragement in this particular I will remark that if my health is continued till the 1st of January, I shall be able to pay all of my debts except about $25, allowing for all my expense and for six weeks board for John provided he should arrive here so soon, as to require that amount of board before the 1st of January. So you see that the objection if it ever was a serious one is reduced to mere trifle now. I hope therefore you will not hesitate, but send John off as soon as possible after the receipt of this letter. He will however be dependant on you for the means of getting at least as far as New-York, which will probably be $1 to Hartford, $3 from Hartford to New-York, then it may be he will need $2 or $3 <*dol*> to pay his expenses in New-York before he finds a vessel, which is coming here, though it is most likely he will find one there at almost any time. If you will let him have $10 he will be safe against any want of money or if he should be in want I can pay his passage from N.York [*New York*] here as the owners of all the vessels which sail from here to New York (6 or 8 in number) live in Berlin [*Maryland*].

Poplartown Oct. 29, 1838

Dear Brother John;

I have written to Father on another part of this sheet hoping to get his consent to have you come and spend the winter with me. Perhaps he will not think it best if so you will I hope acquiesce in his decision, and stay contentedly in Conn. [*Connecticut*] faithfully observing the advise I gave you before I came from home in respect to your studies. If however as I earnestly hope, he should be willing to send you please make ready as soon as may be and come on. You should start in three days if possible after you receive this letter (probably Sunday <*Oct*> Nov. 5.) but if that is not convenient you will endeavor to get ready to start in a fortnight from that time (which will be Monday Nov. 20). The reason of this is that after the first of December the vessels begin to stop running if they can close their business as early as that, and by the 1st of January they are all laid up for the winter. The bay which leads from the ocean to this place is generally frozen by the 1st of Jan. so as to prevent the passage of vessels. I think however all the vessels will continue to run till the 1st of Dec. and I know the greater part of them will for. I have conversed with the owners about it, so that if you start by the 20th of Nov. you will have no difficulty in obtaining a passage. You will perhaps be sea sick but never mind that, it will do you good, you will perhaps see great waves and cold weather, but you need not fear the one and your

cloak and a warm fire in the cabin will defend you against the other. I must give you some directions how to manage when you get to New-York. You will probably land there in the morning perhaps before the stores are opened. If so you must wait till they are open or you may spend the time in finding Water St. which is not very far from the Steam Boat landing. Having done this as soon as the stores are open you must go to the store of S.R. Paynter No. 52. Water St. (do not forget the name or the number) where you can ascertain whether there are any ships from the region of Berlin Worcester Co. Md. [*Maryland*] If there should be any in the harbor you must ascertain where they are and immediately go to them take your lodgings on board and make yourself at home till they reach this place. If there are no ships in the harbor from this region you must go to No. 30. Beekman St. where a boarding house is kept by a pious lady where you can obtain lodgings for 50 cents a day and there you must take your meals and lodge till a vessel arrives which will not be more than two or three days. When you have found a vessel at New-York you must drop a note in the post office letting me know it, and stating the name of the ship. Perhaps you will do well to stop at the first book store you find in New York and buy a map of the city. Your baggage you must get carried from the steam boat to the steam boat office for which you will perhaps have to pay 18 3/4 cents though it is not ten rods, or perhaps it will be as well for you to get some carman to carry you directly to S.R. Paynters No. 52. Water St. where you can leave your baggage till you have it removed to the vessel. You must ask the carman before you leave the boat what he will charge, as otherwise you will be exposed to shameful imposition. 37 1/2 cents will <*not*> be sufficient for yourself and trunk. When you arrive here you will inquire for Mrs. Collins house where you will consider yourself at home.

Your clothes I shall leave to the judgment of mother to arrange. One of the old cloaks <*we*> you have about the house will answer your turn here.

I might say more, but I think this will be sufficient. I am well and prosperous. I keep school in the old building and shall continue to do so till Jan. Give my love to all. I must now close for I am much fatigued. If you do not come, please send me a letter the day after you receive this.

Your Brother,
Joel Grant.

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

[*From typescript*]
[*Note at top of first page of typescript*] Original not in file

Brig Waverly, April 10, 1839
Lat. 36% N. Lon. 54% W.

Loved and honored Parents,
This is the first time I have taken my pen since I addressed you a few lines immediately after embarking. I intend in writing to you to mention incidents as they occur somewhat in a diary form. I think I shall always consider it a great privilege as well as a duty, to write you every opportunity. The day we left Salem, April 1, many sails were in sight, & Cape Ann was to be seen the whole day, though as the sun was setting it was in appearance a small cloud, less than a man's hand. I supposed this was the last glimpse of our native land, yet I could not sufficiently recognize <u>that</u> for my country, to be affected with sorrow in taking a farewell view. — Immediately after completing my letter to you, I went to my stateroom & there arranged things for sea sickness. Mr. Burgess began to be sick directly, but remained on deck the whole P.M. I remained below something more than an hour, & then went on deck, found all the passengers there & all a little sick, none so much so as Mr. B. [*Burgess*] The sea was comparatively smooth. Tues. & Wednes., the two following days, the sea was rough, the passengers were all sick, & scarcely left their berths. Sea sickness makes persons almost perfectly helpless. One loses all curiosity, & all desire. The effort of speaking, or of even raising the hand, seems an almost insurmountable task. Something must be accessible into which to vomit, & a glass of water for the purpose of washing the mouth, if possible to go through this herculean work. I have read this description to Mr. B. [*Burgess*] he says it is hyperbolical, but I think it my own experience, & I surely thought it to be his. An accompaniment of sea sickness, which is very disagreeable, is an exceedingly bad taste of the mouth. We slept considerable during both day & night, took no nourishment, but a little water

gruel, ocassionally tasted of an orange or lemon, with which our friends had bountifully supplied us.
Thurs. morn. The motion of the vessel was less, the sun, through one sky light shone pleasantly, & we all felt better. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] hastened on deck. I rose & washed my whole system in salt water (a practice I have since continued, & probably shall to the end of my voyage) & went on deck. From that date I have been most of the time entirely free from sickness. Thurs. noon I took dinner at table with Capt Ward, Mr. & Mrs. French, Mr. & Mrs. Hume. This was the first time we had been to the table. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] & Miss F [*Cynthia Farrar*] were not able to be present & they are still on the sick list. Fri. & Sat. we had some social reading.
Thurs. P.M. April 11. A favorable breeze is wafting us along, & the day is beautiful. The sea is less rough, so we are on deck more & suffer less from s. [*sea*] sickness. I will go back to last Sab. [*Sabbath*] It was warm, & mild. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress spread on deck, & I read to him most of the A.M. I read some from the Bible, & several tracts. About 3 o'clock, P.M. a little meeting was held in the cabin, opened by singing. Mr. F. [*French*] led in prayer, Mr. H. [*Hume*] read a sermon by Chalmers, a little time was spent in conversation, & the pleasant meeting was closed by prayer, led by Mr. Hume. Capt. Ward was present. He is a member of the Bap. chh. [*Baptist church*] in Salem. He is willing that all suitable measures should be taken to benefit the crew. The number of persons on board is 20. Missionaries, 7. Capt. & two mates, steward & cook, & eight sailors. The steward & cook are colored men. We have far more to do with the steward than any one else excepting the Capt. The steward is good natured, active & kind, & rather neat. None of the crew are pious. The sailors were all strangers to the Capt., but he thinks them a very docile, respectable set. Six of them are from Salem or its vicinity, & the others are foreigners, English I believe. They spent considerable time in reading last Sab. [*Sabbath*] & almost entirely religious books. We hope this may be a voyage they will love to remember in eternity – Mon. Tues. & Wednes. (the past three days) have been very rough, the rocking & tossing of the vessel have made us all dizzy, & about ½ of our company sick. However we have had social reading on deck, each day. We have in this way read John's first Epistle, & about 50 pages in Malcom's tour to India. All our company sing, though Mr. F. [*French*] sings but very little. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] is very fond of it, & sings well, & much. I am glad of it.
April 14. Second Sabbath at sea. There seemed a stillness & sacredness even on board ship, as if holy time was recognized. Nothing is required to be done, that is not necessary. To day seems like a Sab. [*Sabbath*] at home when there is severe sickness in the family. None of our company are able to be up much, except Mr. & Mrs. French & myself, therefore we have no sermon read. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has his mattress on deck. I sit by him, & read much of the time. The sailors sent back the tracts Mrs. Hume sent them last Sab., [*Sabbath*] saying they were much obliged for them, & liked them. The Capt. said they considered that a polite way of asking for more. I sent them about a dozen, most of them stories such as Conversion of Mrs. Eleanor Emerson, Col. Gardiner, Bob, the cabin boy, etc. We have evidence that they were read. They are not well supplied with Bibles. We regret we had not procured some cheap Bibles & Testaments to give them.
April 15th Lat. 28% Long. 40%. For several days the wind has been almost ahead (S.E.) & we have been compelled to go farther S. than is desirable. This morning the ship tacked, & our direction is now N of E. This change brings our state room on the windward side & in consequence our side of the ship is several feet higher than the leeward. It is not quite as easy keeping our place in our berths. Had some cheerful, pleasant conversation with our company, read an hour in the Ladies Wreath & heard Mr. French read in Malcom's tour. I feel almost impatient for Mr. Burgess's recovery. He does not relish his food, is feeble, & exceedingly averse to exertion. He hardly walks at all.
April 16. As this day terminates the existence of Ips. Fem. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] I have thought much of them, & my emotions are indescribable. For years, associations, tender & strong, have been clustering round that institution, & what a day there, this must be. I would praise the Lord for his blessing upon those who have assembled there to receive instruction for his loving kindness & tender mercy to the teachers, & for that providence which permitted me to enjoy its privileges. May Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] be comforted & sustained, & I doubt not she will be.

While writing the above in the cabin, I was apprised by the tone of voice on deck, that something out of the common course had occurred. I found the second mate had brought a dead flying fish, which probably flew into the ship the night before. It was smaller than my idea of them, though the Capt. says it is of medium size. He has seen them twice as large, but often smaller. It measured 13 inches from the extremities of his wings, nine inches in length, & five in girth. Its eyes were large, color on the back & sides silvery grey, under whitish. We judged it to weigh 1 ½ of a pd. [*pound*] It has a few small scales, & three small fins. Its wings were inserted about an inch below its head. – Today for the first time, all our company sat at table together. Mr. French had just been reading the temperance tale, "I am afraid there is a God," which furnished a topic for conversation. Those now, who are able to write, spend a little time each day in writing. We may meet, the Capt. informed us, a returning ship within a few days. This is uncertain. After tea, we sung on deck some of the old tunes, Greenwich, Morality, Exhortation & several others. The Capt. joined us a little. He says he regrets every day that he did not take his wife & daughter with him. His daughter is an only child, aged about 20. We saw them in Salem.

April 17. Lat. 30% N. Lon. 44% W. Favored with a fresh breeze & a beautiful day. We spent an hour & a half, reading Murathee, with Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar for our pundit. All were present, except Mr. B. [*Burgess*], & I think he is better today. We commenced reading Luke's gospel. They read Mark & Henry & his Bearer, while with Mr. Read. We intend to have a lesson each day in Murathee. Mr. Hume read aloud in Mr. Malcom. Sung in the odeum after tea, & then had some pleasant conversation in the round house on deck. The Capt. was communicative, as we ever find him, when disposed to converse. He spends considerable time each day reading. His age is about 45, has been to sea 25 years.

April 18. Warm & rainy. Studied Murathee an hour & a half in the A.M. We have but one lexicon, & one grammar, & four copies of Mark, so we take turns in using them in preparing our lessons. We study in pairs, & keep the books in use most of the A.M. At 2 o'clock P.M. we recite in a class, with Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] for our teacher. She is happy to be permitted to go to the heathen again. She suffers every day from ill health & I fear always will. She is resigned, & is able almost constantly to say the will of the Lord be done. She knows something of the peace of a mind stayed on God. She is one too, who keeps her mouth & tongue. I have noticed this trait from my first acquaintance with her. I am glad she is with us.

April 19. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has walked with me on deck today for the first time. He appears like one recovering from severe sickness. The day is pleasant.

April 20. Lat. 31% Lon. 37%. As the one who preaches will wish his time Sat., & as we all wish to have matters arranged preparatory to the Sab. [*Sabbath*], we this morning decided to have no Muratha lesson on Sat. It is three weeks to day since we came from Boston to Salem. That eve we received our private instructions, given principally by Dr. Anderson & Mr. Armstrong. Dr. Anderson among other things remarked upon the frequent effect of sea sickness upon mind & body; of its making one unreasonable, petulant, & 0, he drew a sombre, deary picture. I cannot tell how far his delineation operated as a preventive of such direful effects, yet I can say that three weeks, the time he mentioned, has passed, & I have not heard an unpleasant word, & I think each of our company could make the same remark. I am happy, to say Mr. B. [*Burgess*] improves, though slowly; his appetite I think could be called good. He, with Mr. & Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself sung an hour this P.M. Today the ship tacked, again; our course since Mon. has been N. of E. now it is S. of E. I looked on to see the seamen change the sails. The first thing a seaman learns, is to obey; it is interesting to notice their perfect obedience. They evidently strive to excel in promptness & seem to do their best. Some of their work is very hard, & as yet they are constantly occupied. They will have more time for rest & improvement after a few weeks.

April 22, Lat. 28%55". Lon. 37%50". We are now in the N.E. trade wind, & shall now pass on in a S.E. direction to the equator. We have just finished our recitation in Murathee. Yesterday we had public worship for the first time on board. This is the third time Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] has crossed the wide ocean & never before had she beheld such a scene. An awning was raised aft of the main mast. The colored table spread was tied round the capstan, for the desk, three settees were arranged, one before, & one on each side of the capstan, these accommodated 11, the others occupied chairs, forming something more than a semicircle round the speaker. At two, P.M. all except the man at the helm seated themselves. They were in a cleanly clad manner, though in sailor style; no one appeared in a white shirt, some of them wore red flannel, without

coats, some in blue factory cloth shirts. Some of them showed by their appearance that this was a novel scene to them. It was amusing to observe their countenances. Timidity, bashfulness, wonder, curiosity, pleasure & good will by turns or simultaneously were expressed in their sun burnt faces. In one case as one caught the eye of another, I noticed a suppressed smile. Mr. French officiated. He read the hymn commencing "There is a fountain filled with blood." Some of the sailors joined in singing, but in a suppressed tone. We stood in prayer. God was with us. We sang again; then listened to a good sermon from Mat. 3:18. All were very attentive. The occasion was one of uncommon interest. We were forcibly reminded of our distance from the assemblies with which we have been accustomed to worship. I believe all are pleased to have religious exercises. Family worship is regularly attended at eight o'clock each evening. Half the sailors attend each evening alternating. – Last Sat. eve Mrs. H [*Hume*], Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself had a little season of social prayer. It was pleasant, & I trust but a foretaste of what we may hereafter enjoy.

April 24. Lat. 24% 37". We have as yet seen but few sails since we left Salem, but yesterday five were in sight; some from the W. Indies [*West Indies*]. In the morning our Capt. hoisted his flag to one, but she condescended not to tell us who she was, or to what nation she belonged. The Capt. then hoisted a flag consisting of pieces of cloth denoting the name Waverly. They raised a flag saying they understood, & by that time the vessels were so far apart that they could not communicate. About noon, one appeared which would cross our track, the Capt. learned by signals that she was an Eng. [*English*] ship bound home. Soon the little boat, with the first mate, & four rowers were dispatched with the letters. A short general letter written by Mr. French was sent to the Miss. [*Missionaries*] rooms. The mate said the Capt. of the vessel offered him some brandy & water; upon his refusing, he asked him if he was from Salem. This ship was on a return voyage from Sierra Leone. You may hear perhaps from the Herald that the Brig Waverly was spoken by the British Tar, London, & were well. Mr. B. [*Burgess*], Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] & Mr. & Mrs. H [*Hume*], however, are far from well. Johnny Hodges occupied the time for social reading to day, the fourth temperance tale we have thus read. Though we are about to cross the tropic, the weather is cool & agreeable. The thermometer now stands at 70% four o'clock P.M. One sail a hoy today.

April 29. Lat. 14% N. Lon. 31% W. I often calculate the difference of time between us, & look off towards home & country & think what my friends are doing. When dining yesterday, I thought of you, as engaged in the services of the sanctuary. Our meals are between ½ past 7 & 8, between ½ past 12 & 1, & between ½ past five & six. Crossed the Tropic, Apr. 25. The thermometer for five days past has been from 72% to 75%. There is a fine breeze of the N.E. trade wind, & the sun is often obscured by clouds. Today the sun is vertical, & will now be N. of us till we get round the Cape. The sailing distance of the vessel from Salem is a little more than 3,000 miles. We had religious services on board yesterday as last Sab.[*Sabbath*] Mr. F. [*French*] again officiated as neither of the other gentlemen were able. It was a pleasant season, though more difficult for the speaker to stand or speak, on account of the motion of the ship.

Tues. April 30. Lat. 11% 15"N. Lon. 29% W. For two days we have sailed at the rate of 178 miles a day. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] able to study the Murathee lesson. Last evening we conversed for about ½ an hour in that tongue. Mrs. Hume arranged sentences easily. All our company are disposed to improve themselves. Mr. F. [*French*] & Mr. H. [*Hume*] yesterday commenced classes of four sailors each. They teach them chirography principally though sometimes they read & spell.

May 1. Lat. 9% A fine breeze is wafting us pleasantly on our way; this with the flying clouds, so diminish the intensity of the heat of the sun, as to render us quite comfortable when in the shade. Last evening for the first time I observed the phosphorescent light of which I have read as being sometimes seen at sea. This appearance is accounted for, as caused by minute animals, and is not phosphorescense. It is seen only where the water is in motion, & principally near the ship. It seemed more like numerous lightning bugs, on the water than anything else, to which I can compare it. I stand & gaze & admire. Thus something, almost daily, occurs to furnish a little variety. For a few days, flying fish have been very often seen, both singly & in schools. They fly but a few rods at a time & resemble a flock of grey birds. Dolphins, & many other large fish pursue, & pray upon them. – I often feel, that I shall never have so favorable a time for cultivating personal piety, or for reading, as the present. So teach us to number our days, as to apply our

hearts unto wisdom. I must not omit to mention, that Capt. W. [*Ward*] has had a convenient bathing tub fitted for the ladies, & another for the gentlemen. We use ours in rotation, & as Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] does not choose to take a bath at present, every third morning, I have the luxury of bathing. We value it highly, as conducive to health & comfort.

May 6. Lat. 1% 23" S. Lon. 26% 14" W. Ther. 81% Yesterday P.M. we crossed the equator. It was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] Mr. Hume preached. There was a fine breeze all day, & though the thermometer stood at 82, (I always give the thermometer in the shade) it was very comfortable under the awning. Sat. evening an arched squall (as they term it, occurred. A cloud in the form of a perfect arch, covered the whole eastern horizon. Soon the wind blew, & though not properly a gale, it approached nearer one than any thing before on our voyage. The wind was so steady upon one side, that the vessel did not rock much, but was constantly turned down upon the leeward side.

Last Fri. the Capt. caught two fish, called bonetta. They were of very rich, brilliant color & weighed four or five pds. [*pounds*] each. They were caught with an instrument called grains, which has three prongs, & a handle longer than a hoe. They made us two meals, which were relished by all. Two little flying fish had before been cooked, & were nice. When we left Salem, there were of live stock on board as follows, 120 fowls, 10 pigs, & a goat. The goat was procured at St. Helena, on the Capt.'s last returning voyage. It had a high reputation for yielding a large quantity of milk, but it furnished us with none, & as a consequence forfeited its life. Nearly every Sat. our ears are saluted with the dying shrieks of one of the pigs. The whole crew have a fresh meat dinner on the Sab. [*Sabbath*] It is common for sailors to have a better dinner on the Sab. [*Sabbath*] than on other days. For the supply of our table the number of our chickens is diminished four or five each week. The crowing of the cock, & the noise of the hens, is pleasant, sometimes & almost leads me to feel that I am on terra firma.

Our food is good, things are, in general, well prepared, with the exception, that they are sometimes too rich. Our dinners are regular. On the Sab. [*Sabbath*] & Wednes. fresh meat, & sometimes on Mon. Tues. & Fri. baked beans, Sat. salt fish, & Thurs. minced meat, also a pudding each day. We have puddings of rice, bread, flour, Indian meal, & sago. The sea bread is of good quality, & so are the coffee & tea, the butter, cheese & pickles, & the potatoes as good as could be expected for the season. I take a cup of weak coffee with my breakfast, & one of weak tea with my supper, & though most of the water is palatable, I aim to need as little as possible. I have often wished you could know just how we are situated.

May 8. This P.M. Mrs. Hume & I have been making some dried apple pies. It was a relief to do it for exercise. We walk the deck back & forth for exercise every day, some of us jump the rope and practice calisthenics for the same purpose. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has led our evening devotions twice since I last wrote. He went through the process of getting the longitude from the sun's & altitude today.

May 10. Lat. 7% 57"S. Lon. 31% 40"W. Ther. 82%. Birds are now often seen flying at a little distance. We are near the Brazil Coast & every day brings us nearer. If the wind would permit, our course would be S.E. instead of W. of S.

May 14. Lat. 9% 40"S. 32% 50"W. Last Sat. about sunset an uncommon pitching of the vessel took place, wh. [*which*] the Capt. knew not how to account for as high winds are hardly known in this latitude; but he was sure that there was a blow somewhere in the vicinity, & he felt that it might reach us. The sky was clear, the pitching continued & about midnight all the hands were called on deck. They reefed the sails, the rain fell, the wind blew strong. The ship tossed, & sleep almost forsook us. Mr. & Mrs. Hume are our nearest neighbors, they complained of being drenched by the rain which leaked thro. [*through*] the deck. We did not feel in danger. Storms will probably be severe as we pass around the cape. The next day, Sab. [*Sabbath*] no preaching – all of us dizzy, & some quite sick. Towards night the sea became more calm. — — Yesterday the windsail was put up. It is five or six yards long of a cylindrical shape, & is made of two breadths of Russia duck cloth. For a yard at the top, it is not sewed together, but is straight. It lets down a stream of fresh air; our state rooms, the cabin, & indeed all between decks are benefited by it.

May 15. An interesting female social prayer meeting in my state room. Miss G. met with us for the first time. We value having her with us. — We have made us some little blank books for translating common phrases into Murathee. My task in this department is three sentences a day.

I write them in Eng. [*English*] on one page, & in Murathee on the other. We make some progress, though we often feel vigorous for reading & writing letters, when we do not relish Mahratta. (I suppose in writing letters, I had better spell Mahratta as this is the usual way in Eng., though I find it Murathee in the books from India, & I often write it that way before I think). We were so far west as to fear we should not see any vessels, but to day a sail aho, caught our attention. Our flag was immediately raised, & so was hers. It proved to be a whaler, out 10 months from N. Bedford. Capt. Maxwell. They were more desirous to have communication with our ship, than we with theirs; & they sent one of their boats manned with six men to us. They wished to learn respecting the war of the U.S. Capt. W. gave them a file of papers & they gave him some Liverpool papers of March. They also brought us a half bushel of [potatoes] oranges, & the Capt. gave them a half a barrel of potatoes. We hastened to seal our letters, our company of seven sent off 23. I sent three, one to Mrs. Stickney, one to Mrs. Willard Holmes, & one to Elizabeth Rockwell. The Capt. & crew sent as many more, I presume.

May 17. Lat. 7% S. Almost becalmed – the sea nearly as smooth as glass & the weather very warm. We are near the shoals of Brazil. They sounded last night and found the depth of the water 25 fathoms. They find bottom today. fish of various kinds are sporting in the water. They have been trying to catch some, & I suppose they have put out for bait some two pounds of pork, which the fish have taken without being caught. A shark too, made its appearance a few rods from the ship, it appeared to be of brown color, its only fin of consequence is on its back, it resembled a horn as seen from the ship. The ship's progress the last 24 hours, only 40 miles.

May 18. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] continues to gain strength, & has a good appetite. If the sea should be rough, however, he would be sick. He now studies the Mahratta lessons, & reads considerable, & to day finishes his third letter, all of them short. Kindness, good nature & forebearance characterize all our company; & the officers & crew seem contented & happy. — On Sat. our bedding is carried on deck to be aired, & to day our state rooms have been washed; so you will perceive our health & comfort are consulted. Our cup does indeed overflow with blessings.

May 20. 22%56 S. Lat. 35%30 W. Lon. Yesterday was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] There is not the perceptible difference between it & other days as on land; yet there is a quietness & sacredness in unison with the day. We felt rejoiced to have a still pleasant Sab. [*Sabbath*] Our Bible lesson was instructive. We occupy in reciting from one & a half, to two hours, & spend more time in previously studying it. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] conducted the exercises of public worship for the first time. Christ's interview with Nicodemus, formed the basis of his remarks. — Some of the sailors read their Bible every day, & I doubt not some of them will be benefitted by the efforts made in their behalf. — Venus, the moon, numerous stars & the balmy air conspire to render our evenings delightful.

I have been much amused today in seeing Mother Cary's chickens tipping on the water, then soaring generally near the water. I never see them remain long on the water, hardly a moment at a time. They are about the size of a robin of black, white & chestnut color. Numerous sperm whale birds have been flying around for two days, probably a dead whale or a whale ship is in the vicinity.

May 21. Lat. 24%30" Lon. 34%30". We crossed the Southern Tropic about six o'clock last eve. To day is much cooler, & rain is fast falling. They catch some for washing. An Eng. [*England*] brig from Rio Janiero bound to N.Y. [*New York*] passed us within two rods of our vessel, bound to N.Y. [*New York*] Capt. W. [*Ward*] spoke it with his trumpet & told the Capt. he would give him some papers if he would stop, but the wind was briskly blowing, & they stopped not. I have read H. Newell two days passed. I admire her spirit. Our comforts exceed hers. I fear our gratitude does not. — You now have three hours more sunlight than we. Our sun sets before ½ past five, & every day diminishes our sun light.

May 22. Not a day passes, but we think of our dear native land, & raise our petitions to our common Preserver for the many dear ones we have left behind. The Lord bless, guide, & keep them all in the way of eternal blessedness. Our country, seen from the point of observation we now occupy, assumes a greatness, a glory, an importance, which I cannot express. Much is seen to excite gratitude & hope, but still there is much corruption. We keep up a little idea of what is going on in our native land. Miss. F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] says she thinks far more of her home in India than in America.

May 23. P.M. A ship has been in sight all day, & all have been busy in getting out letters, hoping to send by her, but now we relinquish the hope, as she is too far off.
May 24. A little discussion upon dress occurred, & it was decided to read Mr. Judson's tract on that subject, & Mrs. Torrey's little book, entitled Ornament. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] read while the ladies sewed.
May 25. Lat. 28%S. Lon. 32%W. Cool & damp, very heavy dews. Sat. my first work after breakfast, is to put everything in order on my premises, i.e. in my state room, & then see that the clothes for the succeeding week are in readiness. I have just finished that work this morn. I take pleasure in doing it. Yesterday Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself made six dried apple pies. This is the fourth time we have made them; twice Mrs. Hume & I, & twice with Mrs. F. [*French*] We partake of them for tea, & they relish well.
May 29. Lat. 35%S. Lon. 20%W. Ther. 66% distance from Salem 7,000 miles. The air [however] & all around is damp, yet the day is pleasant. No fire is kept except for cooking. Miss G. has two soap stones each about the size of a brick. These, after being heated we apply to our feet, & they are really a comfort. By the way, missionaries ought always to take them. It is past seven when the sun rises here, & it disappears before five. Six is my time for rising, besides attending to my morning work, I get some time for reading my bible before breakfast, wh. [*which*] is about 20 min. before eight. Last Sab. [*Sabbath*] the sea was in great commotion, & public worship was attended in the cabin, only one watch was present. Mr. B[*Burgess*]'s remarks from John 3:13, 14 were clear & faithful. Yesterday & the day before very damp, embracing a variety of weather. Our female prayer meetings which are held three evenings each week, increase in interest. Last eve. the season was precious.
May 31. Lat. 37. S. Lon. 14% W. Yesterday an albatross flew several times round our vessel, favoring us with a full view of the largest of aquatic fowls. It is brown upon the back, & almost white below its wings. Its flight is rapid, & graceful. It is remarkable for the length of its wings. It often measures from 9 to 12 ft. from tip to tip, & is about twice the size of a goose. Its flesh is not valued for food, though sailors frequently eat them. We saw many at a distance sometimes sitting in companies on the water, at others soaring aloft. — Cape pigeons begin to be numerous. They are spotted, black & white, about the size of pigeons in New Eng. [*England*] They resemble ducks. One was caught, by getting its wings entangled in some lines thrown out for the purpose. All the fowls we see are webfooted. Very few can raise themselves to fly from a level surface, like the deck, & they all walk clumsily spreading their wings & slapping their webbed feet, but they move elegantly in either water or air.
June 1. Sat. Rough & damp. Wrote & read some in the A.M. after dinner. I was in severe pain. Mrs. Hume very kindly & efficiently nursed me. She is apt, at almost everything. June 4 at night a gale commenced, but was not very powerful till Sab. [*Sabbath*] morn. Then every sail, with one exception was entirely furled, & that was reefed, the helm was made fast, & the vessel was in a state called lying to. Everything at such times must be made fast, or be thrown from side to side. Passengers keep principally in their state rooms. Every few minutes a high sea washes over the ship, & though our vessel is well built, the water found many entrances at such times. The wind continued strong & violent till Mon. A.M. Twice I ascended the stairs which lead from the cabin to the deck, & there gazed at the mountain waves. The view was fearful. Our vessel seemed very small, when compared with them, & as a high sea approaches, it is difficult for one not long used to such scenes not to feel that it will overwhelm us. None of us stayed on deck, everything there was lashed by strong ropes, & the Capt. feared every high sea, that the deck would be swept clear. To see nothing but bare masts & rigging, was desolate. None of us attempted at such times to do much, & though it was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] there was little thinking, reading or praying. I occupied our upper berth, the lower one was too wet to be occupied. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress on the floor, just outside the door of our state room. Considerable of my time was spent, in covering the things that they might not be injured by the salt water which came in every time a wave broke over the deck. When one cloth was thoroughly wet, I furnished another. I had rather a severe headache, but felt that I had much for which to be grateful. Mon. my head pained me still, but about 11, Mr. B. [*Burgess*] came & said I must go up & see the birds. I put on my overshoes, cloak & hood, & went on deck: the wind had subsided, but the sea was still very high, & we were obliged to hold ourselves constantly. Albatrosses, cape pigeons, stormy petrel (alias Mother Carey's chickens) & two other kinds of aquatic fowl were very numerous, & soaring

around in every direction. Some were very near the vessel, & they often seated themselves on the water & afforded us much amusement, in seeing them ride the mountain waves. A line with pork on it was put out, in the hope of catching them, but though they were attracted by it, & many pitched near it, & some took hold, yet they all contrived to release themselves before they could be drawn to the vessel. An albatross was drawn several feet, we thought he was secured, but were disappointed when he freed himself, & flew away. A little before noon some of the sails were unfurled, & we were again under way, having been lying to, more than 24 hours.
June 5 Lat. 35 S. Lon. 3% W. The sea is still very high. Every few minutes a large wave dashes over the deck, but the fair wind is driving us rapidly towards our destined port. Around the cape is the region of gales, thunder & lightning, & variable weather. Our Capt. who has been around 23 times, says he dislikes this part of the voyage. I have not felt fear at all. I am assured of the skill & prudence of our Capt. & I have an impression, that some of our company have a work to do in India. I often try to bring myself to view death near, & aim to be ready to welcome it, but have never been disposed to feel, that the deep would prove my grave. — Today we resumed our Mahratta studies, which since Fri. last, we had laid aside. Time seems almost lost in rough weather, as it is more than we can well do, to take care of ourselves & the leaks. My room is yet very damp, & we are anxiously looking for fair weather. Health we consult, & I enjoy it, in general. Gales, & damp, cool weather will tend to make us value, & be grateful for more pleasant circumstances.
June 7. Lat. 36%S. Lon. 5% 15" E. Ther. 55 ½ Last eve a shower accompanied with thunder & lightning occurred, & to day the air is pure & delightful. I have almost continually felt, that gratitude should flow forth for this fine day. Our progress is not so rapid, but the deck is dry, & our mattresses & bedding have been aired, our room is dry again, & how agreeable is our situation compared with what it has been for five days past. The sun rise & the sun set were both beautiful to day; finished reading the 3d vol. of Brit. India. Some part of the volumes are rather dry, yet the mass of the information was interesting; all except Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] read them, & their contents have often been the theme of conversation. To day for the first time washed a few articles off, 5 pints of fresh, hot water only were allowed me, & owing to its being so long in a cask, I suppose it will make suds only with difficulty. Soap, as I rubbed it on the cloth, changed to a brick color. I rinsed in salt water. I had before supposed they would be sticky, if rinsed in s. [*salt*] water, but the steward said that was only the case with flannels. Towels, sheets, etc are very liable to become iron rusted. I have been glad that I took such a quantity of old clothing for the voyage. In addition to what I had laid aside when I arrived in Boston. I found a bundle of articles from the Ips. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & Mr. B. [*Burgess*] found a similar bundle from Andover Theol. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*], forwarded at the suggestion of Prof. Emerson. Clothes become tender, and very yellow by remaining so long without washing. It is economical to be supplied with old clothing for a long voyage.
June 9. Ther. 55% Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve. 6 o'clock. Just about time for the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school in Colebrook. I think of the churches & Sab. [*Sabbath*] privileges of my native land. May they be abundantly accompanied by the Spirit. The weather is so variable, that the Capt. thought it not best to have preaching. This was a disappointment, but it may be for the best. Our Bible lesson was interesting this A.M. & it has been I think a profitable Sab. [*Sabbath*] to me, & I judge to all the miss. [*missionary*] company. Mr. Hume conversed with one watch of the seamen, & found them all ready to admit the truth, & acknowledge duty, though none seem to feel deeply. All have been still.
May 10. Lon. 12% 10 E. Lat. 36% S. Ther. 55% to 59%. I have studied with unusual delight & vigor today. What a great work to learn the languages of nations. We make some progress. Evening brings us all below this cool weather. We sit around the cabin tables & either write or silently read. The Capt. is one of our number. Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] spends her evenings in her state room, & reads reclining in her berth. I sometimes sit with her. She does not need much done, but I love to sit converse, & sympathize with her.
June 12. Ther. 55% Damp & uncomfortable, so rough that some are sick, & all are affected. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] read another of Wiseman's lectures, while I sewed. Yesterday for the first time, our eyes were feasted with the sight of a whale. Though he shewed himself finely a number of times, I do not know how to describe him. He was but a few rods from the vessel when first seen, & while we were eagerly on the watch to catch further views, he passed to the other side of us. Its

color was very dark. Its skin smooth, & it seemed a huge mass moving undaunted & rapidly through the water. We saw from 25 to forty feet of its length, which was probably 50 or 60 feet. The mighty ocean seems a fit residence for him, & his species. From a large fin on its back, it is called fin backed. It is rarely taken as it is fierce & frequently sinks before it can be secured, & yields less oil than other kinds.
"13. Ther. 59% Clear fine air, our bedding on deck for airing. We passed the Cape of Good Hope yesterday & are now in the longitude of Cape Lagullus, 72 days out & are now where Capt. W. [*Ward*] was in his last voyage when 58 days out.
June 17. Lon. 26% E. Lat. 36% S. Ther. 65%. Anniversary of the battle of Bunkerhill. I remember how the cannons are fired in Ips. [*Ipswich*] & other towns in the eastern part of Mass [*Massachusetts*], at the dawn of this morning. — The whole animal economy seems animated & invigorated by the balmy air around us, & the soul partakes of the delight, how inexpressibly delightful would a view of the verdant hills & forests & gardens of home, be for a few hours. The Capt. thinks that while the weather is so unsettled, public worship had better be omitted. The time for our Bible lesson is the only time, which the passengers have the cabin uninterrupted, & it was decided to spend the hour in conversation & prayer, & defer the Bible recitation to the round house in the P.M. It was a precious session, & the same arrangement is to continue till the weather is more favorable. Last Fri. night, we were visited by another gale from the West. It continued 15 hrs., the sails were nearly all reefed, yet we were driven over the mountain waves at the rate of 8 miles an hour. Sat. P.M. the ladies went on deck, the waves presented an appearance similar to one caused by a high wind after a fall of snow. At the head of each wave as it rose, were innumerable drops of water & much vapor, which looked white & moved as snow before the wind from the summit of the drifts. We dined in our state rooms for the first time.
June 18. Yesterday at twelve o'clock, the course of the vessel was turned to the N.E. Now our faces are set towards Bombay, & we anticipate reaching Zanzibar in time to spend Independence, July 4. To day the air is balmy, & delightful. "Every sense & every heart is joy" Though it is winter, to us it seems a spring day. After dinner yesterday as we were singing, as is our practice after dinner, Capt. W. [*Ward*] called our attention to the fishes which were gamboling in the water, astern of us. It was indeed an amusing sight, to me more so than the whale. They were very large, some of them 30 feet long, with great heads. They would leap from a large wave, first throwing their heads, & as these descended into the water their backs. We were glad to see them, but heartily wished them either to stay longer or soon come again.* They were a species of black fish. Muratha & writing letters is my principal business this week, & I may add, that of all the missionaries.
June 21. Lat 31% S. Lon. 34% E. We are having a favorable breeze, & fine weather. Ther. 68% or 69. A little before sunset a shoal of porpoises secured our attention. They passed the ship, often leaping entirely out of the water. The mate tried to harpoon one as they passed the bow, once he succeeded, but before they drew it into the ship, it got loose. — Every thing is pleasant as we could wish in our circumstances. Bedding was again aired to day.
June 23. In our little state room. Past 9 P.M. I seem unwilling to retire while you have so much Sab. [*Sabbath*] I think of you as now in the sanctuary, P.M. service. That the Sab. [*Sabbath*] privileges of my native land may be blessed & sanctified, is a desire, which rises spontaneously as often as I think of you. My mind first recalls those parts I have visited, or where I have friends, & from them extends over the whole country. The temperature & clearness of the atmosphere, with a favorable breeze wafting us four miles an hour, render our outward circumstances agreeable, & what is far more desirable, I think God has been with us by his spirit. This P.M. Mr. Hume preached from Rom. [*Romans*] 3:20. For by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight. After being bounded in our prospect by sky & water for 83 days, it was pleasant to see land this morn, which continued in sight till darkness came. The land is in Africa, Cape Corientes, & the coast for many miles below. It is principally sand hills, barren & uninhabited. At Inhambane near Cape C. [*Corientes*] is a Portuguese settlement from which we could perceive ascending smoke. Such an evidence of the presence of our race added interest to the view. We could not but feel for oppressed, degraded Africa. The Portuguese own the coast from Delagoa Bay to Cape Delgado embracing 16% of latitude, & have numerous settlements. The slave trade is carried on more extensively on this coast than in any other part of Africa. Many vessels leave every year laden with slaves, though the traffic is a violation of a treaty between the English &

Portuguese. Many are taken to Brazil. It is for the interest of the owners to treat them well on their voyage. The dealers use fast sailing vessels, & have agents in Africa to collect cargoes, & put into port one day, & ship the cargo the same day, at night, to avoid detection. Eng. [*English*] cruisers are constantly on the coast, but few comparatively are detected. Our Capt. thinks the Portuguese on this coast a great curse to Africa, & says they are remarkably destitute of moral principle. He has traded extensively on this coast, at Madagascar, & indeed in all this region. The Portuguese, Spanish & French are all, to some extent, engaged in this smuggling traffic, & some think, U.S. men (Americans) are not entirely free from the imputation of being at present engaged.

I think I must tell you how I am favored in visiting home in my dreams; last night I had a most agreeable visit with mother of several hours. I was fitting to leave, which made us more studious to improve every moment; we were agreed in concluding as we separated, that this was the best visit we ever enjoyed. — I have rode to meeting with you, bid you, & other friends farewell, again & again. I am generally preparing to go. Once the ship put back, & I spent a few hours mostly with father, before we put out again. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] too, I often meet. Sometimes I am procuring articles for use in India. Nothing sad, has with one exception occurred. I mention this because it has been pleasant to me to mingle with you, though on awakening, I am assuread we have been continually receding from you.

June 26. Lat. 20% S. Lon. 37% 38 E. We reentered the Torrid Zone June 24. Thermometer for a few days has been between 73% & 79%. The sunsets in this region present softer, mellower, & more varied tints than I have ever seen before. I have been loath to say they were more beautiful. I have seen such glorious sunsets at home though this is the general opinion of our party, & I felt last night, this is different, & I think superior. — This morning as Mr. B. [*Burgess*] came down from bathing, he said he had seen the moon sink below the horizon, & that the eastern horizon was already resplendent, & that if we could go on deck in 10 min. we might see a beautiful sunrise. I went before that time transpired; as soon as I went Mr. Lovett, first mate said there was a shark. Mrs. F [*French*], & I immediately discovered it. A piece of pork was thrown out, it seized it, though the hook seemed too large to take in, we had a very distinct view. Five little pilot fish hardly as large as trout were with it, sometimes on its back, & then by its side. The pilot fish were prettily girdled with stripes of blue & white the whole length. Its upper side was of chestnut brown, underneath whitish; when dying its color changed to deep brown. Sailors love to kill sharks. This was full grown, weighed 150 pds [*pounds*] or more. Its fins are fleshy, & do not contract. It has one large fin on its back, two of about the same size on its side, & two smaller ones near the tail. We saw its five rows of teeth in the under jaw, & five in the upper – its mouth is of horse shoe shape. Mrs. Hume says its head & mouth are like a tadpoles in shape. The gentlemen took the dimensions; whole length 6 ft. 7 ½ inches. Head 12 ½ in. Body 3 ft. 10 in. tail 21 in. Between eyes 9 inch, width of mouth 8 in. Fin 17 ½ in. long. They save the back bone but the most they give to David Jones as they say when they throw anything overboard. At tea, some of the cooked fish was put upon the table. I tasted it, & had I not known it to be an animal of bad reputation, I might have liked it. None of us ate much of it. However the sailors had one or two good meals from it. In Madagascar & many other parts in this vicinity, they are highly valued as an article of food, the fins particularly. Large quantities of fins are exported to China, & other places.

June 29. Sailed by Mozambique, & so near as to distinguish trees and buildings. Moz. [*Mozambique*] is a small island, the capital of the Portuguese settlements on the coast. The governor general resides here. The sight of land is very pleasant.

June 30. Sab. [*Sabbath*] no public service, as the vessel was rolling very much.

July 1. Progress the last day 202 miles, 20 miles more than any previous day. We hope to see Zanzibar tomorrow. This being the eve of the monthly concert, a little meeting in the cabin. We expect the island of Monfua before morning. It is inhabited by Arabs & is a part of the Sultans dominions.

Zanzibar. July 4. Three Amer. [*American*] vessels are in the port here, & 13 cannons were fired by one at sunrise. 26 at noon by the next, & one at sun set by the third, & in the evening sky rockets were discharged from the flat roof of the Amer. [*American*] consuls house. American flags have been waving all day. We arrived at this port July 2, about noon. We had been sailing in sight of the island for four or five hours. The isl. [*island*] is about 50 miles long, 15 or 20 wide,

& 15 from the continent. Its pop. [*population*] is composed of Arabs & African slaves, principally. About 400 Banyan traders, & a class called Soohillas. The pop. [*population*] is estimated to amount to from 125,000 to 150,000, two thirds of whom are slaves. The vegetation is so unlike N.E. & the town, too, that our attention was strongly riveted. Cocoa nut trees were so like the drawings, that we recognized them at once. I wish Martha & Marcus to notice drawings more, they will gain many correct ideas, & increase their enjoyment. The town contains probably from 15 to 40,000 people. The houses line the shore for about 1 ½ miles, & for some distance back into the interior. The better class build of coral rock with which this, & the neighboring islands abound; & cover with chunam. The walls are from one to two & a half feet thick, have few windows, & less window glass. Their stairs & roofs are of the same material. These roofs are flat. Many however, have a thatched roof above, sloping four sides, made by fitting poles, then covering with the cocoa nut leaves. The lower class build of poles, then wall the sides with mud, & thatch the roof. The streets cross each other like the threads in a tangled skein. We walked yesterday through some of them. They are rarely over 10 feet wide. The houses so cover the ground as to leave no room for gardens, & next to none for trees. A few slender cocoa nuts find room. But three white females have visited the isl. [*island*] before us & we are quite a curiosity. The people merely assemble & gaze & occasionally laugh. The first day the gentlemen went on shore with the Capt., & the following day July 3 the ladies went with them, to Mr. Waters' of Salem. He is the Amer. [*American*] consul, & has been here three years. He is pious, & aims to do good to this people. There is also an Eng. [*English*] mercantile house here, so that I suppose there are at this time as many white persons, as ever at one time before. We took a short walk in a cocoa nut grove, saw the cassada growing, also alocs & mango trees, picked several wild flowers. Returned to Mr. Waters' in a boat. His Highness (the Sultan of Muscat or Mascat) as soon as he learned that our vessel had brought to Mr. Waters the tidings of his brothers death, sent assurance of sympathy saying that he would come & see him. In the evening, he came, & we were introduced to his Highness, his eldest son prince Haleed, & two of his officers. His Highness prefers the climate of Zanzibar to that of Muscat. He has made Zanzibar his residence for the last three years, one of his sons being in Muscat. His palace is between two & three miles from town, though he has one nearly completed in town. He comes up, either on horseback, or in a boat. His age is about 54, his size above medium, his beard long & gray. His manners easy & dignified. He is always attended by a retinue, though he is not fond of display & would often be gladly relieved from it, yet it is their custom. He shook hands handsomely & affably with each of us. He is very well versed in the Arabic, but does not speak Eng. [*English*] but by an interpreter. He first said to Mr. W. [*Waters*], God does all, & he does right & good. He inquired respecting the prosperity of our country, of our passage, of our health, & a few other things, & then bidding us good evening, departed. We then took tea at Mr. W. [*Waters*] & after singing & prayers returned to the vessel about nine, so tired that I almost felt that the Arab custom of keeping ladies at home, the best. This morning we went by invitation to Mr. Thorns, the agent of the mercantile house; dined there, ladies never dined with him before, quite a parade. We had a fine view of the town & harbor from the top of his house. The slaves around were amused. A little Arab child of three years was brought up, that we might see how they paint their faces etc. They begin to wear ornaments from infancy — This little child had three strings of beads of various color, material & size upon its neck, bracelet on the wrist & bangles about the feet, & 6 or 7 rings in the ear, extending round the rim of the ear. Some have ornaments as large as a cent, inserted entirely within the lower part of the ear, then of different sizes to the top of the ear. Some have rings in their noses, but this is not common. Slaves have as many ornaments as any, but in general, not so valuable; though the rich slaves <u>wear</u> those that are valuable, though they do not own them. Slaves are from 7 to 20 dolls. [*dollars*] apiece here. They are sold every day at auction, at five o'clock. They are well fed, & do but little; die off fast, from 7 to 10,000 come here from the continent every year. They wear but little clothing, besides ornaments. They look as if they needed only favorable circumstances to make them valuable, intelligent people. None of the Arabs or Sowalies are slaves. While the gentlemen went out to walk, we remained & were treated with fruits. We are here in the season for oranges, mangoes, plantians, papau & various other fruits. Cocoa nuts are abundant. The exports from this port are gum, copal, frankincense, cloves, & shells. The natives are becoming more industrious. An evident improvement is in progress among them. May the day be hastened when they shall have the light of the gospel.

Mr. Waters & Mr. Thorn have spared no pains to make our visit here, profitable & pleasant, & I think it has been so. We have acquired some acquaintances, with this part of the world.
July 9, 1839. Last Sat. we visited by invitation his Highness. The ladies were permitted to enter the harem, & see his daughters. His Highness has been very kind; he sent up a boat manned to take us to his house; he furnished us horses & donkeys to go six miles into the interior & every thing else which would contribute to our comfort, provided refreshments as we went & returned, & presented each of the ladies with a cashmere shawl, worth from 20 to 30 dollars a piece. He is very kind to all our countrymen. We surely feel under obligation to him. He, of his own accord, sends letters for us to his son at Muscat. We leave this place to day in good health & spirits. We feel that soon we shall reach the field of our labors, & shall rejoice to enter it. I did not intend to send this memoranda until I arrived in Bombay, but it accumulated so much that I decided to send it now. I wish it to be preserved, & as neatly as consistent. I have written you, my dear parents, & Martha by mail.
Ever your affectionate daughter, M. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant
Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

<*New*> South Dedham [*Massachusetts*] Feb. 20, 1844.
Tuesday.

My dear Brother,

I have not heard one word concerning your daughter Martha, since I received a letter written partly by her brother Joel at South Hadley [*Massachusetts*], & partly by Miss [*Mary*] Lyon. She had then been confined to her bed six weeks, & her mother had been with her two weeks. I directed my reply to that letter to Miss [*Mary*] Lyon, & requested further information without delay, & also frequently information while she should continue ill. Why no one has written, I cannot conjecture. If the dear child had left “the land of the dying, & gone to the land of the living,” surely some one would have communicated to me the fact. With a disease so severe, & so stubborn, she cannot have recovered sufficiently to be removed home in the uncommonly cold weather of this inclement season. Probably your family remains in a measure broken up, while <u>you</u> suffer loneliness & anxiety. No doubt, however, you rejoice in the privilege, which Martha enjoys in being allowed the presence of her mother; as well as the privilege which her mother enjoys in administering to her stricken child.

You may be ready to inquire, why I am again at South Dedham. Perhaps you already know, that Dr. Briggs was attacked last June with profuse & stubborn hemmorrage of the lungs. From the debility consequent, he so far recovered as to be able to attend to his professional business. A slight cough through the summer & autumn was attended by a decay of health, until December 26, after one week confinement to the house, his spirit was released, & his emaciated body, a few days after, consigned to the tomb, then to remain until the morning of the resurrection. In the last week of his life he gave, by will, all his estate to his wife, & made her sole execution. Since his death, debts have been presented to an unexpected amount; & the 6th of March is appointed as time for an auction, in which the house, garden, woodland, & some of the household furniture is to be sold; -- leaving Mrs. Briggs & her children almost destitute. From a letter, which I received from this, my very dear friend, just before evening last Saturday, I feared she was breaking down under the weight of care, labor & solitude now devolving upon her, & overcoming what I had supposed to be insurmountable obstacles. I yesterday hastened to her dwelling. The Sabbath had been to her a season of precious rest from almost overwhelming cares & labors, & her spirit seemed to have been refreshed by drinking at the fountain of truth. Still she is worn down, & feeble. What she is to do, she knows not. The people throughout the parish are exceedingly kind & sympathizing. <*Both*> Her father, the Rev. Jabez Chickering & her grandfather Rev -- Balch (Mr. C’s [*Chickering*] predecessor) each spent a life as past of this

church & people. Her father, having ample pecuniary means, gave a library to the parish, & did many benevolent acts suited to promote the intellectual & moral improvement of his own generation, & of their posterity.

On my way to this place I called at Mr. Wm. [*William*] Stickney's 52 Temple St. Boston. They often received a short letter from Mr. Burgess. Under date of last October he says, that it is possible they may see him here in the course of a year. Should he come, he will, of course, bring his little boy, now almost four years old. He speaks of its being the opinion of the mission that he ought to [...] of its being peculiarly trying to him to think of leaving his field of labor among the Mahorattas.

From this, I infer, that the restoration of impaired health must be his object, tho [*though*] he does not specify. -- Dear Mary [*Grant Burgess*] has finished her work, & gone to heaven before us. While our attractions to earth diminish, do our attractions to heaven increase?

I did not know, until I heard at Mr. Stickney's of the failure of Mr. Jonathan Hoyt, & I fear you may have suffered by this event. (He was owing Mr. Stickney six thousand dollars for borrowed money, which was to be paid next March. Mr. S. [*Stickney*] considers Mr. H's [*Hoyt*] house as fraudulent, thinks he is liable to indictment, believes he has funds secreted; -- but has very little hope of receiving his due.) From his having purchased cheese & wool. I fear many around you may suffer -- How is this? -- Is uncle Cowles still near you? How is he?

Wm [*William*] Banister always speaks of you with fraternal affection, & he cherishes the hope that at some future time you may visit us. For some weeks past, he has not enjoyed so high a degree of health as usual, tho [*though*] with care, he attends almost daily to his ordinary business. The health of his eldest daughter is better than it was last winter. She rides to take the air almost daily, & on part to the time is quite comfortable, having the aspect of a person in health. She reads many volumes every month, & writes a good deal. But occasionally she suffers for hours, & some times severely. No day passes without her suffering more or less. His second daughter is not sick, but she is exceedingly slender. -- James Richards our missionary son is in his 17th year. He does not love study well enough to justify our sending him to college. It is his choice to return to the [S.I.?] sooner or later. If his own father, whom we constantly expect from Europe, should decide that he shall follow his inclination to become a farmer, I do not see how we can provide for him the necessary training. My own health is, on the whole better at present than it has been before for seven years. Still I have no capacity for endurance. Overextension when we had company last week

This in brackets is for you <u>only</u>. {confined me mostly to my bed from Friday noon until Sunday morning. -- We have excellent Christian minister, & many steadfast Christians, among us; but we suffer greatly for want of a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

I wrote a few lines to Mr. Pettiborne from Amherst last August. & I have not since heard from him. How is he?

My most affectionate regards to each member of your family, including Joel & John, when you write them. Tell Elizabeth I remember her with much affection. During these seven years, that it has lost me so much suffering to write a letter she has not <u>once</u> written me -- That you, your wife & children may be sustained under present trials, & prepared for whatever God, in his providence, has appointed you is the desire of

yr [*your*] afftc [*affectionate*] sister
Z.P.G Banister.[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Ellen continues in the family of David Choate, Esq. (at Essex, five miles from Ipswich. [*Massachusetts*]) & pursues her studies to good advantage. Her present situation is favorable for her health her improvement & her character -- Direct to me at Newburyport

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr Elijah Grant
Mill Brook

Con [*Connecticut*]

New Haven March 22 1847

Dear Father

I am unexpectedly enabled to repay you the sum of money you furnished me when I left home -- It gives me much pleasure to do so, as I knew you could not well spare it. It is due to my dear Aunt's [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] great kindness that I am permitted to refund any part of it. She voluntarily proposed to loan me enough to enable me, besides paying my bills here, to refund what you gave me on leaving home. She has moreover in the greatness of her kindness procurred & presented me a full supply of clothing for the summer. Great occasion have I to be grateful to her for the sympathy & affection she has evinced towards me in this time of sore trial. Her visit of a week here I enjoyed most richly -- I have also abundantly reason to speak of Uncle Banister's kind interest & regard, but have not time or strength to spare at present.

I have been getting along very well since you last heard from me, & had expected to ride to Watertown [*Massachusetts*] to-morrow. The storm however will probably disappoint us in this. It is now <*four*> five o'clock P.M. & the storm has been raging more or less all day & there is little prospect of its ceasing immediately. If our Watertown friends come for us we shall proceed to Watertown as soon as the weather permits -- I shall probably remain then some time -- know not how long --

Marcus' letter enclosing Massey's was received <*on*> Thursday morn before Uncle & Aunt left (they did not leave till Thursday) & we were very glad to hear again from home & the intelligence brought was not however so pleasant as we hoped -- I will though still hope for that which is more favorable ere long -- shall expect to hear soon after reaching Watertown. I know not whether I shall visit home or not this coming summer -- but deem it very doubtful. It will however depend very much upon circumstances which are yet to be developed.

I have now season to be encouraged some what with regard to my future prospects yet I cannot know how far I shall restored to soundness. I shall try to procure some employment suited to my education before long. I am able to walk now pretty well tho [*though*] I am still somewhat weak. I walk up & down stairs with ease & you would be surprised to witness the great change wrought by the removal of the tumors. I hope it has procured me permanent relief. The tumors weigh 18 ounces.

Let the next letter from home state that this with its contents is received. Marcus has neglected to state so fully as I wished what letters have been received by you at home but I presume you have lost none.

Aunt Banister left with me for Mother to be sent her soon as the opportunity presents Barris' Notes on the Gospels. I presume an opportunity will present for sending them from Watertown before many weeks --

Love to all at home. I hope to hear of Mother's recovery & Martha's great improvement in your next. You must not expect to hear from me very often as it is hard for me to write long --

Your affectionate son
John.

I wish Marcus to write soon after the receipt of this, & let him promptly forward such letters as come for me to Mill Brook should any more come --

Love to all friends --

Cousin Martha sends love to all --

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elisabeth Grant
Mill Brook.
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Wankeshaw [*Wisconsin*], Apr. 12, 1848.

My dear Mother,

We rec'd [*received*] your letter enclosed in Joe's yesterday -- were very glad of it -- have been looking for it ever since the receipt of Joe's letter in Jan. as he said he though you intended to write soon -- We are very glad to hear that your health is comfortable & Father's good -- as you are to have workmen this summer I hope you will have help so as not to be obliged to work so hard yourself -- You speak of the hope of visiting us within a few years -- we hope it may be brought about for we should greatly rejoice to have you do so. Am much obliged for the little present sent in your letter -- You speak of sending some things to us, they will be gratefully received -- shall think a great deal of any thing left for us by dear Martha the dresses you spoke of will come just [right?] for I shall be obliged to have some soon, & may thus be saved the necessity of getting any, or more than one at least -- dried apples will be very acceptable -- we have been without through the winter, for we used ours all last summer having so large a family we have had a peck of green apples this winter. My Mother wrote sometime ago that they were expecting to send some dried applies & a few other things, & asked me to mention what we most needed -- I hardly know what to say -- the first thing that I now think of is a pair of india rubber over shoes, though if it is not convenient to send them expect we shall get them sometime in the course of the [...].

She spoke of getting some knitting done for Abby -- she has a supply for the present, but next winter will need two pairs of every day stockings. I am afraid she will have them knit too large -- a pair of coarse mittens would not come amiss -- she has very small hands & a slender foot, but rather long --

Mrs. Root writes that they intend to have their Parents come out here & live with them, & does not know as they shall all be ready to come until sometime in the summer, but says Mr. Root will return early this Spring -- do not believe it would be best to trouble Mrs. Root with the care of anything as she would have her aged Parents children to see to, & if she had not I dont know but any thing would come as safely alone as with her --

Should think it would be well enough to send by Mr. Root if he does not come too soon for your convenience & it were not so much trouble to ascertain about it -- the same of Mrs. Root's Father is Wilcox (Reuben I think) they live in Alford a small town near Stockbridge --

Daniel was very well through the winter, but for two months past his health <*it*> has not been as good -- for the last three weeks he has been quite unwell with what the Dr. calls pleurisy, occasioned by a fall he rec'd [*received*] three or four weeks since -- he has not been confined to the house, but has been unable to do much he is non improving & we think will soon be pretty well -- My health is about as usual -- Abby is most of the time pretty well, though she has suffered more or less for two or three months with cancer in the bowels & the blind piles -- is under the Dr's care -- he gives medicine & ointment that relieves & we hope will permanently cure --

She plays & talks a good deal -- I was saying something to day about a duck & she said, ducks is down to Mr. Lockwood's. She had in her mind one of our neighbor's ducks that she used to follow around last summer. I think she has not seen it since -- I did not know as such little children remembered things so long -- though she has often spoken of incidents several months after their occurrences. She knows nearly half of the letters -- we cannot very well avail her learning them as she commenced a while ago asking the names of them as she was looking at pictures in books -- we did not intend to teach them to her for sometime yet --

We have felt quite rich for a week past for we have new milk -- our cow was dry two months & a half & for sometime previous to her drying up she gave so little that we could make no butter -- we have been obliged to live very plain this winter, but have been blessed with good appetites to relish what we had, & now as Spring advances & our appetites call for more variety, a kind Providence is providing it for us -- we expect soon to have some maple sugar, eggs &c -- think Abby has a very wholesome appetite, she often takes a piece of bread or cold potatoe & eats it with a good relish she seems to have a great dislike to beans -- every thing else she east that we have --

We have our bed room floor laid. -- hope to have in the course of the summer more floor partitions laid up the remainder of the windows in, & some plastering.

Our Antislavery Sewing Soc. [*Society*] meets this P.M. usually attend, but I thought best to day to take the time & write to you, & beside I have some sewing on hand to do for Mrs. Codding which she wishes soon as may be -- believe Mr. Codding is expecting to remain another year -- he gives good satisfaction so far as we know -- there has been this Spring more than

usual religious interest in our church -- some <*who*> of the many who had got far away from God were brought back to take their proper places before [...], & there have been several conversions but there has not been a general outpouring of the Spirit -- we feel that our souls have not been entirely passed by without a blessing -- last fall Mr. Tenney our Minister last year gave us a book entitled “Views of Sanctifications” by Prof. Finney -- I think his views of prayer that you speak of are not in this book, but I believe that there is a book containing some of his sermons, in the place wh. we will endeavor to procure & read –

Dear Mother,

In haste I sit down to write a few words <*just*> though I hardly know what what to write

I would like to know what is the matter with uncle Luther is his mind affected? give him my respects, and also the rest of the family tell Martin to write to me I will try to answer if he will

I have been trying to get a living by teaming and could do so very well if I could get my pay as I go along, but I cannot however it will be wanted when it comes I got the team on account of my health and I know my health is better than when I labor on a farm I could have done better this winter in a school I suppose but the spring has now come and I believe I can do better with the team than any other way my health has not been good for some time but as good as ever when the warm season is approaching. I am now quite comfortable and feel that the spring seasoning is almost past if so it has past much earlier than usual I have hired a man to drive the team till I am strong again and get some other business done up He has now been here a week and we have earnt in that time $16, besides some other work that we have done I drove the team about two months before I bought it and my health improved rapidly during the whole time and until the middle of Feb. when the warm weather commenced my health never was better.

I intend to write to our people before long -- I mention about [her?] shoes Abby’s stockings &c because I thought perhaps it would be convenient for our people to read this letter some time before they would get another from us

D. <*Daniel*> last fall build a very comfortable warm stable for the horses & cow of rails and [strake?] --

give my love to all friends --
Your aff daughter --
Caroline

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

Flemington [*New Jersey*], March 23, 1861

Dear Grandparents,

I did not see much that interested me until I got to New York, As we approached the city the lighted windows looked like rows of stars at even distances from each other.

I did not expect to see the streets paved, I had always thought that only the sidewalks were paved; neither did I expect to see so many railroad tracks in the city.

In [*P.T.*] Barnum’s Museum I saw so many things that I hardly know where to begin or where to end. But I saw all of Mr. Adams’ bears. I saw the great sea lion, and a seal, and all sorts of fishes, and every other thing imaginable. I saw a play acted which I liked very much. I do not know what was the name of the play but in it there was a funny old man who pretended to have traveled a great deal. He told his lady love something about his travels. Among other things he spoke of meeting a saucy woman and he called her Miss Vinegar.

At Newark I saw Mr. Lincoln [*Abraham Lincoln*] while he was passing from one depot to the other in an open barouche drawn by four white horses. It seemed that he had nothing to do but sit in his carriage and touch <*and*> his hat and bow first on one side and then on the other.

I had a better visit at Uncle John’s than I expected to have. I went to the Episcopal Church when I was there but I never thought that there were such funny services in any Protestant Church.

There is an observatory on the top of Uncle William’s house, and we can see all Flemington [*New Jersey*] from it, and more too.

I like to stay here very much. Aunt Mary asks me to stay here and learn to write and read. She says it would be worth more than a hundred dollars to me if I could be a good and fast writer, and she thinks that I might become so by practice. And she thinks it would be worth as much more if I could get rid of what she calls the dreadful habit of drawing my words when I read. But mother thinks that Aunt Mary is not well enough to have the trouble of me and I don't believe she will let me stay. I would like to be here and I would like to go home too. I was glad to have Grandmother write to me. Mother thinks that Uncle Marcus' letter is first rate because it tells some particulars.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] Grandson
E.B. Grant

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. John Grant
Mill Brook
Litchfield County
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Via Hartford.

Poplartown [*Maryland*], March 18, 1838

Dear Brother,

I received your letter of Feb. 24 about a fortnight since, but have been prevented by a variety of circumstances from answering it till now. I was hardly prepared for the news which it bought, as I had concluded there was no insurmountable difficulty in the way of your coming here. I had made my plans for many particulars of pleasure and business, which I hoped to perfect after you came, but the perusal of the letter put an end to all such ideas. True, none of them could be considered of very great importance, and it did not cost me any very great or lasting effort to lay them aside, but I surely need not tell you it was a disappointment. Upon reflecting however that if you came here you would wish to return at least as soon as next August, that the climate here during the summer season though not decidedly unhealthy is more so than any part of Litchfield County [*Connecticut*], that besides all this sister Mary will probably be leaving home before Aug. for the last time, I at last concluded that it perhaps was the best plan for you to stay at home. As for your assistance in my school though it would be very gratifying on many occasions yet I never considered that it would be worth while for you to come here on that account. My school is very pleasant and very easily managed. I do not think there is a place in any part of Conn. [*Connecticut*] with which I am acquainted where children in school are so easily managed and where there is so little impropriety of conduct among the scholars, whether in or out of school. The cause of this is, not that there are no bad children here (though I believe there are as few as any where) but that the children who come to me are from the best families, from families which, though possessing in many cases immense wealth, and having at their command every luxury heart can wish, have never yet seen fit to adopt the practice of leaving their children to themselves and allowing them to grow up without restraint. The pride of family and rank which exists here much more than in Conn. [*Connecticut*] has too an influence. All the wealthy feel that they have a station to maintain in society, and there is nothing which here tends more to raise the poor from their degradation or to enable the rich to keep their rank than a serious effort to keep <*one's*> their children from improper company, and to teach them subordination to parents, teachers and all who are considered worthy of respect. The consequence is that all who come to my school, have been taught such subordination at home that they are very easily managed. There is however connected with their bringing up rather more aristocracy than can be found in Conn. [*Connecticut*] The people here are generally of the old school manners having no mixture of the <*loco-focoism*> democracy which has possessed to some extent all the people of New-England. I do not say that <*it*> this is any thing to their praise, but that it has some advantages there can be no doubt.

I have no particular intelligence to communicate. My health is very good as it has been all winter. I think I have suffered less from colds this winter than I have during the same season of the year for several years. But winter is now gone here. Grass is beginning to start very considerably, the sun shines very pleasantly , birds of all kinds are returning to take their summer

abode & all things indicate that warm weather is nigh. I would like to have you notice and record the dates of the blossoming of peach and apple tress and also of any other trees or plants that you may think proper. I will do the same here and thus we shall be able to obtain some more definite knowledge of the difference of the climates. The winter has been very mild here, but I suspect that the spring is not proportionally early.

I received two or three days since a letter from Phelps. He and his family were well at the time, though he stated that Mr. Griswold was quite sick.

You may perhaps have noticed in some of the papers the death of one of my scholars by the accidental explosion of a gun while he was hunting some three or four weeks since. It was truly an affliction to his parents, to myself, and to all the scholars, to whom he was endeared by his affectionate disposition and industrious habits though I do not think we have any reason to suppose he was pious. His mother who is I think one of the best of women feels the afflictions severely though she is perfectly willing to resign herself to God. I think a more affectionate mother cannot often be found or children who more richly deserve such a mother. The father is not pious. The boy's name was Edward Henry son of Zadock Henry he was about 15 years of age. His death was instantaneous.

I hope during this summer you will <*do y*> make your best efforts to be "dilligent in business." As you will of course labor you must not let any one have occasion to say that because you have thoughts of studying you are unfitted for work. Whether you will come on here in the fall we will leave for future determination.

March 20. Last evening I received a letter from you and brother Daniel which gave me information that sister Mary had left home for the last time. How could you have suffered her to leave home without even giving me an intimation that preparations were making for that purpose I cannot imagine, unless it be that the hurry of preparation prevented your writing to me. When Mary last wrote to me she said she should perhaps leave in May, but I was hardly expecting she would be ready before August. The news was surprizing to me, but as both I and you have been accustomed to the idea of her leaving home for some time, it did not occasion any particular new sensations. She has left her country and her kindred in the service of God, let us rest fully resigned in the belief that he "will be with her always even to the end of the world." I also see that you find some fault because I did not answer your letter of Feb. 24, sooner, but that I have already explained. I will however state that I sent you a paper which had you received it would have relieved your anxiety but I expect post masters have not yet learned the best way to send to "Mill Brook." [*Connecticut*] You will not I hope neglect your Algebra or Geometry, or reading good books, especially the Bible which I entreat you to make your daily study.

If you know I wish you would inform me where I can direct a letter to Mary I wrote to Brother Phelps <*two days*> three weeks ago, and shall send one to Elizabeth in two or three days,

Yours affectionately
Joel Grant.

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. John Grant
Mill Brook
Litchfield Co
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

U. S. Ship Potomac
Rio de Janeiro
June 28, 1841
Dear Brother,

Within the last two weeks I have received from you and Mother two letters the one dated March 13 and the other April 10. They make five letters that I have received from home since I came here and I can assure you they seemed to make the distance between me and home, shorter by at least 4000 miles. Your letters have all arrived safely and I had no idea that communication between this country and ours was so frequent and safe as I find it.

We had heard of the death of President Harrison, a few days before your letter arrived and I think we have every reason to regard it as an almost irreparible national calamity. From all that General Harrison has shown of his character since he appeared as a candidate for the Presidency, and from all that the warm discussions of a political contest have bought to light respecting his life and principles, I had flattered myself that we once more had a man at the head of government who united the wisdom patriotism and honesty of Washington and I cannot doubt that the people were beginning to regard him in the same way. It is possible that the government may be administered by Tyler on much the same principles but Tyler can never obtain the confidence of the people like Harrison

You write that you have attended the school at Norfolk [*Connecticut*] a short time. Of this I am very glad and from your description of the teacher I cannot but regret that you did not attend it longer. It was however too late for me to give advice and now I can only urge you to pay the strictest attention to the instructions you may receive at college

Upon more mature thought I have also concluded that the course you have adopt of entering Freshman is wise. There is much [to be] learned, and next to my desire to see [you a] good, useful and happy man is my desire [.....*page is cut*] you a learned one. You will I trust never [be] one of those who study merely to recite your lessons, nor one who is satisfied because you know as much as three quarters of your companions. It would not be surprising if you should find some of your classmates much more advanced than yourself, but let not that discourage you. If you will properly apply yourself, I will warrant you will ere eighteen months have passed outstrip many of them. Let me caution you against <*bout*> thinking your studies hard. This is a complaint you seldom hear from good students, you should rather rejoice that your studies afford you so good an opportunity to try your powers. Above all never let your aversion to a hard lesson prevent your using your utmost efforts to conquer it.

Be not hasty in forming acquaintances. You will find that those who please you at first will in the end be most disagreeable in many cases. In a few weeks however you will be<come> able to judge with considerable certainty, and till that time is past you had better not attempt to make acquaintances. You will not seek (and if you should seek probably will not obtain) a room in college the first year.

I trust you have some correct ideas of the importance of selecting good associates. In your case you should be careful not to associate with any one who uses profane language or who spends any of his time in dissipation, or who neglect <*their*> his studies to indulge in light and trifling conversation, or in light reading. Many more things of this kind I might say, but at present let me finish with <*my*> the earnest injunction to read a portion of the Bible every day, and to pay the strictest attention to the sermons of Prof. Fitch of which I would earnestly advise you to take notes from the beginning of your College course. Do not make them too long <*but*> for fear that you become tired of the undertaking. You would do well to get a blank book and set down the text and heads of discourse always, and whenever you feel disposed such of his remarks as you choose, but never neglect the heads of discourse.

I suppose there will be no difficulty in obtaining the money you need as I think either Mr. Battel or Father will furnish you on my account. I think my credit for $200 or $300 ought to be good by this time.

The coronation of the emperor has been put off till 18th of July and it is very probable that we may leave here before that time a circumstance I shall very much regret. The Emperor is still popular and the preparations for the coronation are going on upon a very extensive scale.

Give my love to cousin Maria Pettibone Margaret Nettleton, cousin Elizabeth P. and to all in any way connected with them. Also tell cousin Wm. [*William*] I am verily guilty in not having written to him and will try to write to him soon. I wish you would let me know where James Cowles is; I have sent two letters to him and have received no answer. I can write no more for I expect the master-at-arms to come every minute to extinguish my light which I am not permitted to burn after <*nine*> ten o'clock and the vessel sails to-morrow, by which I wish to send this.

Your affectionate brother

Joel Grant.

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

[*Addressed to*:] Dea. [*Deacon*] Elijah Grant
Millbrook
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Lat. 8° S. Lon. 41° S. July 1, 1839
13 weeks to day since we left Salem.

My very dear sister, Martha,

Tomorrow we expect to see Zanzebar, & the next day to land there. Two weeks ago yesterday we saw Cape Corrientes, the first land we had made on our voyage, & last Sat. we were again favored with a similar sight of Mozambique. Mozambique is a small island. We could distinguish trees, the flag staff, & could see what appeared to us buildings. Capt. [*Ward*] with his glass, could distinguish churches, houses, &c, & said things looked perfectly natural. He has often traded there. Mozambique is the capital of the Portuguese settlements on this coast. It was very pleasant again to see the abodes of men, though sad to think of their degraded state. The Portuguese are generally very destitute of moral principle, & are a curse to the natives. They still carry on the slave trade on this coast probably more extensively than in any other part of Africa -- It can only be done by smuggling, as it is a violation of treaty -- I feel less anxious to communicate many things in this sheet, than if I were not penning things that interest us as they occur to send home from Bombay, & besides Mr. B. [*William Burgess*] has engaged to write his friends through the Recorder [Missionary Recorder*?*], & has directed a copy of each Rec. which contains any thing from him to be sent to father. The same will be sent to Phelps, Elizabeth & Joel. Our water is still good, & we spend our time much as when I wrote last. I have written to Joel, Aunt, Mrs. J. P. Cowles, & to old acquaintances in Forsyth [*Georgia*] & intend to write several more letters before we reach Bombay, about the middle of Aug. We, (the missionary company) held a little meeting in the cabin, this evening for our monthly concert. -- As we are now almost eight hours east of you, prayer will be ascending in the U.S. till we rise in the morn, It is a consolation to feel that Christians pray for us, & the cause -- the more prayer, <*the*> more success -- Dear sister, pray for us -- pray for yourself -- pray much -- do not let little things ruffle you. If you have in time past, do not be discouraged. Whatever things occur to try our feelings & temper, tend to form our character & God is trying us by them. If we yield to impatience, & are peevish once, we let down a barrier, & are more easily led to do the same thing another time. So of any bad habit, & so of good habits. Martha, feel the importance of this, for you to have right dispositions & feelings is vastly more important than knowledge of books -- You may acquire perfect control of yourself, but not without effort, continuous effort. You will sometimes fail if you try, but when tempted, let some little prayer come up to a present God, such as "Lord, help me now" -- I feel this subject to be more important than I can express -- as it respects your own happiness, as it respects the happiness of our family as it respects your influence in the world in whatever station you may move -- Now, Martha, is the time too, -- now while you are young & at home -- Do it while young, that the habit of self control may be formed, do it while at home, for there more will occur to try you, & if you can there maintain right feeling & action the foundation will be well laid. The happiness & character of the family at home will be much affected by you -- very much. Would you have Marcus pleasant, kind & amiable Be so yourself. Would you help Daniel & have him aid you. Let him understand that you aim at doing right, You will by so doing be a blessing to father & mother -- It is a principle of phrenology that the activity of any feeling has a tendency to excite the same feeling in those around us, either good or bad -- Martha, you may tear off this half of the sheet -- keep it for yourself, if you please. I have thought of many things since I left home that I wished I had said to you. -- It was hard for me to leave you, I never felt such a tender love for you -- but my time was so short, & I had so many to see, & so much to do that I forgot many things. But one thing try to improve at home, try to make home happy. Do not feel that you cannot improve unless you are in school, or away at school -- I think home is a good place to improve by reading -- improve by conversing with father & mother -- It will give them pleasure to see you desirous to learn from them, & they will be happy to instruct you. Feel that you can thus learn much. I think you did improve the last year I was away. I know you will have much work to do -- I fear too much to take care of our great house. I hope all will try to help you to keep it neat. Do not injure yourself by lifting -- feel always that you have no right to injure your health -- Health is inexpressibly precious. the Lord bless & guide my dear sister.

I send this letter to Salem [*Massachusetts*] by ship Augustus Capt Willet. He expects to sail Aug 1. I shall send again when we reach Bombay.

[*written across front*] My dear Martha, Watts on the Mind would be an excellent book for mother & you to read together. I wish you would read a few pages together in it & talk about it together every day. You remember how sister A. [*Abigail?*] used to read to mother. You may even be the means of making mother more heavenly. If Aunt G Grant comes to our house treat her for my sake, as well as your own, with tenderness & affection. You will love & prize her always the more you know her. I feel M. [*Martha*] that you must write me -- write sisterly. Tell me what are your joys & trials, your wants. I hope you will not have so much house work to do but that you can sew a good deal. I did not sew enough the first 18 years of my life. Your aff. [*affectionate*] sister, M. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess

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

[*Original not in file, from typed transcript*]

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF MRS. BURGESS, FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY HER HUSBAND. SENT FROM MILLBROOK, CT. TO MISS MARTHA GRANT IN SOUTH HADLEY, MASS. OCT. 31, 1842.

Ahmednugger
July 3, 1842

My dear friends; -- I have this morning returned home, after an absence of 15 days and oh! what a return! The voice of my dear Mary [*Grant Burgess*] does not greet me, for it is hushed in the silent tomb; -- & I shall never hear it again in this world. I shall never see that sweet face again this side of the grave. At my last return home, but one week before I left on my late journey, -- with what affection did she welcome me! I shall never forget the tones of her voice as she met me at the head of the stairs; -- "Is it you, Mr. Burgess? Has my dear husband come?" Our dear Mary died on the 24th of June, of the cholera. She was taken unwell about 8 o'clock in the morning & at about 5 OC. P.M. of the same day, her spirit left this world of pains & trials for a world where these are never known. I was not here, to go with her to the dark valley; -- but she had friends, who did all for her I would have done. Her Savior too, was near her & supported her. -- When the intelligence of her departure reached me I was at Jalna, about 100 miles from this place. I was then ill myself, under the care of a physician; -- so ill that to hasten my return would endanger my own life. As soon as I became able I set out on my return, in the safest and most expeditious way; & reached home about 4 1/2 OC. in the morning. Oh, my desolate home! Oh, my poor orphan boy! but God is with me, and supports me. Since the first anguish of feeling was over I have been tranquil, cheerful, and happy. In all that lonely way, returning, my peace of mind was perfect. God was my rock; never was I more full of hope and courage with regard to myself, or the mission. God has done it; He knows best how to carry on his own work.
Who shall dictate to him the means he shall employ? How easy for Him, to make an impression, by her death, which many years of faithful labor would not have done. We already feel that the influence is mighty. It appears an important link in that chain of causes, and influences, necessary to accomplish the work for which she came.

July 6th This afternoon, I went with my little son Edwin, to visit the grave of her who was so dear. A strange mixture of feelings arose on thinking that that beloved form was only a few feet distance from where I stood, and I could not see it. I can never see it again. Edwin has been quite sick. I have great reason to fear that he will never be well. Should he live he may be a great source of happiness to me. We often conversed about the happiness the dear boy would afford the survivor, should one of us be taken away. Should the Lord remove him, also, the stroke would be very distressing: -- but not equal to the one just suffered in the loss of his mother. My only prayer is, prepare me for Thy Holy will, and enable me to fulfill my course with honor to my Savior. Must dear E. [*Edwin*] go to? The Lord's will be done. If the Lord supports me, I can bear up under it; -- if not, I can endure nothing, do nothing. I regard the experience of the last

week as of almost infinite value. Can I doubt that this stroke, which I now feel so keenly, will in the end, prove for my good. For some months past my beloved wife, & I, have often and freely conversed, on the subject of death. The importance of having our house set in order has been particularly impressed upon my own mind; & she has had the same feeling. This was especially the case just before I left home the last time. A gloom seemed to rest upon us. Edwin was quite sick: I was about to leave home on an arduous journey: the season was not the best for traveling; owing to the rains: yet there seemed no good reason for my remaining at home, excepting, fears, undefined fears. So after laboring hard, to have my accounts in as good a state as possible; -- & providing as well as we could against all emergencies, -- I got off on horseback for Jalna, on the 18th of June. I had the two-fold object in view of visiting Jalna, where we have missionary operations, & of preaching, & distributing books in the villages on the way. I reached Jalna on the 23rd. In the afternoon of the 25th I received the following letter from Mr. Abbott, written June 24th 1842.

> "Dear Brother: -- Our dear sister [*Mary Grant*] Burgess was attacked this morning with cholera, & we are all at your house, waiting with great anxiety, the result; & doing everything that can be done. An hour or two will decide the case. She says her Savior is near to her; still she feels very much for you & Edwin. We still hope for her recovery, -- but you will trust in God, & prepare to hear that she has gone to her rest."

You may imagine the effect which such intelligence, so sudden, so unexpected, had upon me. After an hour or two of great mental suffering my mind became calm, & unusually cheerful. The mail did not come in the next day, which was the Sabbath. On monday morning I received the following from Mr. Ballantine June 25th 1842.

> Dear Brother Burgess: -- Mr. Abbott's note of yesterday, informing you of Mrs. B's [*Mary Grant Burgess*] illness, & doubtless prepared you to hear the worst. We looked in vain, for a change for the better. She revived a little, but soon sunk under the power of the disease; & about 5 OC. breathed her last. We have this morning, followed her remains to the silent tomb. It is a day of intense grief to us all, -- for she who was the life of our little circle, has been suddenly removed from us. For you our hearts bleed, for we know what she was to you. But we hope God will sustain you. Indeed there is great cause of gratitude in view of the circumstances of her death. Her mind was clear, & unclouded, to the last. It scarcely wandered for a moment. Her hope was firm. Mrs. Ballantine asked her if she had any fear of death! She said -- "No -- not the least" She also remarked -- "How easy it is to die; no pain --" At one time she turned to Dr. Atkinson & said -- "How important is it to be prepared for death" I remarked to her, I suppose you feel safe and happy? She replied, -- "Yes" -- & added -- "I have done but little -- but for Christ's sake God will accept me" These expressions will show you the state of her mind. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar and Mrs. Ballantine had considerable conversation with her just before her death. The stroke was very sudden to us. In the morning we met her out on the road as she took her usual drive with Edwin, & we promised to go and take tea with her in the evening. She remarked that Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar was more feeble that Edwin had had a fevor night, & did not appear to be so well, but she said nothing about herself. We afterwards learned that she went to visit her schools before returning home; but finding herself unable to do anything in consequence of sickness & pain she rode home & took medicine -------
>
> the funeral was attended this morning. Several of our English friends, and crowds of natives, were present. Many were deeply affected. All seemed to feel a deep sympathy with us, & especially for you. The funeral services were very impressive. Mr. Jackson officiated and he has been very kind in giving us much assistance thus God has broken in upon our little circle & who could have been better prepared than Mrs. Burgess? Oh how we loved her! who can make her place good? But she is in heaven & happy in the enjoyment of God. All connected with us went to your house, yesterday, to see her, before her death. May it lead them to think of that salvation which she desired to teach them. I know you will almost dread to come home. The thought of seeing your house desolate will be painful. May you be enabled to endure this, through him who is the source of all consolation. Little E. [*Edwin*] is with us. he appears to be gaining. He is happy in the company of our children. Poor boy! he does not understand his loss. Mrs.

B. said several times, "my dear husband." "But God will take care of him & my little boy".
Yours in deep affliction --
M. Ballantine.

I leave you to imagine my feelings on the reception of the above letter. Oh, what would I not have given to have been there present. But God orders all things right & I bless Him that I can submit without a murmur.

July 8th -- Dear E. [*Edwin*] is worse, today; & I have but little hope of his recovery. I bless the Lord that I am able to say "thy holy will be done" ----- as I looked, today upon the dear one, my anguish has been great. When he fell sick at first I thought, if he should die, Mary would be left, but Mary was taken. Then thought I, dear Edwin is left. What a source of happiness he will be! Now it seems he must go too. Well -- so be it -- if I am bereaved -- I am bereaved. My only prayer is -- O Lord sustain me, and keep me from sinning against thee, & enable me to do all thou hast for me to do. What God intends to do with me I know not. One thing appears certain; if He does not support me I shall sink under my trials. I am willing to suffer all my heavenly father sees fit to lay upon me; only may he sustain me. O my poor frail nature! Lord -- have mercy.

July 9th E. [*Edwin*] is much better to day & I have more hope of his recovery. I have been thinking how Abraham must have felt when his son was restored to him.

July 10th Today I have been filled with joy, by hearing that one of our most promising teachers has expressed a resolution to become a christian. What glorious news! Another Bramin came in this morning as he was about to start for a distant village. His mind has been extremely tender since Mrs. B's death. He often used to call and converse with us in the subject of the Christian religion; and has sometimes manifested concern respecting his salvation. I have never, before, seen him apparently, so much wrought upon, by the spirit. We have strong hope that he will come out on the side of Christ. May he have the influence of the spirit.

July 12th E. [*Edwin*] seems to be growing weaker & weaker. The Dr. has but little hope of him. What have I to do but pray. O, Lord prepare me & the child for thy holy pleasure respecting us. I have often given him to the Lord; or rather, confessed with my whole heart, that I regard him as the Lords, & not mine: & I would not now, retract these conversions. There is something painful in the thought that you it must be two or three months before you and other friends will hear that Mary [*Grant Burgess*] has gone to her rest. How I would like to see you all! but that cannot be. I can only communicate in this poor way. It is a relief thus freely to express my feelings.

July 16th Our letters start for Bombay today; the steamers leave that place on the 19th I have never seen the time when all the powers of my soul were in such a state of activity. I have never performed anything like such an amount of mental labor in the same length of time. We are just making out our semiannual report & our quarterly meeting of the mission is at hand. Much labor has fallen upon me; much care respecting E.; writing to friends in America; all within thirteen days after returning to my desolate home. This is favorable; much better than if I was left to brood over my loss. Even when everything around me reminds me of my bereavement I can turn my mind with pleasure, & efficiency, to those things which concern my labors; can dwell, with the light on the goodness of God, the sureness of his promises, the thousand encouragements we have to prosecute our labors. -- -- My dear wife has left me, it is true; but she has only gone to heaven a little before me, -- & is beyond the reach of sin & pain. How I love to sing -- "Ah lovely appearance of death" -- & that line, -- "No longer a sinner like me". How much meaning it contains! O -- that my mind could always retain that heavenly savor -- weanedness from the world, -- which has pervaded it since Mary's death. It is a painful thought that I must remain & mingle in the scenes of temptation; that I must with such a depraved heart endure the <u>trials of living</u>. Oh how sweet would be the summons to follow my beloved wife! But then my poor boy! The mission, -- the poor brethren! I would if God wills still live & toil & suffer. I wish to be like a helpless child in the arms of my heavenly father. I am as nothing. With out divine support what would have become of me! That support has been granted. But I have not even the poor merit of having prayed for what I have received. I have prayed, & often too, for support, in this trying hour. But I never had an idea of anything at all adequate to what is the reality. Still there is nothing rapturous; only a perfect assurance that God will do all things right. God is a rock, God seems to have given me sober views which look into eternity; which look at things comparatively in all their connections; -- which enable me to see the inconstency of judging of all, where I can see only a part. Spiritual things seem clothed with a reality which they never wore before.

Dear friends farewell; we shall soon meet with that loved one who has gone before us. Perhaps you & she have met already.

Yours truly as ever,
E. Burgess

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY MRS. CYNTHIA FARRAR WHOSE HOME WAS IN THE FAMILY OF MR. BURGESS. THE STATEMENTS IN BRACKETS ARE TAKEN FROM OTHER LETTERS.

"You doubtless have heard of my long confinement at the Makabulishwur Hills, in consequence of feeble health. When I arrived here, June 3rd I thought Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess did not look so strong as when I left. She looked service-worn. As soon as I felt sufficiently rested from the fatigue of my journey, we entered into the arrangement that when she visited the two schools which I left in her case, on going to the hills, she would not stop to hear the girls reading lessons, but would send them to me, at the house, until I should be able to go to the school. When Mr. Burgess with two of the native Christian brethren set off on the 18th of June for Jalna, little Edwin was not well; but the Dr. did not think that much ailed him; & he expected that he would soon be better. He however continued feeble. [all a mothers anxieties were awakened by the state of the child; -- & she seemed to quite forget herself in her desire to do constantly for him. She remarked -- "I fear this is Edwin's last sickness." Her rest was much disturbed at night, -- & we've all greatly feared that her own health would suffer. No doubt this fatigue & care made her much more easily the victim of the cholera, then raging here] On wednesday night the 22 both mother & child slept well, -- & in the morning, they seemed refreshed. She appeared well, he much better. We went out together for a drive, -- & on our return, stopped & took breakfast with Mrs. & Mr. Ballantine; -- had a pleasant time, -- arrived home, -- & had a quite pleasant day. The next morning, Friday the 24th, on her return from the drive with Edwin, she looked so pale I inquired the cause. She said she did not rest so well as the night before; -- & was not feeling quite well in the morning, she took a little medicine. I professed her going to her chamber & keeping very quiet; -- that I would see that little Edwin had his breakfast -- & was taken care of; -- & as soon as my rice gruel was ready I would send her some. All this was done. Between 9 & 10 OC. I observed the servant to carry her a cup of tea, which led me to think she was better. After a short reading lesson I dismissed my girls, between 10 & 11 O.C. to go up stairs; but from sickness, occasioned by medicine, I was unable to do so, for a little time. On my second attempt to go to her the servant met me, saying that if I was able to come upstairs, Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess wished to see me. I hastened to her, without delay ["from the time of Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar's return from the Hills, she had not been able to ascend a flight of stairs."] The moment I saw her a chill went to my heart. Clasping her cold purple hands I exclaimed -- "O my dear sister, how very ill you are"! "Yes," she said, "& -- I do not know but I am dying." I answered it may be so". To one standing by I said, go quickly for Dr. Atkinson. She said, "I have sent for him, twice, --- & I think he will be here soon. I then sent for the brethren & sisters of the mission, -- & for the European nurse, at the hospital Until they arrived, the two native girls Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess & I had living with us, assisted me, in doing what we could to arrest the deadly chill that seemed fast pervading the whole system. There was not the least action from the stomach, but an apparent cessation of action throughout the whole system. ["Mortification seems to have taken place, in the extremities, soon after she was taken. This shows the nature of the disease."] I asked her if she could cheerfully acquiese in the disposition, should God now in the sudden manner, call her to leave the world? She raised her eyes upward, -- paused for a moment, -- then said, -- "I think I can. Should this be my last sickness, how quick & easy will be my release from this body, -- & from the world! But -- O -- my poor dear husband! What will he do? -- And -- my poor motherless child! What will become of him? But God will be gracious, He will be merciful, I know He will. I can leave them in His hands; I can trust Him. He will do all things well." We spoke of the conversations & promises of the gospel; -- repeated texts of scripture; -- &, alluding to our work among the heathen, she expressed no regret for the sacrifices, she had made; -- but rejoiced that she had been accounted worthy to manifest her attachment to the cause of Christ. She was so composed, -- so cheerful, -- so rational, -- so natural were the tones of her voice, -- & the

expression of her countenance, -- that there was no occasion for a tear. Oh how precious the recollection! I love to ponder on the mournful -- sweet -- scene of her last hours, -- her last days Yes -- on the varied scenes of all the days I ever knew her, o, how dear she was to me, -- to us all! & deservedly so. May the savor of her life so far as it savored of Christ, be as holy ointment to chastened souls, Nature weeps, but does not murmur. She frequently spoke of her family with tenderest emotions. She suffered but little after I saw her, except from a painful kind of restlessness which seemed to pervade the whole frame. My feebleness compelled me to retire as soon as those I sent for had arrived. They continued. with her until the last, -- using every means that wisdom or experience could devise, for arresting the process of the dreadful disease. When I was told that there remained no longer any hope of her recovery, I went again, to her bedside. She appeared perfectly rational & composed. As I took her hand I said to her, you now feel that you will soon be with your blessed savior; -- She replied -- "yes, -- & I feel that he is near, -- & precious." I then asked her if she had anything to say to me? She said "yes -- I have much that I wish to say to you but I have not strength." --
Between 4 & 5 OC. P.M. the door of the upper sanctuary opened to her. -- Jesus called, -- she cheerfully answered -- "I come to Thee." She entered in -- & is safe. From that peaceful pensive moment I shall see her no more, until the glorious resurrection of the just. Her remains were interred early the next morning; & at 5 OC. P.M. we had a prayer meeting here at the lonely dwelling; & a most excellent address from Mr. Ballantine from John 11. Here too, nature wept, -- but not without hope. Like her may we be ready; Like her, happy in prospect of our great change. -- Pray for us.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM MRS. BALLANTINE

Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess said to Mrs. Abbott, -- "Well, this is cholera: it is different from what I thought it was. I have not much pain." Mr. Abbott said to her, "What a comfort it is to one, in your situation, to be able to trust in the savior"! "Yes" -- said she; -- "I have lived very far from Him; -- but if I go, I think He will receive me. He appears near to me & I think I can trust in Him. What will become of poor Mr. Burgess"! An hour after this He said to her, -- "what a blessing, that we can cast all our care upon God, leave every want with Him."! -- she replied, -- "Yes, -- it is indeed; yes, -- all our cares; -- yes, -- yes." This we suppose she said in reference to Mr. Burgess, & her little boy [*Edwin*]. Upon opening her eyes, after they had been some time closed, she fixed them upon me & said, -- "Dear sister, do sit down". The Dr. now brought her some soda, & asked, "Do you think you can take this"? "Yes said She "if you think it best." This was her uniform reply to him, whenever he offered her medicine. About 3 O.C. she went to sleep, & appeared to sleep quietly for some time. When she awoke she said to me, -- "I am better," "You have been praying for me have you not"? "I think I Shall recover". The Dr. then brought her some more soda. She looking upon him & said, "I believe I have been wandering; & that made me think I was better than I really am". Then taking the drink she said, -- "How I want you all to take care of yourselves. I then said to her "You feel that you are almost home, do you not"? "Yes" said She. I then asked, "have you any fear of death"? She paused a little & said in an expressive tone, "No." I asked what shall I say to Mr. Burgess for you? She quickly said -- "My poor husband," -- "my dear husband; -- but he is a man of God, -- & he will be comforted. Then after a few moments of deep thought, she lifted her eyes to heaven, & exclaimed, Oh, -- to God be all the glory, -- all the glory, -- all the glory. A little after this she looked up to me and said, -- you will be kind to Edwin I feel that you will. She now began to sink rapidly: & when I supposed her almost gone, I said to her, -- "Miss Burgess do you know me"? She looked up with a peculiarly sweet expression of countenance, & said in a firm tone, "It is dear sister Ballantine". From that time She could no more be roused; & she sank away as quietly as a little infant to its slumbers. -------- She had her reason so perfectly, -- was so free from pain, -- & above all, so full of peace, that we must all feel that she was "let down, to the grave, most gently". I trust it has done us all good. Our native brethren & sisters have seen a Christian die; & we have all of us gained new, & clearer views of death, as it is to the child of God. --------- Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess was with us only a short time; but we do not measure her usefulness by years. We feel that few have done more for this people than she. Her prayers for them were many, fervent , & heartfelt; She had four schools to which she devoted a good deal of her time, energy & thoughts. These schools were in

the city; -- & visiting them from week to week she became extensively known to the girls mothers & to many women in the neighborhood. Often would they collect around her in little companies, and she would tell them of Christ, & of his salvation. Since her death these women speak of her in the most interesting manner. "A more cheerful happy person", say "They we never knew." She had many calls from the natives, -- & no one was ever suffered to go away from her without some word of instruction. Often would she say to me, -- "Now speak a word to this person, -- or to that," -- when we might. It was evident from the first that Mrs. Burgess meant to spend, & be spent for this people. She labored with all her heart & all her strength. ---------- the native brethren & sisters loved her ardently: -- & they now mourn & weep. As for ourselves we feel stricken & afflicted. She always came among us with so smiling peaceful a countenance as to impart life and joy to us all ---------- we try to inquire why it has been necessary for God to afflict us so deeply? The harvest here is great, & the laborers are few. We hope we may now say, Lord is it enough; -- stay now & thine hand; -- & spare us to labor on; -- &, o, accept our labors. ---------- The death of Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess will be a shock to you & to all her friends. May an abundant measure of grace be vouchsafed you, -- & support you all. I know you must all have ardently loved her, -- for she was worthy of your warmest love. She loved her parents, brothers, & sisters, ardently. She often spoke of them with great interest.

EXTRACT FROM ANOTHER LETTER OF MR. BURGESS. JULY 16

Little Edwin is better today. He appears to be gaining & we have strong hopes of his recovery.

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

[*Addressed to:*] Miss Martha Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] May 18 '44

Dear Martha,

To the great joy of us all, Tuesday eve has come and we can have a little rest from study. You cannot imagine what a sleepy set we have been since vacation, owing partly to the warm weather I suppose. Is it not curious that the heat should return with our returning here? I have felt a little as you anticipated since last Friday, though on the great whole as Miss [*Mary*] Lyon tells us about, I am quite happy. Cynthia Bowen has not returned yet, and as she is soon expected, and Miss Moore says "she would be clear killed up" if she should give another room mate, I am living an unsettled life as usual. A part of my things are in 39, and one draw full in 44, where I stay with Jane & Hattie Miles if I am a mind, and have permission to sleep with L. Pomeroy with whom I stay considerable. I love her very much.

There is to be general change of room mates tomorrow C. Huntington & L. Pomeroy are to room together. Augusta Wheeler & Hattie Miles in 44. & Susy Tollman & J. Miles are going to the <*second*> 3'd story. Tomorow I am going to stay in 47. with J. Chapman. I shall love to be so near Nancy F. She is delighted with her visit to Colebrook [*Connecticut*]. Says she did not see you half enough. Some of the most interesting items of her visit she will allow me to tell you when I go home. Julia & her brother G. came with her to Springfield [*Massachusetts*]. She arrived here a little while before we did Oh Martha you cannot think how much I wish you here to night. I feel like sitting down and pouring into your ears many many things that 'twould be foolish to tell any one here. I want to have you know what a happy, delightful ride & visit <u>we</u> had coming here. I think I never before enjoyed one as much. And a great many other things there are which would interest both of us, that must remain till I see you. I am writing in 44 Nancy just came in and asked me to write with her, to you. Told her I had begun first, and she might have part of this sheet. I suppose you are lying alone in your chamber at this hour, perchance a thought of your absent friend steals over you. She would dearly love to sit by your side to night & minister to your wants. good night Abigail --

[*written across side of first page*] Wednesday 10 o'clock. June 12. I have finished my extra work spent half an our in the reading room, & combed, washed and dressed for the day, and am now

determined to finish this letter, which has been begun as you see by the date more than two weeks. You can easily divine the reason, knowing as you do what a busy people we are. They have told us a great deal about having leasure for reading, sewing &c this summer, but where it is, I know not. I was never more hurried Euclid, Smellie, Grammar, Botanical terms, with composition, walking, domestic duties, & the innumerable etceteras here take all the time, for the want of which I do not sing! Did you know those B. [*botanical*] terms were arranged by Miss Moore & printer for the special use of the Sem [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]? And did you ever study any thing so hateful. They are the most hateful. They are the most uninteresting of all things, without exception -- & I have a good mind never to take one up again -- Cynthia B. came back last Friday, & we are staying in 39. now. next week we are going in 3d story, no. 50 next to Nancy's room. Esther Cook is going to spend the summer in New Haven [*Connecticut*] with an aunt. I shall rejoice if we ever get settled. There has been a general change in the dining hall, arrangements some tables moved &c. all the the N. division on one side & the S. on the other I sit at Miss Lucy's table No. 7. Miss Bridge, between Miss [*Mary*] Lyon & Whitman -- Miss Moore as usual I am on the tablecloth circle -- iron four every morning soon after breakfast, & lead on the ironing circle Sat. one hour I like it much better than working in the D. Hall.

Miss Moore has just sent word that we are not to continue our Smellie, we have so much to do

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*], June 5, 1844

Dear Martha,

There is a sort of strange feeling in taking one's pen for the first time to address a friend, however dear, but it shall not prevent my fulfilling the promise I made you. If what I can write will make <u>one</u> long hour seems shorter I shall think myself most happy. This is the eve of a <u>long</u>, <u>pleasant</u> <u>recreation</u> day; made doubly so by the enjoyment of a social visit in town. A party this afternoon went over to "Pearl city," they numbered 45 including their <u>gallant</u>, "President Hawk" They seemed to enjoy themselves much. Indeed, we have the prospect of a very pleasant summer; the young ladies seem more than usually contented, for the summer term, You know by experience how long it seems. The last two weeks have passed more rapidly than my most anxious moments would have wished. Especially after an equal time of vacation spent so agreeably. That was a pleasant visit; and I shall love to remember it. My stay at your house was not so long as my wishes would have said; but I thought you must be so fatigued with company that my longer stay would weary you. And how are you to-night? I will hope "better." Yes really so. I often wish I might run in and sit with you a while -- but instead can only think of you, but that is some pleasure as I know how you look. You must sometimes have lonely hours I think; but hope they are few and far between. And no doubt in such hours you love to cast "all your care on Him who careth for you" knowing that "these light afflictions which are but for a moment work out for us a far more exceeding & eternal weight of glory." I hope you are able to enjoy riding this fine weather, we find walking very pleasant these days, if it comes at the right time. Abby is now in No. 55. with J. Miles, 'till Susan's return, We hope she will soon be neighbor to us. I left her not long since busily engaged in writing to her New Haven [*Connecticut*] correspondent from whom she received a letter a day or two since. Sarah wishes to be remembered to you in love, Please accept much also for yourself and your dear mother, (tell her I shall not forget her.) from your friend and sister Nancy A. Toole.

Professor Hitchcock is to finish his course of lectures of Anatomy, Physiology in a few days, I wish your mother might be here to hear the conclusion

N [*Nancy A. Toole*] --

[*written across side of the page in another hand*] I am going to fill up all the vacant places in this. Do not you have very cool weather? we do. Yesterday a great many of the girls had fires in their rooms. The front yard is very beautiful all in bloom. I wish you could see it. The roses & pinks are particularly handsome The back grounds <*too*> are not to be surpassed by any thing -- On the whole I think this is almost the pleasantest spot on earth; and I rejoice that Providence directed me here. If I could only learn all I want to by, coming I should feel better satisfied Have to day finished my private examination in Gen. [*Genesis*] History, marked 3. I guess. We are all

dreading Algebra. Miss Lucy is to examine us, I do not expect to get 3. in that. The bell rings for missionary meeting so I must go.

After missionary meeting we have had a recent letter from Miss H. read, giving an account of the interesting state of her school. There are a few cases of hopeful conversion She writes in the same happy state. Although trials must be hers, joy such as the world knows not of fills her heart. She writes that she had long watched over & prayed with a woman who was anxious for her soul, & when she began to hope she was a christian she almost felt like Simeon of old. "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace" she adds, "I would not now go if it is the will of my Father that I may yet do much more for him here." Our missionary meetings are among the precious things of this Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] I hope & trust many may go from here to various parts of the world to do good like Miss H.

Abigail –

Holyoke Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]
June 11, 1844

My Dear Martha,

Abby has very kindly given me a place in her letter in which I may write you a few lines, and I very gladly accept of the opportunity of doing so, for I love to write to those I call my friends And now if you would like to take a peep at me in my new home, I will just introduce you to No 55 in the third story, where Suzy & I are both seated writing. It is recreation evening, and as you may guess we are glad enough to lay by our studies, and get a little rest, if the work of a recreation day can be called rest. C Bowen & Anna both returned the same day, so that Abby nor I were either of us unprovided for as to a roommate, But I must stop no longer to tell you of our affairs for I wish to inquire after your health and happiness I should think you would be rather lonesome sometimes, though it seems to me it must be a good sort of lonesomeness. Would that I might give you a call tonight, and look upon you with my own eyes, and perchance minister to your wants. But I cannot to night -- for the retiring bell has rung & I must bid you Good bye. Give my best love to your mother, and in bestowing it upon her, forget not to reserve a large share for yourself. -- From your ever affectionate friend. -- Jane M Miles.

My Dear Martha Wednesday Morn.

I too may have a place on Abby's sheet, and though I would love dearly to write you a whole letter, I trust a little piece of one will be better than none at all. I must tell you what a long vacation I have had. I returned last Friday, having been at home four weeks. But was I satisfied, and ready to come back? no gladly would I have staid longer still I was not sorry to return. On Wednesday last my only brother was married that was the reason my vacation was so long. A very pleasant wedding we had (if any wedding may be called pleasant) instead of losing a sister as I have before I have gained one, and I trust a valuable one. I have to study some to make up lost time. We are all Botanising much this summer We have just commenced upon private examinations; you will remember how very delightful those are. Next week we go to the mountain if the weather permits and to day a strawberry excursion is intended. I should love to look in upon you this morn -- and give you one kiss. I trust you are better much. Give much love to your dear Mother. Affectionately Susy Tolman

[*written across side of third page*] I have written in great haste but I know you can overlook it all knowing in what haste we Holyoke girls live. My love to Julia Stillman

[*written across side of third page in another hand*] Don't believe you can read it all.
Do let us hear from you some way, if no one else can, Olivia can write for you
my love to her, Abby

[*written across side of fourth page*]
I do not suppose you will be able to read all this long letter at one time, but I know you will love to read it as you have strength so to do. How are you now, do you sit up any? and can you eat any thing, and is that distress in your chest & bowels removed? and are you happy, and a great great many other thing I want to know about you. Is your mother still well. I feared she would feel

almost worn out after Joel & John were gone & all was quiet Give a great deal of love to her, tell her she is not forgotten here, the girls often refer to her, & wish they could see her again. I frequently go down to see Abby Allen and look into the sick rooms. It seems almost as if you would be on the bed & your mother sit by the window. Miss Ferguson has occupied your room for two weeks. She is now some better -- Miss Green, is sick of a slow fever, no others this term have been down. Dr. Belden visits the Sem.[*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] daily. He looks almost well. I have not heard a word about Dr. Hawkson <*since*> this term. Is not the thought of many things last winter pleasant to you? It is to me. I love to think of the time when you was here with me, and though the thought of your sickness is painful, yet the kind hand that sustained you & spared your life, is ever to be praised. How much have we all to be thankful for. it seems as if I realize it more & more every day. Oh that we might regard all our blessings as we ought. I have no more time now. Na[...] has come to sew with me an hour -- your aff. Abigail

Wednesday eve. The retiring bell has rung & I am sitting in bed Cynthia in a horizontal position holding the lamp. One way you will say to avoid being tardy Now my dear Martha will you be able to answer that I want to hear from you very much, Joel wrote me you was comfortable when he left, & that he should hear from you before <*you*> he wrote again. I do hope you are better. If you can write a few words a day without hurting you, do. if not I would not have you, but I do want to hear directly from you. I have not written half I want to tell you, but some one has been talking to me most of the time, which you know is not very conducive to good writing, & Cynthia is now telling me a story. Miss Moore, Mary Brown, Cynthia and a great may others send their love to you -- we all want to see you. Perhaps you would like to know that you are not forgotten in our social prayer meetings, or private devotions. It is a comfort to feel that we are remembered by our friends, at the throne of grace. Abby.

Thurs morn. It is very pleasant this morn. for a wonder I am up at four o'clock, the first bell -- Do you ride these pleasant days? 30 of the girls went after strawberries yesterday, but did not get many You can hardly imagine how glad I shall be when the 1st of August comes. If you see our people give my love to them tell them I am well & happy. Delia Warren came yesterday. she has nearly recovered from the effects of her fall. Miss Lyon gave us a long lecture Tuesday upon "the principle of promptness," the immediate cause of which was the tardiness of the young ladies in returning -- 52 were absent the first night from Sections. They have been coming along every since -- Abby Allen was expecting to fill this part of the sheet, but as she did not come to do it, I thought it had not better be delayed. Miss Moore & Beed, Abby Allen Miss Founer & Adams send a great deal of love as also does your aff. cousin Abigail Cowles.

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

[*Original not in collection*]

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Jan. 17. 1834

Dear brother Daniel,

You will not think that I address you because I am so much indebted to you for yr [*your*] oft repeated communications. I think you never wrote me a word. -- I hope a year from this time I cannot say this in truth. I wish to know much about you, write me in what things you think you have made some improvement the past year, & in what you hope to improve this year. Let me know something about your religious state. Are your Sabbaths profitable & delightful. God makes use often of the humblest instruments to build up his cause, & brother D. [*Daniel*] we may aim at being instrumental in doing this. The members of our school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] who hope they are Christians meet every Sab. [*Sabbath*] & spend [...] hours in prayer, & hearing instructions from Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. Our subject to day was suited to lead us to prepare our heart for a visit from the Holy Spirit, & to put away every iniquity. These are very precious meetings. It was remarked that we were in danger of saying our prayers, instead of praying. I felt it to even so. Do not neglect secret prayers one day, dear christian brother, you will thus bring darkness, distress & leanness into your soul. And will you not seek to pray <*that*>

whenever others lead in the church, & in the social circle, & in the family. Let your heart rise in each petition, or strive for it. But if your thoughts should wander, join heartily in the amen.

I received a letter from sister E. [*Elizabeth*] two days since. She wrote in very good spirits, I think, says her school far exceeds her anticipations. Miss Bridges has given up the primary department & assists E. [*Elizabeth*] They have 40 young ladies. She says some of them are ornaments to <*any*> the school & do as well as they can. She has changed her boarding place. She now boards with 18 or 20 of the young ladies. Their friends provided food, & the young ladies prepare it for the table. They have a matron to keep their fires, & attend a little to their dinner. She is pleased with the plan thus far. Her scholars have been studying Colburn's & Adams's Arith. Nat. & Mental <*Moral*> Phi. & Watts. reading chirography & spelling & composition. She writes so seldom. I thought perhaps you might not know these things. She mentions that the first Mon. in Jan. was to be observed as a fast. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] approves of such boarding establishments there.

I heard thro [*through*] Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] that Joel & some of my other friends had been studying Watts this winter. I was rejoiced to hear it. Elizabeth & I have been teaching it. I hope & think we must all be profited by it. I think it almost impossible to study it, without being profited. We have not yet exhausted it. I wish you to know it so thoroughly that his ideas will be at hand, whenever appropriate. What habits do you wish to eradicate what to perfect.

Yours, in love, Mary. [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Care of E.P. Grant Esq.
Canton
Ohio U.S. A.

[Ahmeduaggur?], June 10, 1840.

My dear brother Daniel,

Nearly a month has passed since the Brenda, a vessel from Salem [*Massachusetts*], laden with ice, reached Bombay. The ice which cost the owners some 1500 dolls [*dollars*], immediately sold for $10,000. But I was about to tell you it brought letters, periodicals, & books to us, which truly cheered & feasted us I had heard nothing directly from my relatives for 14 months previous. I had two full letters from Joel, a part of one being written by mother, & among other items I learned that you were in Ohio upon a farm near brother Phelps. I was, as far as I could perceive, glad to hear it though knowing so little of circumstances, I ought not to have a decided opinion. But in that land of enterprise, & improvement & progress if you take a right stand you will be respected & useful [...] have a pretty good foundation for an education, I mean you are somewhat thoroughly grounded in the rudiments, upon this, by your reading, reflection, & intercourse with men & things you may in 20 years erect a noble superstructure, & be a <u>first rate farmer</u> too. Your first thoughts, after your soul, I think should be directed to the profession you have chosen. This is desirable both as to success & comfort in your labor. But dear brother, be not cast down by disappointments. Settle that point that it will not do. Be a happy man; a cheerful man. <u>Govern</u> yourself. Your habits have been some defective in this respect. But this must not dishearten you. Rise it is not too late, not too late for you to be all you wish. You may be as useful in your sphere as any of your brothers, though your vocation is different. Do not compare yourself & your priviliges with others to your injury remember God only requires the best improvement of the talents with which he intrusts us. You will meet all sorts of society, but I feel confidence that you will be found in the ranks of the virtuous. I feel that you will be where you can have access to good books. You should not work all the time, but you must continually be industrious. You should probably read some, besides devotional reading every day. Besides keeping accounts straight I would recommend your writing a little every day perhaps in a diary, something which you read, or some fact you would like to retain or practice upon drawn from conversation or observation. Watts on the Mind would be a good book for you to read with care.

Phelps will help you to standard works which read principally I think, but you will not read many volumes a year, yet by having a system, you will treasure up much that will be valuable, & tend to make you happy. Improvements & arrangements upon the little spot made more green & lovely by your labor, will constantly tax your judgment, & the works of God, <*will often*> as manifested in the vegetable world, will often attract your notice, & raise your heart in admiration & love. Yours is a noble employment, & is every where considered so. Aim to have a plan, a system, & though often unavoidably [...] to deviate, yet do not give up. Consider your habits, perfect the good, correct the bad, & create the wanting. Be cleanly in your person, do not neglect the frequent use of water upon the whole system. Be temperate in diet & <u>especially</u> be <u>virtuous</u> in every <u>particular</u>, yes, be chaste, every where, alone & in company in thought, speech & manner. Be a Christian example. One point more, important though delicate. You will need ere long to select a bosom partner. O what circumspection, & what guidance from on highs you require here. Make this an important part of your intercession before God. Your usefulness & your all will be affected by this step. So do not be hasty, make yourself worthy of one of the excellent of the earth, not the rich, but one of the sensible, healthy, & virtuous daughters of new Eng [*New England*] I would say -- yet I would not choose for you. I think some of your New Eng. [*New England*] acquaintances would make you happy. In training your own habits, one motive may be, to make yourself what you should be as the head of a family But dear brother, from my interest in you, I have written thus much, it is for your own eye, & for your own good. Keep near to God. Aim to do every one good. Remember the Sab. [*Sabbath*] & the Bible & closet. I wish you to write me particulars about yourself. brother Phelp's family and all.

Aff. [*Affectionately*]
M. Burgess [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

We are interested in our work, & happy [...] I feel that we have a wide field, & need the prayers of those who seek the extension [...] Christ's kingdom at home. Mr Burgess is devoted to his work. It is a hard field, but we have encouragement to work on, Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has just commenced a school for teaching Eng. [*English*] & we are hoping it will be useful to the people. I will tell you more of our work next time. Do you see the Recorder's that contain Mr. B's [*Burgess*] letters. My very kind regards to each of the cousin Griswolds & their wives. also to Mr. [Golding?] & any others, who I should remember.

Truly yours.
M.B. [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

Dear Brothers, Phelps & Daniel, & Sister Susan,

Through brother Joel & mother I learned respecting your return to Ohio, & your visit in Ct. [*Connecticut*] I am glad too to hear so favorable an account of that little niece. I would like well to make her acquaintance. I wish to hear from you as particularly as you can afford to write. I have written one letter home since we commenced keeping house last Nov. but as you have not probably seen that <*probably*> I will introduce you to our pleasant home. And that you may get a clearer idea even from an imperfect sketch. I will draw the city with a pencil at one corner. It is not a square, but it is longer from east to west than from N. to S. It is surrounded by a mud wall, 18 or 20 feet. This wall is kept in a good state of repair. The city is entered by 11 or 13 gates. I forget which, some of these two or three entrances are not for carriages. Pop. [*Population*] of the city is 23,000, the majority of whom are miserably poor, & degraded. <*No. 1*> Fig 1. represents the location of our house just outside the N.W. gate of the *

[*As best representation -- perhaps not entirely to scale, see original if necessary*] *city Fig 2. the house Mr. French now occupies. He has lived with Mr. Abbot till this week. I value having them so near. Fig. 3. Mr. Ballantine's place. It is situated in the center of the city, but it is high & airy. The female boarding school is in the yard. Fig 4. is Mr. Abbott's place a full mile from us. In his yard is the boys boarding school. The chapel too is there. It is the only spot owned by the mission in Nuggur, & is in the S.E. part of the city. Fig 5 represents the fort, & the sixes the cantonments of Eng [*English*] residents. A few of the Eng. [*English*] call on us & many are friendly.

We are about 170 miles E. from Bombay the intervening road is good a government road. The mail leaves for Bombay every P.M. & arrives here from there every morn, requiring two days in passage. Postage is cheap is determined by weight, so that I have been telling my Amer. [*American*] friends that when convenient, write on thin paper. Our upper rooms are peculiarly pleasant composed of a sleeping & bathing room, & Mr. B's [*Burgess*] study. In front is a verandah where I often walk at eve for the fresh air. We have a thick cotton carpet on the study which cost about seven dollars. Here is Mr. B's [*Burgess*] library which consists of about 500 volumes, & I assure you we have no want of good reading (There is besides here a mission library.) a desk & table & about three chairs constitute the remaining furniture. Here we spend our evenings when we have no company. My room & our sleeping apartment has a much cheaper kind of carpet a wash hand table a towel rack, a dressing table, a bed, a wardrobe & some trunks, & a chest. It is of good size & is airy.

Our bathing room is one of our choicest luxuries, & we are not sparing in frequenting it. During the hot season which is now giving way to the rainy season, it has been to us invaluable. From the first of April to June 1 the thermometer (excepting two days when it stood at 99 [*degrees*]) has risen to above 100 [*degrees*] in the shade, (open air) -- quite a number of days it has risen to 105, 106 & 107, -- yet by keeping rooms shut, & by frequent bathing, in general, we have not suffered much from heat. Yet there is a [*languos?*] which unfits one for rigorous action, & is one of the trials of missionary life in India. Below is a parlor, breakfast room a small room, which I call mine, & a dispense room answering to a pantry at home also a room which I use for storing away things. None of these rooms are remarkable, they are generally convenient. The house is very old, but it is comfortable a part of it, is of stone, & part of mud brick. In my parlor I have a ding table, a pretty table, a couch sofa like, & about 9 chairs. We brought a rocking chair from America & Mr. B. [*Burgess*] purchased another in Bombay of the Capt. of our vessel. So we have each of us one, one we keep above the other below. My furniture is respectable better than I expected. Indeed I wish you to think of us as happy. As for eatables, we do not get much variety, though we have many good things . Eggs are abundant & cheap, much more than fowls, Beef & mutton are good, particularly the latter. Sweet potatoes & onions are our principal vegetables for cooking Rice is an important article of diet. We also get good wheat bread from the baker, & I often make it myself. I have my butter made in the house, every morning. Fresh fruit may be had almost every day, some of which is very fine & would be so rare in America that we often wish we could get some to you. -- I forgot to mention that our house is surrounded by pretty gardens. It has rose bushes, just arrived, artemisia, a species of hyacinth, & many other pretty flowering plants. It is shaded too by the Tamarind the Pride of India, the gum Arabic tree, the mulberry the [pineful?] pimpuree sandal wood, & several other trees whose names it would be difficult for me to write in Eng. [*English*] I often walk in the garden, & botarize some have pressed some hundred specimens. Next vessel I shall see a letter from you, I think. Any letter you know as posted in N.Y. [*New York*] will finally reach us.

Aff. [*Affectionate*] your sister
M. Burgess [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

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

[*fragment of letter from John Grant to Daniel Grant?]*

You wish to know what Dr. Knight said to my inquiries &c.

His opinion is that [trouble?] must recur again for the same reason as before. When I asked whether it would be best to try farther for relief he simply said that he could not tell beforehand — implying that it would depend upon the symptoms or the modifications under which the malady should be there formed. Probably under the same circumstance <*I think*> he would advise to submit to another operation, if I felt disposed. He charged me $30 — for services last spring —

You will perceive that you sent me a good deal more money that I expended for the book but you did not tell me how to dispose of the balance of sixty — cts [*cents*] or so — I have not the

amount in postage stamps — so will keep it till you want some thing else — I use the book in our school — and it was a [tachen?] that I got it so cheap

I am glad Abby has an opportunity to learn much — Give my love to her and Eddie — to sister Caroline also a brother's love —

I shall write to Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] immediately the intelligence from Marcus — also to Joel —

In haste
Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Jn. [*John*] Grant.

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

Mt. Holyoke Fem. Sem.
[*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]
So. Hadley [*Massachusetts*] July 6th

My dear Aunt Carrie [*Caroline Grant Burr*],

I believe I half promised Uncle Daniel as I bade him good bye, after my pleasant visit at your home, that I would write to you some time, and I have more than once come very near fulfilling that promise, but have delayed for want of leisure or interesting matter to communicate.

I learn from Uncle Marcus that you have sold part of your farm, and suppose you now think of removing to some more favorable location. Will you go farther west? If so I hope we may have the pleasure of seeing you at home. I do not know as we ever should if it did not "happen so". I wish that the Western Reserve offered sufficient attractions to the farmer to induce Uncle Daniel to settle near us, but suppose that there, very much as in Norfolk [*Connecticut*], we have an intelligent excellent class of people, but very little highly productive land.

I must tell you what a pleasant time we had here at the Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] last week. I know you would have enjoyed it very much — you would probably have several old acquaintances. You know there are a large number of missionaries in this country now some of whom are formerly connected with this school, and one teachers thinking it would be pleasant to all parties to have a "reunion" invited over one hundred missionaries and patrons and friends of the institution to be here on the 30th last June. Among them were fifteen gentlemen and thirteen ladies who had in all spent 398 yrs of missionary labor. Of the ladies Mrs. Hazen (Miss Martha Chapin) Mrs. Stoddard (Miss Sophia Hazen) Mrs. Howland (Miss Susan Reed) Mrs. Webb (Miss Foote) Mrs. Mills (Miss Tolman) and Mrs. Wilder were formerly pupils and some of them teacher here. "Father Migs" for 45 yrs a missionary in Ceylon. Dr. Perkins 25 yrs. in [Aroomiah?] Persia, Dr. Anderson Secretary of the A.B.C.F.M. [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*], Ex. President Hitchcock and others of whom we have often read and heard were here and addressed us. — Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] and Mrs. John P. Cowles were here from Wednesday afternoon until Friday morning. They have both visited Austinburg, and it was very pleasant indeed to see them. Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] looks better and says she feels better than she did there. She is at present boarding in Ipswich. They both charged me to remember them to friends, when I wrote, with much love. – Another wrote me that I would probably have a call from Aunt Abby, but she does not come, and I fear I shall not see her.

My school year closes the 28th of the month, three weeks from tomorrow. I can hardly believe that I am going home so soon. I expect to go to Newbury and other places in Orange Co. [Vt?]. where father's relatives live, to spend about a week before returning home. I remained at the Sem. last vacation for the sake of studying — read [Amacitia?] with my room mate in that time —. I shall have completed the Junior studies, and shall have only three of the shortest of the Middle studies "back," and suppose I could easily complete the course here in another year, but rather think I shall prefer to go to the Lake Erie Sem. [*Seminary*] in Painsville, which opens the 15th next Sept. to graduate, as mother favors my doing so rather than to return home, and the trustees are anxious to have a Junior Middle and Senior class the first year as they did here. — You probably know that Mary Grant is coming here next year. Have you heard of the death of her

youngest sister Martha? I have not heard particulars but "the Canton girls" told me that she had been a long time sick, and at last was thought to have the dropsy upon the brain.

Please remember me affectionately to aunt Nettleton, and cousins Margaret and Desiah, and assure them that I shall never forget the pleasant visit I had with them last winter, also to Olive Crissey to whom I feel much indebted of the kindness she has shown me on many occasions. — I often think of the trouble I caused my friends on account of my keys and wonder if I shall ever be so careless again.

Have friends informed you of brother Philander's expedition to Newfoundland? He started, I suppose, on the 23rd of May, as a passenger on board a cod-fishing vessel in the hope that the sea air might be a benefit to his health, as physicians told him that he was consumptive, and would soon have trouble, if he did not take some such remedy. He does not expect to be back until the middle of Sept.

I hope aunt Carrie you will not feel obliged to answer this poor letter — though we love to hear from you dearly, yet I know you have many cares, and other correspondents who have stronger claims upon you. Will not Abby some time write me? I should be very happy to receive and to answer a letter from her. Please give her much love, as also Uncle Daniel and cousin Eddie and accept a large share yourself

From your aff'te niece
Mary E. Burton

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

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

Single Folio Sheet

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] <*Aug.*> Sept 11, 1843

Dear Brother,

I rec'd [*received*] your letter dated Aug. 10, and mailed Aug. 13, on my arrival home day before yesterday (Saturday), and also have read your letter to father. I had heard little or nothing from you before and was really glad to know about your circumstances <*and*> though I regretted you did not feel better, and were not able to give a better account. I feel very sorry you were so deceived by my mismanagement in your passage from Albany [*New York*] to Buffalo [*New York*], but as you had a quick passage on the lakes and got through safe, we have much to be thankful for. I had no idea that all opposition on the lakes was to cease so soon, and had I anticipated it I should certainly have advised you to engage your passage through from Albany.

Mr. Knapp rec'd a letter from you day before yesterday by which we are happy to learn <*states*> that you have heard of the box Phelps sent you. I am very glad of this, for whatever else it contained, you cannot well get along without Webster's Dictionary and Scott's Bible.

I am satisfied with the manner you laid out my money, and have no doubt it will prove a fair investment. Let the examples of the man of whom you bought it be a warning to you never to put yourself where others can take advantage of your necessity.

I am astonished at the high price you were <*ob*> obliged to pay for oxen, and can account for it in no other way than by the extreme scarcity of hay last winter, and the great numbers which the farmers wish to buy this summer. Last fall the Illinois people brought them to Wis. [*Wisconsin*] in great numbers and were glad to sell them at any price. Perhaps the same may be the case this fall, but I fear you have neither hay nor money enough to take advantage of the circumstances. You must be very careful not to winter more stock than your hay will supply.

As for the house which falls so far short of your expectations, you and Mrs. Burr had so much to do with alterations &c. that a contract would have been of no use had there been one. In the letter which I wrote him I described the house you wanted after I returned, and you also wrote a

description and he wrote to you that he would build such a house for $10 more than I agreed with him <*for*> i.e. for $65. The following is the plan for the house I proposed (I have a copy of my letter.)

A. The Kitchen. B. Bedroom C. Buttery. D. Closet opening into the bedroom. E. Closet opening into the Kitchen. The closet D was to be furnished with shelves the at <*other*> further end, but <*in*> other things after partitioning the house were to be left to be arranged according to your taste after your arrival. When the house was thus partitioned I considered Levi's duty completed. A cellar was to be dug 18 feet square. I had gone on thus far in describing the house that was to be, when mother told me that
Levi said it was impossible to find logs of sufficient length to build such a house, and had built a very different one. In this case I know not what can be done, but as you have paid him the $65 and have found him to be so bad a man I think you had better have nothing more to do with him in any way. If the house is unfinished, you had better finish it yourself than to have any thing more to do with such a man, which would only be the occasion of more trouble and vexation of spirit. After all I doubt not it is much better for you than if you had had no house to go into, for if you had been obliged to hire your board it would have been expensive. As it is I think you had better make your calculations to put up a frame house in the course of two or three years which you can make to your own taste. I think you had better put it on the other end of the lot and make a road across the swamp when you will be within one mile of the village. As for [y]our being to near to Levi, though -- it is unfortunate, yet you must learn to have nothing to do with those people who are not worthy of your confidence. If you have need of things which he has, you had better not borrow them often, and then if you choose you can tell him that you do not wish to have any intercourse with him, although I do not advise you to do so. At all events never suffer yourself to harbor ill-will against him or any other man for it will sour your temper, and you will be very unhappy. Take an independent upright course, and while you are grateful that God has given you a spirit which is not mean never allow yourself for a moment to indulge hatred towards those who are so, for it is the surest way to make yourself like them. Often utter such a prayer as this, "I beseech thee O Lord to forgive my enemies, persecutions, and slanderers and to change their hearts."

I suppos[e] you wish to borrow Levi's horse occasionally which must be [u]npleasant to you. I think you had better buy one of some kind, and if you think necessary for that purpose I will lend you some part of the money I send you which you have not laid out. It will be well to purchas[e] a mare who can do all your work, take you and Caroline wherever you wish to go and by <*whom*> which you can raise a horse in four or five years.

I am sorry you do not like your place which I took a great deal of pains to purchase so that should combine the advantage of access to market, contiguity to a village, excellence of soil, &. If not be easy, I will take it into my own hands and pay you $300 in money at almost any time. I am sorry that you or any one should be dissatisfied on account of my inefficiency or want of judgement, and will therefore do this although at something of a sacrifice I do not wish you to lay out any more money for me in the purchase of land, nor can I supply you with money to exchange your farm for another. But if you think it best I will purchas[e] your farm and pay you <*the in*> $300 and the interested upon it from the time of your purchase. I hope you will see that some ditching is done especially on the west end of the lot for there can be no doubt that the west end is the place for building. I fear you will have so much to do with our money that you will not do so much ditching as I proposed. As for my lot east of the creek, you need have no fears, I am glad you do not want it, for I have no doubt I can sell it for more than I felt willing to ask you for it. We will let it lie for another year and see then what is best to [d]o.

By about the time you receive this I expect to be in New-Haven [*Connecticut*] where I shall go Sept. 27. If you have not time to write, I hope sister Caroline will write in your stead. I believe she <*kno*> knows what you want, and how you feel as well as you do, perhaps better. At all events do not delay to let me know how you feel and how each of you rejoice or suffer I shall leave the other part of this sheet for mother. John etc. your aff. brother Joel Grant.
[*Other side of folio sheet*]
My Dear Children, I have left my washing to write a few lines to you I rejoice to hear from you if my children are in trouble I want to sympathize with them if they are happy I want to rejoice with them I had some fears before you left that his love of money would exceed his love to God or his

fellow men but go where you will you will find people of that description I very much want to cultivate a spirit of forbearance and when you feel injured may further forgive them but never let the sun go down upon your wrath I hope you will endeav[o]r to be good neighbors the way to have good neighbors is to be <*a*> good neighbors yourselves I hope you will always communicate to each other your feelings and encourage each other to bear the burdens of life with Christian fortitude I would wish you to support a good degree of independence I felt when you left that you were under circumstances to live without troubling your neighbors any more than they would probably want to you I want to have you love your neighbors as you do yourselves and endeavor always to do them good but that does not imply that you wrong yourselves on their account you will find many of those wherever you go that will take every advantage that they possibly can but always think in such cases that there is a god that Beholds the evil and the good <*but yet*> and that which a man sows that shall he also reap and have no dealing with them I want to have you live near to God and keep clear from debt. I would rather that you would sell cloth and stockings and stocking yarn go to buy you a horse than to borrow money of the best friend you have in the world but if you have not paid [er?] for a horse do not buy one for it is a ruinous thin[g] to have stock and not have keeping for it. I would not advise you [unless?] you find it necessary to avoid Land wife only avoid dealing with them any more than is necessary I hope you will help each other in every thing you can and avoid [hireing?] as much as possible if you want to change worke Joel says you have an Irish neighbor about half a mile from you he knows nothing about him do not think him incapable of being a good neighbor because he is of a differe[nt] origin your step grandmother is an Irish woman but she is as universally beloved as any woman I ever knew I believe she is only half Irish remember that ignorance does not prevent a person from being [loved?] nor knowledge does not make him so kindne[s] my dear children will soften almost any one to do better than they would if they were unkindly treated a soft answer burneth away wrath the wise man said think of that in your intercourse together and in <*the*> your intercourse with your fellow creatures remember the apostolic injunction do good to all men as you have opportunity but do not throw away any of your neighbors if you can possibly help it but do all you can to make [t]hem better I have written in great haste and all irregularities you will excuse [...]

I want you to write me a great deal I want to have you write whether your well furnishes you with good water and what state it is in whether furnished or not whether you have got a well [crotch?] and pole I know you can not have every thing at once but what you do have I want to have you write me Caroline says we have a hog and two pigs I want to just say to you that ho[g] pork is a great deal better than pig <*but at*> I want to know if your plums are good today or good for pies w[...] you have had any garden [sauce?] and I cannot think of [...] I want to say <*but*> but will here mention that [Mrs. Beb[..]] said about the time I wrote you friends all well I have not seen your Norfolk friends since they received their last letter Mr. Knapp says that you have heard that you have a horse at Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] and so I hope all your things are there and that you will get them I will mention that if you purchase a horse you will get one tha[t] if it dies or is stolen it will be no great loss and when you get it calculate to [w...] it out and take the comfort of it I have not said half I want to but must close may God guide guard <*you*> and protect you and make you wise unto salvation is the prayer of your affectionate mother.

John and Martha send much love to you [Oholpe?] has returned [...] home they went home in five days or within five miles of home they are well or were when they wrote Marcus is on the [...] at work now write me a letter write every thing both write tell me much I am very [desirious?] to [assist?] you and if [...] I think God will prepare the way.

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

[*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 you 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 emply 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 they can. Mother has been with her about 11 weeks 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 [...]sociation? 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
Praireville [*Prairieville*]
Milwaukie Co [*Milwaukee County*]
Wis. Ter. [*Wisconsin Territory*]

April 5. Received a letter to day from Cousin Abigail and Mother at S. [*South*] Hadley [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Martha is not any better that I can gather from their account. Cousin A. [*Abigail*] says "it almost impossible to tell who she is." She seems to change very little. She is

very weak hardly able to sit up at all, but notwithstanding all her suffering, all her protracted weakness she exhibits perfect patience and resignation to the divine will. Mother's health seems to begin to fail some, in consequence of her long continued labors and anxiety in taking care of Martha. She has been somewhat unwell, but when my letter was written she had nearly recovered. She has been now at S. Hadley about 15 weeks, a long time for her to be gone from home. She begins to be impatient to return home, but Martha is so weak and the going so very bad that any such idea is preposterous at present. After our terms closes [*at Yale University*] which will be in a little <*less*> more than two weeks John and I mean to contrive some way to get her home, though we hardly know how, and hope that her will forestall us by getting her home before we get there. She must be sick many months before she recovers

Sister Caroline gives a description of your meetings and the doctrines taught in them which I am sorry to hear I hope you will not encourage women to talk in meeting for if the Bible said nothing about it, the custom is so contrary to the modesty and delicacy of females <*that*> and to the constitution of their nature, that I would never approve it. Still perhaps you ought not to be violent in opposition, for there will be some who will attribute your opposition to any but the right motive the evil will cure itself as soon as your people become better educated, and more refined. As to perfection it is too preposterous a doctrine to need particular remark. If I had room, however, I would state a few arguments in reference to it, and if you feel desirious that I should I will do so at some future time. All I exhort you to do is to avoid such errors.

I have no doubt you will enjoy the coming summer much better than you did last. You are now used to things, and will take them easier and more pleasantly. Your affectionate brother

Joel.

New Haven [*Connecticut*], Apr. 6, 1844

Dear Brother & Sister It is indeed a long time since I have written off anything & I am glad to have an opportunity to finish this letter. Though you have not heard direct from me yet I presume you have a t least heard through other members of the family that I have been well & you of course know that as [...] as I am well I must <*of course*> be very busy. I will not however undertake to offer any excuse for having neglected to write you, or to plead want of time for such duties. Though my time is indeed pretty full occupied, I have enough for such purpose as these. The only reason why I have not written this long time is that when I have thought of it I felt that I <*ed*> could not fill a whole sheet with any thing that would be interesting & when I have had opportunities to fill part of a sheet, I have had just at those times some very pressing duty to perform, as a very hard lesson to learn or a dispute to prepose I will endeavor to do better in future, I am not [...] ever acknowledging hereby that you have placed me under any obligation by having written to me out I know how such things go & if one neglects [...] because others do nothing will be done. I have since I last wrote been very well usually. I do not however always take sufficient exercise & by this means I sometimes suffer some from a sort of nervous weakness – nothing serious though. I have not yet since the commencement of my College [*Yale University*] course been absent from a single recitation or asked to be excused from a single lesson. So you see that I must have had pretty good health. The hardest of our course is not past, & I hope to reap the benefit of the severe study of the few past years in increased mental vigor & power. You both know I doubt not that the life of the faithful student is a hard one – one of toil & weariness & often of anxiety & suffering. Though I have not suffered all the evils to which close study has brought some of my acquaintances, yet I can not but feel that this <*if*> has sorrows which other pursuits know nothing of. Even now I feel that I have not improved my time as I might have done, but I have not withstanding confined myself closely to my books most of the time I cannot say that I have not succeeded in my endeavors to my satisfaction I have even exceeded my hopes. I aimed at nothing more in the shape of college honors than an Oration, doubting even whether I should succeed in reaching that; but I have that & I am assured by my tutor that three higher appointments than orations had been given I should have had one of them. But as the difference between myself & some one or two was not such as others, to warrant a distinction of that kind now only had first appointments were given for the Junior Exhibition. You may readily believe that I am encouraged by this to apply myself pretty closely to my studies, I do not mean however, to be swayed by ambition or elations beyond what is right and proper. I have here spoken plainly as

you see & that too of myself, but I know that in the present instances such plainness is allowable, & I cannot believe that you will charge me with ostentation in thinking thus to a brother & a sister. Our Junior Exhibition comes in two weeks from next Tuesday – a time to which many of us are looking forward with much interests and some dread. I will send you at the time what account the papers give – I feel as though I can almost through College & soon to go out into the wide world. Some times I rejoice to see it so near that more usually feel that I should not be ready to grapple with its stern realities.

You will doubtless hear of the results of the election here before this reaches you. We are glad to find Conn. [*Connecticut*] again true to herself. Both branches of legislature are Whig & are to choose the [...] & a senator to [...reps?] – Joel has written you I suppose this latest news from Martha. Her case is a very critical one, yet we hope for her recovery – there is considerable religious interest in the Mt Holyoke Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] this Winter & Spring. there is also here in College [*Yale University*] a hearing prospect. For a few days past matters have taken a new turn, & all seem more or less awake to the subject. We are hoping for a powerful revival ere the close of this term. Some hopeful conversions have already occurred. The interest is daily increasing. Elder Knapp has been here thru of four weeks & preached every afternoon & evening in the Baptist Church. He left however last Monday, but not without having left a deep impression on many a hearts – We have not heard directly from home for many weeks. We hear that they have considerable snow there still. There is more here now & the grass is beginning to appear in some places. I do not look forward to the vacation with the interest I should if Martha were well. We expect to get her home as soon as the weather & roads will allow. Cousin Desiah is intending to go to Mt. Holyoke Sem [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] next year – I hope you will not neglect me, & not write to me at all. I want to hear from you both so badly [knows?] but that I shall come out & live with you some day & I want to know about that part of the world. But more especially I want you to write to me as brother & Sister & you need no assurance that as such I shall ever sorrows & joys as fast as I can, I now sympathize with you in the trials to which I know you must be subjected, but hope they well soon most of them pass away. Now dear Sister Caroline you know that you can write letters more easily than David can & of course you have rather more leisure for such business will you not therefore take it upon you if he cannot write & even if he can, to write a part or whole of a letter as the case may be before long? I will promise you an answer. you affectionate brother John.

I will add for Caroline's information the sad news that Martha Woodward is very low & that all hope of her recovery is abandoned by her friends. This I have learned from Mrs. De Forest How fleeting moral life!

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Praireville [*Prairieville*]
Milwaukie Co [*Milwaukee County*]
Wisconsin

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] May 22, 1844
Dear Brother and Sister,

As cousin Wm. [*William*] starts for Wis. [*Wisconsin*] next week, I sit down to write you a few words. And first let me say to you I hope if you have not already bought the place of which you have written some two or three times, I hope you will not do so with consulting Coz. Wm. [*Cousin William*] for I have some question whether you may not do better. Nor do I exactly like the plan of your being obliged to pay interest for what your farm may cost you till such a time as you may be able to pay it, though in your circumstances I think it advisable, for you ought to leave the place you have at present. But if it is not too late I hope you will ponder well the idea of taking my 40 and uniting to the west 40 of yours, and selling 80 acres and the house of yours, by which means you will be able to pay for my 40 and have something considerable to build with. Act with discretion and do not let your zeal to leave a place you do not like transport you beyond the bounds of reason.

I send you by Wm. [*William*] a book called “A New Home Who’ll follow?” in which are some good descriptions of life and manners in newly settled countries. To one point only would I now direct your attention viz. the rusticitiy and coarseness of some or most of those who inhabit such regions. [To] this you may be some what exposed as our whole family are somewhat inclined to it naturally. I think you may gather a great many good hints from the book, and I hope you will use that and every other means in your power to promote refinement in yourself and in all around you. In order to do this you need to direct your thoughts to the subject and you will find to your astonishment, (at least I have done so) that “in many things you offend all” while you do not dream of it. Make others feelings a portion or your study, carefully observing what language is offensive to them and what manners are disagreeable. It is astonishing to see how much better some people who have very little kindness get along than those who have a great deal and do not manifest it rightly to those around them, I do not think this is right. We are commanded to “let our light shine before men,” and he who has real excellence of character, and yet through a neglect to manifest it by those means that are calculated to with he hears of other does as truly “put his candle under a bushel” as any man whatever. Do not then consider such things unimportant. They add greatly to one’s power of doing good. Let it then be your aim to elevate by your example and acts the society around you for no society can be really good, or thoroughly Christian where such things are neglected. Get sister Caroline to make suggestions to you, for the perception of ladies in reference to these things is always more keen and ready than that of gentlemen, and from the advantages she has possessed she will be particularly prepared to make such suggestions.

As to your note against Wm. [*William*] Swift I will ascertain where he lives from his father and will bye and bye write to [Strong?] about it. The note will, I doubt not, have to be prosecuted and I think the best plan will be to wait about one year from this time, or till it has run five years, and the interest becomes $6 and [...] give directions for the prosecution. I [believe?] that notes become outlawed in six years in Ohio. I think that [Mother?] and Strong will have no difficulty in collecting it, provided Swift is worth any thing. Swift has removed to some part of Penn. [*Pennsylvania*]

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel.

P.S. I have written to Phelps about James Craig’s note and I presume he will do all that can be done.

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

Yale College [*Yale University*], July [] [1844?]
Dear Brother and Sister,

Joel has just informed me of [...] opportunity to send you if we prepare something immediately & glad to improve the same I now will [...] the moment of time I can command in penning a few word. I wrote you last term but you have I suppose found yourselves to busy to give me a separate answer. Though I feel as though I could excuse you Daniel do not think I can you Caroline for I cannot suppose you are so busy as necessarily to neglect to write even to me also as well as the rest. I hope too that such is not the case with you Daniel. You ought not to feel that you must devote all your time to labor to the exclusion of all [...] else & I hope you wont forget your brother & never write him again. But if you cannot command the time when you would just [...] Caroline to act in your stead. I am well aware that when [...] labors it is hard to give time for such matters & even hard to get the dispositions [...] besides is pressing (for I often fell it myself) yet a proper degree of resolution can I find be [...] by sufficient effort But I will not suppose that you understand my wishes and hopes, & pass to something else.

I have nothing new to say for our life is but a round of some monotonous duties & like a revolving wheel we move slowly along our way, Slowly I say, but slow as [...] the flight of time yet such it flies & is fast bearing us along to the end of our coarse.

This term I have been very busy indeed our lessons to do them justice have required all my time & I have devoted the most of my time & attention to them. This is the second letter I have written this term [...] almost you. Two weeks from next Monday our examinations begin which continue through week in which we are to be examined in all the studies of the past three years.

And then we shall be Seniors & I hope not driven through thick & thin without mercy. You must not infer that I am possessed of a spirit of complaint from what I now say It would, include be possible to get along with less toil & effort than I submit to; but to do justice to one's self requires a constant & persevering struggle. My health holds out firm yet though I feel that it is not quite so much so as it sometimes I long for vacation again. And so we are always worrying along – never satisfied with the pressure, but for for a [moment]. I suppose it is wrong but when I see such lessons before as my next, for example, I cannot suppress a [complaint?]. My next lesson on [...] about 20 pages of Tyler's History, most of it as destitute of interests as any other document or volume.

I presume Joel will write you all the important news & so I need not be particular. Martha is better we heard from home a little more than a week ago & she was decidedly improved, which of course will be glad tidings to you as [...] was to us. Her improvement seems to have been very rapid for some time before winter [I.E.?] for a few weeks in which we had heard nothing. She wrote herself with place so that you may well believe her much <*improved*> better than she had been. [...] friend are well as far as I know. I have not time to write more & I would apologize for the appearance of this except that I know you will excuse it without provided you can read it. When I re-an answer I will try to get time to write a longer one & a better one too. The time has come when I just go about my other duties. Don't forget to write Your aff. [*affectionate*]John.
I received the paper you send me in due time.

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

New Haven [*Connecticut*]. June 30 [*1847*?].

My Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*] --

Your very kind letter came Tuesday morning -- and gave me pleasure and comfort -- In such trials as that through which I have passed the sympathies of friends avail much to alleviate and sustain.

You will be glad to know that my recovery has been rapid and uninterrupted -- so that I can now quit myself -- It was my purpose to leave here today, but it being rainy I shall remain till tomorrow at least. Think to reach home by the middle of next week -- where I shall remain pretty quiet for a time. Will you not be able to come and see me?

I received also on Tues. forwarded from New York a letter from Daniel and Marcus -- dated May 26 -- Daniel speaks of having written you by the same mail a few day previous So you doubtless have all the intelligence which I have. He says he requested you to send him some book on Butter & Cheese making, but that he does not wish you to do so as he has found one there --

My pen is poor and I ought not to write much yet, so excuse my short letter --

In [...] for your sisterly remembrance,

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother

John[...] [*John Grant*]

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Care of Daniel Grant Esq.
Prairieville
Milwaukie [*Milwaukee*] Co --
Wisconsin Territory

Philadelphia Sept. 13, 1847

My dear brother & sister [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*],

My last dated from you was the 11th of June which I almost immediately forwarded home. My last letter from there was June 21st which was written before your letter had reached them. Their letter was enclosed in one from Abby Brown, Abby writes very well & has much improved -- Suppose our people have been so occupied through haying as to leave neither time nor thought for me -- I do feel very very anxious to hear from them & from you dear sister -- What

has caused your long silence -- I answered your letter very punctually -- Has ill health of yourself, Daniel or darling Abby saddened your home? -- or has constant & pressing employment given your pen this long respite? I endeavor to console myself by thinking the last supposition correct. July 15th Madame Sigoigne [*Adele Sigoigne*] took her family out to the country seat of the late Mr. Nicholas Biddle 16 miles from Philadelphia. -- It was a hot summer's morn & all things in readiness when two baggage wagons were at the door & packed off with trunks & what furniture was necessary (in addition to that already at Andalusia) for housekeeping --. Then came an omnibus (or private stage) which was speedily fitted with Miss Crissa, Miss Sophie myself, three young ladies & 4 servants -- After a merry ride of two or three hours reached our destination. Madame Sigoigne Miss Adele & their maid with her nephew's two children followed in a double carriage which with a coachman she took & kept during her whole stay in the country -- and she rode every day twice each time 4, 5, or 8 miles out from home & back again -- Mr. Biddle you remember was President of the United States Bank. After losing his country's confidence he sickened & died of a broken heart it is supposed. He was a man of remarkable talent & uncommon taste which last he displayed in adorning his residence at Andalusia. The house is situated one mile from the public road & is reached by a well kept lane -- It is in the midst of a large field or rather an immense lawn (comprising many acres) which is skirted on one side by a beautiful grove <*which the field*> -- & scattered with trees throughout its surface -- The house itself is surrounded by trees, shrubs & gravel walks & about 20 or 30 rods from the river Delaware which is seen glimmering through the foliage that fringes the waters edge. The main building is surrounded on three sides by lofty columns which support the roof -- there are two wings -- the north & south -- four immense parlors communicate with each other & open out upon the piazza towards the river through large glass windows opening to the ground -- they contain one mirror reaching from floor to ceiling & two or three others of large size -- On arriving at Andalusia I ran about perfectly wild admiring the elegance & beauty of everything -- among other luxuries paying particular attention to the two libraries the largest of which equal in extent to three or four of our "east rooms' is lined throughout with bookcases most of which were locked & continued so -- I examined the contents of those that were open & quickly discovered the nature & extent of the field <*over*> which might embrace our reading -- found it one well worth traveling over -- though it would occupy years to do so thoroughly. I spent very little time in that delightfully cool & shady library but kept my room & studied French -- I had nothing to prevent & therefore made considerable progress in it -- I roomed with two of the young ladies The parlors, libraries, & some of the cambers contain marble busts & statures & choice paintings -- of the last -- one or two by Hogarth -- Down by the river's side is a little stone grotto embowered in vines and trees -- In a niche above the door upon the exterior of the grotto stands a statue of Napoleaon in his coronation robes presented to Mr. [*Nicholas*] Biddle by a brother of Napolean (Joseph) I think. In the interior of the grotto stands another statue -- also chairs settee & centre table in a rustic style floor of marble &c -- Forty rods distant & also by the water -- is a little building of two rooms -- the lower one a billiard room & the upper a reading room which last has windows on every side opening down to the floor & through every one of which we step out upon a <*piazza*> balcony The room also contains a statue -- chairs, settee, centre table & a sedan chair brought from China -- There is a large flower garden & grapery on the place -- compising 10 or 11 acres -- The vines are in two or three rows of hot houses -- which were they in one line would extend nearly 1/4 of a mile -- The garden many choice flowers, <*an*> infinite variety of roses &c. The gardener is such by profession & lives in a pretty little cottage adjoining his charge -- employs constantly in it a number of workmen -- I ought to tell you that Mr. Nicholas Biddle's family have always been intimate with Madame Sigoigne -- & not wishing to occupy the house themselves this summer they gave Madame Sigoigne the use of it -- & a most delightful retreat it has been. My time was entirely my own -- I did not sew at all -- but devoted myself to French & the reading of books to which I shall probably never again have access. Since commencing this letter have rece[ived] one from home which they request me to sen[d] [y]ou -- But wishing to send you a collar in th[e] sheet I will copy the parts that would interest you -- Much of it is taken up in considering whether I ha[d] better continue here another year -- Ma s[ee]md on the whole to concur in my own opinion-- which is that as I have endured the little trials thus far -- I had better do so perhaps a little while longer & prepare myself for teaching it if possible -- It is becoming more & more necessary every day for teachers & indeed for every well educated lady. .

“Your pa was appointed committe last fall with Esq. Mills & Anson Norton to let out the roads in town & see that they are well worked. Esq. Mills does not wish to spend much time about it -- Your pa likes it & is I think at present the most active & popular of the three -- He insists on the roads being put in better repair than they have heretofore been & that pleases the community. He expects 1.00 per day beside horse & wagon & sometimes oxen &c. he has charge near 20.00 for which he expects money. 13 July -- Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] left school last Thursday -- expects to go no more till after haying -- has been strawberrying twice -- got 2 or 3 quarts at a time -- -- your pa is on the road. Erastus after same-- intended to have sent this two weeks ago but could not see Esq. Mills about the writing till last Friday -- I have much less to worry me now than I used to -- like giving up the dairy -- Nancy takes pretty good care -- cheese looks well -- butter good. 14 July -- Erastus begins to mow today -- grass is not so good as usual -- your pa is on the road -- Ralph doing chores -- think he is well liked at school & associates with the first. Mrs. Pendleton sends love -- has seven cows -- makes a cheese every day that weighs 9 & 10 lbs. Sept 11 -- It seems as if I never should finish this letter -- We sent letter to Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] with a 10 dollar bill in it (to buy drawers about the 1st inst. by [Irad?] Mills who with his wife have gone to Wis. [*Wisconsin*] also a small white flannel shawl. pr. [*pair*] coarse white cotton stockings & Carries scissors -- I told them Daniel ought to give you a mortgage & all about it. [Seoville?] has been here -- there are two closets in the kitchen 1 by the bed room the other by the buttery -- the windows are all in -- garret stairs made -- 4 bed rooms & 3 closets in the chamber partly done some of which we expect to have finished this fall -- your pa has been to work on the Crissey road this week for one dollar or more a day & his board -- Eras. & Ralph have been at work hard about our door yard -- draining stones making steps, laying wall, making trough & putting down to carry off slops, & it is now about ready to fill in dirt which they intend to do next week -- but you must not expect to see it as nice as Mrs. Biddle’s place [*Andalusa*] when it is all done which will not be this year -- hope to have some painting done this fall -- Have had Mrs. Nettleton to help a few days -- most of the ceilings have been washed very clean & floors too -- Am as busy as ever -- not generally as much worried. Recd. [*Received*] letter from Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] this week -- [D?] [*Daniel Grant*] unwell with chill fever -- She & baby well -- Thankful Rogers & her sister Caroline were here three weeks ago & star’ed over the sabbath -- had things decent & comfortable -- Ralph went Monday with them to New Marlborough. Tuesday they went back to Cornwall -- Caroline stays about in Thankful’s district -- sews for herself and sister & studies some -- Two weeks ago David Rogers came to Cornwall & he & Caroline went to New Marlborough. Tuesday & Wednesday came here -- he talks of going to Genesee to visit his mother’s relatives -- Thankful’s school will be out in two weeks --Caroline did not know but she & Thankful would go to Genesee too -- if not Thankful talks of going to South Hadly [*South Hadley, Massachusetts*] & Caroline stay about here.
“August 12 -- sab. [*sabbath*] eve” I think Ma must have made a mistake & August for Sept. “been to meeting -- Parney Phelps says Abigail has been very sick -- but is now better & expects to go to Dea Grants to morrow. Martha is very low -- think she can’t live long -- I intend to go there this week -- Erastus & Nancy appear happy -- work very even -- cheese look well sell for six pence a lb. Sarah [Brown?] says they thank you for your letter -- don’t know when A. can write again -- they are so busy. Nancy sends love to you & Caroline. The text to day was “What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world & lose his own soul” I thought of you -- am afraid you are in a bad place for your soul -- do pray & think a great deal.” “Ralph could go to school were it not for fixing about the house he cares as much as I do about that -- we agree very well & have had it done to our mind so far -- Much love to you & Carry -- from your aff. [*affectionate*] Moth[er]

The above is all that ma wrote either of Dea. Grants people or of the writing which I ought to give you.

[*written across side of verso*] Am very sorry for D’s [*Daniel Grant*] poor health -- Write very soon. & tell me all about your affairs -- The collar has never been washed but once or twice though it is a little soiled now--excuse me for sending it so.

[*written across side of first page*] Andalusia is the name belonging exclusively to the house & grounds of Mr. Biddle but it is now given also to a small collection of houses & a post office that have grown up recently -- Analusia the country seat is considered the handsomest around Philadelphia Strangers who come to the city often visit the place -- Miss Sophie a blind cousin of Mrs. Sigoigne makes me every now and then a present of a collar -- as a recompense I suppose for many little favors which I render to her. Therefore I can spare you one much better than not & I send this -- it being the only one which has not been given to me I hope it will not cost you double postage -- write whether it did -- & write also how to direct my letters -- whether to the new county or no -- Miss Kenard & Bonham my last years roommates have left -- Miss Kenard gave me a morocco port folio that locked -- -- love to yourself & Daniel & many kisses to dear little Abby --

Your affection sis
Mary Burr

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

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

My Dear Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I have been trying to get a situation Similar to R's [*Ralph E. Burr*] ever since I have been in Cal. & concequently know more about such matters than you or R. [*Ralph E. Burr*] either. R.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours in sincerity,
Daniel Grant

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

Hamilton [*California*] May 20/ 54

Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate husband
Daniel Grant

May 21, '54

Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

Marcus Grant

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

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

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

Hamilton [*California*] Sep. 11 1854

My Dear Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thine entirely,
Daniel Grant

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

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

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

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

It is some time since I received the letter containing the news of your fathers [*Ebenezer Burr*] death. I have no excuse for permitting so long a time to pass without writing & I believe It is

not best for me to make any calculations about writing often. I wish I was with you to comfort you in your afflictions, but it is not to be you know the true source of comfort. If the Lord spares us a few months longer we shall meet again on earth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I saw J. Allen a few days since he is troubled with the ague some. He told me that Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] was also troubled in the same way I told J. that I should like to have him try to persuade M. [*Marcus Grant*] to go home this spring it will not do for me to meddle with the matter for if I should he will be sure not to go

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

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

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

Yours entirely
Daniel Grant

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

Hamilton [*California*], May 2nd, 1855

My Dear Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thine, Dear Wife,
Daniel Grant

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

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

Bartons Bar [*California*] July 7th 1855

My Dear Carry [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

You will see by this date that I am again at the awful New York claim

I expect this seasons opperations will seal my doom. I shall either be stripped of what I have or add a little to it

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A purchaser will be better satisfied than without your name

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

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

We are now working on the dam.

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

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

Kiss the children for me

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I will now close Don't <*laygh*> laugh at me now for writing such a bundle of nonsence

Give a kiss to the children

Entirely thine
Daniel Grant

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Daniel Grant
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Flemington [*New Jersey*], Nov. 8th 57

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

I have been sitting by the table reading until I feel somewhat tired of it and will seek relief in writing a few lines to you and appropos to the day and time will say that I fear that New England will lose its character for a fine morality if ever its staid and sober people are led by their desire for gain to embark in lotteries however they may be concealed under the guise of gift concerts and Book in sales with gifts of value to the fortunate and less gifts to the others. Have heard that at least one of New England's daughters has a Breast pin obtained in such way and perhaps has never asked herself what would John Rogers say to such conduct. Hope that her conscience has not so far falle asleep that it has not had some twinges & that it will so speak that her conduct will in future need no reproof from one that dislikes to speak on such subjects to any one even a particular friend.

Aunt Maria came home Thursday last and is in pretty good health for her, came and took tea with us on Saturday.

We are now having some of the damp weather usual at this season of the year and there is every probabillity of a late fall from present appearances.

I hope that the shade of that petticoat does not haunt you and that you can easily decide what will suit best after such very particular directions.

You do not say anything in any of your letters whether you ever think anything of coming this way. Am happy to hear that you intend to have Thanksgiving as usual in Con [*Connecticut*] and hope that you will have a good time and wish that I might be of the company but as I am not invited of course that is out of the question. Will try and have one here but do not intend to ask any friends, too selfish for that by far.

Have not read your letters carefully enough to find whether you read my letter shortly after my return from Wisconsin.

I had no thought of receiving anything for my visit to that land in Wisconsin as it was purely for my own satisfaction that I went to view that land and well satisfied for the expense by the knowledge that I obtained of its situation &c for all. Would like you all to think about the best way to make it useful whether to hold it as it is or have some of it cleared in either of the ways proposed in my other letter. Our children seem in pretty good health just now. Baby has two teeth. Mary learns to talk very slowly but is full of fun and mischief and understands almost every thing that we say to her, tonight she put all the chairs to the table of her own accord and had a pretty good tug to do it. She is as hearty as a good stone wall and stands almost as wide on the ground and if she is ever as tall as the hills she will want something more than the natural elevation. We are begining to hear the first cries of distress caused by the recent revulsion of business and what they will be before the bright sunshine of universal prosperity comes again too many will learn from the heartfelt experience. Let us hear from you as often as you can find time and take pleasure in it. Bed time is now in order and it is best not to be disorderly, so good night,

W Hill [*William Hill*]

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

Omaha [*Nebraska*] So. Wednesday June 27 [*1860*]

My dear Aunt Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I hesitated some time whether to write to you or Grandma to send with the letter that I have just finished to my Uncle and finally concluded that I would reply to your letter, knowing that in that way she would hear from me. Tell her I think of her often and would love dearly to see her but I by my last remove have more than doubled the distance between us -- I am thankful now I assure you for pen and paper and I think the man who invented writing should be considered quite as much of a public benefactor as he who invented printing. I wonder who he was and what he wrote first. Then just think of all that has been written since from the Bible down through all great and small books papers &c. to this letter which I am writing.

But enough of that -- you know I suppose, that I am living now, in sight of the fast flowing Missouri but you probably have not learned that my husband and I are keeping house -- I am now waiting for him to come home to supper which is all ready, -- We have rented a little house and are really a family if it is a small one. I have no servant -- but work right busily myself at doing what I know how to and learning the rest, and we think we are about as happy as we can be.

Mr. Gaylord, the Congregational minister came to see me one day last week and he spoke of visiting Conn. [*Connecticut*] last year, seeing you and visiting at Grandpa's. He seems to be a very pleasant man <*I*> and I was very glad he thought to visit me for it was a treat to see one who knew so many of my Eastern friends.

I received letters from Mary Burton and sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] recently from which I learn that Mary Burton is going into the Grand River Institute as Assistant or Associate Principal two weeks after she graduates which will bring it about five weeks from now. She seems pleased with the prospect and will I doubt not, do well. My sister does not wish to return to Painesville [*Ohio*] another year but will pursue her studies in Canton [*Ohio*] where she can have every advantage so far as teachers are concerned that they have at Painesville. She has set her heart upon teaching too but I don't think Pa will be willing that she should go from home for that purpose. My precious "little Jennie [?]" as Boyd calls her is a great comfort to Mother and a great treasure to all of us.

Tuesday July 3rd I was interrupted just here by my husband and since then have not found time to resume my writing. We are having scorching weather for the last few days -- yesterday was terrible. The spring has been very dry too but the soil is so spongy that it seems to retain the moisture and vegetation is not suffering much.

You ask for the date of my little sister's death. It was just one year from the commencement of this letter -- the morning of the twenty seventh of June, 1859.

I wrote to Abbie [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] at [?] N. J. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] immediately upon the receipt of yours and shall hope to hear from her soon. I was under the impression that she was my debtor on the score of letters or I should certainly have written before.

Please write me soon and keep me advised of your whereabouts as well as your plans for the future -- also of my dear Grandmother and Grandpa. Give my love to them both and to Eddie -- bless his black eyes. Thomas remembers all whom we saw at Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] when there with great pleasure and would send love if here.

Yours, &c.
Libbie [*Burr*] Hereford.

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

Care Mrs. Samuel Fletcher

Concord. N.H. [*New Hampshire*] May 2, 1859.

Mrs. Daniel Grant [*Caroline Grant Burr*],

My Dear Friend,

Since I was at your house, I have thought of you with deep & tender interest. By writing to me at once I can hear from you here. Since I came here tho last of October I have spend my time in the family of Mrs. Fletcher. Her house is to be rented a year & to day her occupant has taken possession. She & I board near the homestead two weeks perhaps.

Possibly I may remain in Concord longer. But if you wish to write me, now is the best time. The weather has been very fine here for several days the roads very dusty, Crocuses, daffodils to pansies are in bloom.

Will you not tell me all about your family? individually. In your family worship, where are you now reading in the Bible? The advantage is much every way by reading a whole book in course. In the family of Samuel Fletcher Esq. while he lived, each had a Bible in the morning after breakfast & read around two verses each. At the time he departed to heaven last October, they were reading in Pslams. Now they are reading the book of Jeremiah -- I have attended public worship almost every Sabbath morning through the winter. Lessons in the S. [*Sabbath*] School at noon. I have formed very profitable. In love your aunt. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]
Please tell me of your children & give them my love.

Concord, N.H. [*New Hampshire*] May 2, 1859.

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Grant [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*],

With your leave I propose to make you a weekly call, or to remind both of you of me, by the arrival through the mail of the “Albany Cultivator,” Today the postage stamps have been enclosed to pay for it the current year. A small book may be expected with the first package. Afterword only the Cultivator from week to week. By your paying the postage in advance from this time onward it will be but little. Perhaps you may like to stitch together the package of No’s that came at first into a book form with paper cover, & often you have read them, loan them for a short time to Marcus [*Marcus Grant*], for his perusal instruction & entertainment. Tho you may not either of you be able to buy many of the experiments in horticulture or in improved agriculture, you may enjoy knowing something of what is done elsewhere, you are called to do the best you can with such field as you have. But we shall never do the best we can unless we aim at an ideal above our reach of attainment. He that is faithful in that wh. [*which*] is least, is faithful also in much. In all we do. We are sowing for eternity, & shall soon reap the harvest of our own sowing. May we each of us sow to the Spirit. In best wishes yours Z. P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Dec. 5, 1859.

My dear Father and Mother [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*],

I got here last Saturday noon and I came alone all the way from Newark [*New Jersey*].

And now as you want to know what I do I am going to tell you what I have done since I have been here when I came in Saturday the children were having their bath Allie [*Alletta Hill*] was not dressed and she came to me and let me dress her and knew who I was though she said that she had never seen me before then we ate dinner and after dinner Aunt Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] made a fire in my room. At two o'clock she went to a meeting and did not come back till dark and while she was gone I unpacked my trunk (I packed my trunk all alone at Uncle John's [*John Grant*] and did not let any one help me) and played with the Children, when Aunt Mary came home we had tea and then I put Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] and Allie to bed. Minnie was to sleep with me but Allie cried so that I put them both in my bed (and when Aunt Mary came to bed she carried Allie into her room) then I went down and hemed one end and part of another of a [?] and then I went to bed.

Tuesday morning just as quick as I was up and dressed and dressed Minnie too I went down to breakfast and after breakfast I went up to air the beds and was called down to <*air the beds*> see Miss Henrietta as Aunt Mary tells me to call her. Uncle William [*William Hill*] and Aunt Mary went to church But I did not there was a kind of sleet commenced a little while after I got here saturday and it rained and was.slippery. This morning I got up at six oclock and dressed my self and went down to breakfast after breakfast I came <*down*> up to air the beds and then I went down and washed the dishes and then swept the sitting room and then helped Aunt <*move*> fi*x* some beds then I made Aunts bed and then put some seeds into my skirt and then began to write a letter to Uncle John [*John Grant*] and Aunt Gertie [*Gertrude Day Grant*] for Aunt Mary thought that would have to go first and when I had got it partly written she found out that this had got to go first so I had to stop I am writing up in Aunt Mary room by the register.

I have got on my old green delaine dress. Well give my love to Uncle Erastuses [?] and Aunt Sallie's and Carrie Tibbals and Miss Sevens and Sarah Gaylord and Marh Norton and cousin [?] I cant think of any more you will have to tell me the next time you write

Your aff. [*affectionate*] daughter,

Abbie E Grant [*Abigail E. Grant B*]

instruction as she needed -- other wise she might have staied a few weeks longer.
Abby [*Abigail E. Grant B*] says her teachers would never allow her to go through Mental Arithmetic & Father [*Daniel Grant*] would not allow her to study written Arithmetic until she learns the mental -- She wanted to study Grammar & mother [*Catherine Grant*] made her study History. She does not seem to have studied the last of any book thoroughly -- if at all -- "Uncle John has been scolding" &c, I have given her a Grammar Lesson which she is to repeat this P. M. "She never could understand the last of Colburn. I intend to make her,
Abby is just now teaching Sammy [*Samuel Hill*] a column in Multiplication. I have also given her Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] in charge to teach the Phonetic Alphabet [*Phonography*], I laughed to read its letter to uncle John -- She said "she had been hungry as a bear ever since coming here but she dare not ask for any thing, for Aunt Mary was all the time scolding the children for asking," She meant between meals. You need not fear she shall have enough to eat.

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Millbrook.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

[Bollius?] Jan. 9th 1864.
Tues. Eve.

Dear Cousin Carry,

I am alone in the house this evening and at last the long awaited opportunity for writing to you has arrived; and I am so glad for I have thought of you a great deal, and of writing, ever since a little while after I reached home. I presume you know that I had a pleasant and prosperous journey. Mr. Anderson accompanied me to New York. As pleasant as I can expect travelling alone, for I usually have as much, perhaps useless, but nevertheless unavoidable, anxiety as real pleasure. And yet I am very fond of travelling; with company, if possible, if not with my worried,

for baggage and the like for companions. Are you surprised that I have waited six months for an opportunity of writing? If you could know the quantities of work I have performed you would sympathize and not wonder. I have had no leisure. In the Fall, mother was sick six or eight weeks, then I had a very great deal to do, and would get dreadfully tired. I was not disturbed nights, father took care of her then. She had rheumatism and suffered very much, it settled in her knee which was swollen badly and so lame that she could not raise it or put her foot to the floor. We hired a woman two weeks. When mother's knee was setting better her eyes became very sore and painful. She is quite well now, not so strong as before her illness but very comfortable. Father and she have gone to a lecture, the object of which is to fill our quota (twenty three) of volunteers, only six are wanting and I hope those will be gotten this evening. It is the third meeting of the kind, the audience is addressed by one or more <*two*> speakers and a brass band is employed to give music. I attended the other two but did not care to go out to night. One reason that I have so much to do is owing to a change in my ideas and habits in regard to certain things. Quite unconsciously to myself I was acquiring a taste for mending and neatness while at cousin Mary's. I learn often times a great deal more than mother thinks is necessary, but she is quite pleased with my lately developed talent for mending and brings forward piles of old things to repair which had been laid aside for want of time on her part and inclination [...] mine. Now I mend every hole and sew on all my buttones which is a change indeed in me. I read some, and have read two large books to mother and a third we read together.

O, cousin Carry you can not imagine how I have wanted to see baby and cousin Mary and all of them, the sweet little thing I have felt much a longing for her. I have not heard from Flemington for a long time. I suppose they are as busy as ever.

We have an unusually lively time this winter a great many of my evenings are passed out. Christmas Eve we had a Festival. There was a Christmas tree which looked beautifully and was loaded with gifts and the Hall was trimmed beautifully, then there was a man to act the part of Santa Claus which he did wonderfully well. New Years Eve I invited the Reading Club to our house to watch the Old Year out and the New Year in, we had a very nice time, we made molasses candy and played. There are about sixteen in the club. I am a member of a French Class, which meets once a week. I am quite well and [fleshy?] We heard to night of cousin Fanny's death. It seems very sad. How is Abby? I want to hear from her very much. Willy Stone is in the Invalid Carps & is in Phila. [*Philadelphia*] very pleasantly sits [natid?]; he doesn't recover the use of his hand and arm. I hope you will come and see us whenever you can. I want to see you a great deal, do come when you can. How are Mr. & Mrs. Grant? My love to cousin Daniel and Erastus and family and to Abby when you write to her.

Your aff. cousin
Marry Wallis.

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook, Ct. [*Connecticut*]
Bristol, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 22, 1868.

Dear Sister,

I was glad to learn particularly of your state on Abby's [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] return from her visit to Mill Brook – glad to know that she met so many of you – Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*], your daughter Abby, Edward etc. It must have been a pleasure to you all, and I am glad that some of you can meet even if it does not seem best for me to meet you.

My own writing has been somewhat suspended to you and Daniel. I wrote to Daniel last January after I arrived at Chicago, and hoped to receive a reply. Up to the present moment no such reply has been received. I did tell him in that letter what course it seemed to me he had better take with reference to your property; i. e. that he had better leave it all in your hands. On my wife's return she told me that Daniel felt grieved at what I wrote, and (if she received a right impression) had represented me as writing some things of which I have no recollection. Probably he drew some inferences that I did not intend, and confounded them with what I wrote. I will at an early day write him again.

It must be about time for Daniel to come into possession of this Tax Title lands, in case he has not realized from them before this.

I suppose that Edward's future course is not yet determined. So far as you know any thing what it will be please let me know.

I am glad to hear that Mr. Russell has become the Pastor of the Colebrook Church. It seems to me the best arrangement possible.

I do not suppose that any of us are likely to see a state of things such as we desire At all events, I am confident my own affairs have no likelihood to come out as is desirable. I am pleasantly situated <u>now</u>, & I ought to and trust do, heed the apostle's exhortation "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content." We have, up to this moment, paid John's and Millie's bills, but we make no provision for the future. I ought to bless God – and in some degree do so – that my health is better. For three or four weeks I have felt none of that numbness that so tired me for more than a year. My <u>scrofulous sores</u> (I know not by what other name to call them) are also much better, indeed <u>almost</u> well. There is however a great difference between <u>almost</u> and altogether, but I hope in a month to be able to report altogether well. When I can do so, I will describe the treatment I have used.

I enclose a "spelling Test", I thought it would interest you because of its reference to your sister's Uncle Hill, also as a Test by which to try your friends as to their skill in spelling. If you wish a fair test you must not let the copy be seen, for even a glance at it will take away the fairness of the trial. My love to Abby, Edward, Mr. Burr (of whom I am happy to hear good opinions), Marcus and the rest. Let me hear from you as soon as convenient. Your aff. brother, Joel Grant.

Rec.d by Mail the Herald's sent by Marcus. I enclose the Postage which I forgot to send before. Rec.d also Conybeare & Howson's Life & Epistles of St. Paul by Abby. We had our first frost the 16th inst. a week ago to night. It killed vines and injured corn, tho the most of the last was ripe.

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

[*Attached envelope with printed return address*: "Return to Hallowell Classical and Scientific Academy, Hallowell, Me.if not delivered within 10 days" Addressed to:]

Hallowell Maine
Feb 18th 1876

My dear Mother,

Thank you very much for the pretty little book that you sent us, it is very nice and we like it very much.

I think about both you and Edward [*Edward Burr*] a great deal. Has Edward found any employment yet? and is he still in Winsted [*Connecticut*]? How are you enduring the winter? Is your work as hard as it has been all along?

We see no prospect of getting to housekeeping very soon, it is very difficult to find a suitable place or indeed any place at all and indeed we get along so slowly paying our debts that the wherewithall to furnish one will not be forthcoming right away. I feel very sorry about Uncle Williams being thrown out of employment. I do hope things wont be in this bad state very long. Almon says that he dont see now how we can possibly help Minnie this next term, but if it does come so that we can, we certainly will.

I am feeling pretty well most of the time, this is quite a mild winter all over the country I believe. the "ice men" upon the Kennebec are expecting to reap quite a profit on their ice next summer. The winter with us is what we would call a very cold one in Ohio or New Jersey, but it is very mild for this place is a constant astonishment to the inhabitants.

We have the *Congregationalist* here but I did not notice the article of which you spoke and it goes from here to the boys boarding house, so that I could not look it up.

Cousin William Burton was here when your last letter was received. he staid with us for several days. He intends to visit in Conn. before he goes west midsummer. I hope that it will be so that you can see him. He is studying in the Institute of Technology in Boston. I hadly know what for, and he seems to be quite undecided what he shall do. He says that Auntie is about the

same as usual, has had a very severe attach of lameness this winter, but is better of it now. Mr. Shurtleff was in Ohio not very long since. I dont know anything of his success raising funds.

The children seem very well. The winter here has been remarkably healthy, there has been but one death in town within the last three months. Mr. McCully left for Calais yesterday.

Our parlor looks quite cheerful now. My plants are growing nicely, and I take a great deal of pleasure in a pan of things which we brought from the woods in the fall, moss and ferns, so many little wood plants come up out of the moss it is very interesting to watch it. The house is so completely warmed that we feel the cold very little. Do you hear from father lately, and how is he getting on. I had a nice long letter from Linn a few days ago. I think from her letter that she must be much better than she used to be her father and mother are both very feeble. How are Uncle and Aunt now. Please give my love to them. I remember that your birthday comes soon. Almon is in Augusta at a meeting of teachers. I expect him home in a few minutes.

With much love,
Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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

[*Attached envelope with printed return address:* "Return to Hallowell Classical and Scientific Academy, Hallowell, Me. If not delivered within 10 days"]
[*Addressed to*:]
Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
Oct. 24th 1876

My dear Mother,

We are having a long spell of dark rainy weather the sun almost shone out once this afternoon but is completely darkened again now. Carrie and I have been watching for the rain to cease so that we can go to the dentists and have one of her teeth extracted, the new teeth that are coming in are so very large that I fear she is going to have a real deal of trouble with them. She is pretty well and is getting on very well with her reading. Harold is better than he was the first of the term.

Almon [*Almon Burr*] is very busy now getting out a catalogue, is pretty well except that he is very tired. I hope that it will be finished this week. Almon hasn't much idea that he can get money here for Uncle Erastus, people don't let money at <*6* > six percent to go so far away, but he will see what he can do when Mr. Page comes home.

I received a very pleasant letter from Mary Shurtleff the other day, she thinks that her health is improving somewhat says that Laura is well. grows tall very rapidly but does not increase in weight. the baby is quite healthy and happy, has dark eyes and hair and they think of calling her Mary Grant. says that she enjoys<*d*> this baby more than she did Laura because she does not have so many "<u>needless</u> <u>anxieties</u>" concerning her. Speaks of cousin Will as being at Michigan University getting field practice in Surveying. Says that Phill has been nominated for county clerk and will undoubtedly be elected, which will necessitate a removal to [Montesenna?] the county seat. She fears the affect upon her mother as removals seem to be disastrous to her. She also tells of the death of one of President Fairchild's daughters, Alice the darkest-haired one.

Father Burrs people are all about as usual I judge from their letters. Alia is teaching in the [Divine?] School in Oberlin.

I am very sorry to hear that Jennie and her husband have been turned out. Were they able to save their furniture and goods? I hope that their loss will not be very great, and that they will be sufficiently prospered in the future to make up for it all.

It is not raining now and I must stop and go down town with Carrie. ----

We are home again, did not have it taken out, dentists now do not advise it, they say wait till the child is older the taking out of one tooth only makes it worse for the next. the gum shrinks much more than if the tooth is not removed.

I have been reading Dr. Hills “True Order of Studie” which treats of the proper teaching of young children, it is an uncommonly sensible book. I hope that you are all well. With much love to you all.

Your aff daughter
Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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

[*Printed:* Water Color Work Studio of Crayon & Ink Work
Benton & Rogers,
Artistic Photographers.
Large Work a Specialty.]

Hoosac Falls [*New York*] July 23 1880

Dear Aunt

I have just finished reading your letter and was much pleased to get it. Now to business first and chat afterward. If after what I tell you you still want Ed's photo copied I will be glad to do it and give you 4 or 5 The picture is considerably faded. It was a good one, I think, when first taken, but now being faded I am afraid it would loose in the copying. I think you could get Ed to sit for a 1/2 doz which would be more satisfactory, though it may be you want them like this one for associations connected with it. Now please dont think by what I have said that I dont wish to do it for you. It will really give me pleasure and may be I can get a better one than I think. At any rate if it will not be convenient to have him sit for more please send me word right a way and I'll see what I can do. We are not yet very busy so I'll have the time plenty. I dont think I'll need that money, if I do I'll let you know

Will send you at same time as this letter one of side view of our house, that I took when home last winter. Would also send one to Uncle & Aunt Collar only I have but one more, and unfortunately the negative was broken when we moved so that no more can be printed. Will send them one of front view which is not so good however, that is of the house though it shows the grounds to better advantage, and on that account I like it. When first I looked at it through the stereoscope it made me feel a little homesick it seemed as though any minute I might see Father or one of the girls go up the path.

In Bennington I had become acquainted with several very nice people and hated to leave but then we cant always do as we wish. And another thing: There we had a nice reading room and library to go to. Here there is a small library but there is no reading room where we can see the papers, and what to me is of more consequence the magazines. You ask how we prosper. I think in a little while we will do pretty well. We are beginning to get work from a nice class of people. One Gentle man who took home some photo's of himself last night this morning came in and ordered some more saying they were all pleased at home and he thought we would get some more work on account of the way his were done. Of course commendation from a customer can not help but please us. My health is generally very fair and by care I hope to keep it so.

Whe[*n*] I was at home I used to wonder a little when I heard people talk of christians being drawn toward each other so much. Then I did not understand it. Now that I am among strangers I do for I feel it myself. I meet so many scoffers and rough irreligious men that it does one good to get among christians, especially as it is with some I meet whose lives bear out their professions.

I have been wondering for some time if Mary Burr is married, and now from what you say in your letter I conclud she is. Am glad to hear that Ralph has such a nice wife. If I can so arrange it, when I go home next time I will stop a day or two in Norfolk to see them all. It is now almost six years since I was there. Is Ed any where near getting married; but then I'll write to him in a few days and put the question to himself, though I doubt getting as much satisfaction from him as I would from you. I knew you were to spend a short time in New H. and it may be that I had heard that you did. Nellie had some very sweet traits, and toward the last she was (so they have told me) more drawn toward her Heavenly Father than ever before. It is pleasant for me to think of. Fannies husband wrote me a day or two ago that Cousins Mills, Cornelia Raymond & Bessie are going west next week, Where I don't know.

Thank Uncle & Aunt for their regard for both Lewis & myself. Lewis says he remembers with great pleasure his visit there and told me to say he may go again sometime He expects to go home in the fall and if I remember right he spoke of stopping there on his way; That was several days ago. If it is possible should like very much to stop myself. Now don't forget to let me know if you wish that copy made; If you have not time to write letter a card will answer.

Love to yourself Uncle & Aunt

Your aff nephew
S. R. Hill

Hoosac Falls
N.Y.

July 18, 1880

My dear sister.

The switch arrived all right -- it is very nice & good -- Suppose it must have cost two or three dollars -- which I will try to remember -- cannot very well spare the money just not now if not actually obliged to. Have had to get new napkins, towels, pillow cases &c. Am using <*three yr.*> some old linen sheets to be washed once around, thus saving the necessity for more than a pr. or so of new cotton ones.

Wm [*William Hill*] read D's [*Daniel Grant*] letters -- says it is impossible to advise him at this distance As to stock-raising -- he supposes that D. would of course have to invest money & he would have to depend upon others for much of the work in it" -- But it seems that is the one thing he has never tried but always wanted to try -- when he has lost every cent in the business -- he will probably be ready to come East & be taken care of -- though if he does go into it -- it would of course be best to hope for better things. In the light of the past it looks as though more money would be made by putting what he has left at interest & earning his board at house work if he could not do it any other way -- He might go to Leadville & set up a laundry. But all must be left to Infinite Wisdom I think D ought to contrive to do something at which he could earn his board, but it may not be possible.

I have a new lawn dress -- black ground with small white figure -- material cost about 1.50 the making two dollars -- the girls would have me get it -- & I suppose I really did need it -- We did nothing whatever to my last summer's hat but to take off the flowers I had worn 2 years & put on new ones & put on last winter's bonnet strings -- Carrie has my old flowers on her hat

Carrie seems about the same in health as before -- but we dont allow her to sweep nor iron -- she does light work. I have very little more idea of Abbie & the family than before she came home -- Have had very little opportunity to question,

Love to Uncle & Aunt

Your aff. sister
Mary B. Hill.

Carrie says she did not work much at Abbie's. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

Will send next time D's letter in which he tells you to live in your income & that he is going to Indian Ter [*Territory*] & one of Abbies saying perhaps they will not stay & asking you again to come, i.e. if you wish them.

You would better at once put in a sure place this letter of D's telling his affairs & with whom to communicate.

Wed. 21 Wm says that this additional sheet will make the letter double postage -- so opened it to put in the other letters & have them off my hands -- Am going riding Wm & I with Mrs Lukens this morning.

Carrie does not seem to know that they had surely decided to go back to the Hall -- Thinks it very probable that they will stay in house the year out. Carrie is very useful. There is much she can do without doing hard work.

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Cushing Me. [*Maine*] Aug 8th" /83

My dear Mother,

We are here at the Captain's again, and the delicious sea air is putting new life into us I hope. Baby and I are improving slowly, but surely improving. I am getting able to take most of the care of Arthur [Emmons?] when he is good. He was baptized the Sunday before we left Hallowell and his middle name is for the Rev. [Wm?]. Emmons who has been a dear friend to us. Prof. Shurtleff and his family are here with us for two or three weeks. Mr. Shurtleff himself is very poorly and Mary is not at all strong, the little girls are very pretty and pleasant <*and*> I hope that their stay will do them all good though I doubt if they are prepared for our cool weather.

Our plans now are to stay here for a few weeks until fully recruited then go to Andover Mass. when we will rent rooms and keep house for a few months or a year. Almon [*Almon Burr*] wishes time for rest and study, and as no work that he really wishes to engage in has opened this seems the best time

Auntie Burton is with Philander in Grinell is better in mind than she used to be, but is very feeble in body. Philander is doing well and living comfortably. William is in California has a wife and a little one. Edward still in Lincoln Ills. Theodore Sawyer in Cleveland, quite successful. Mary says that there is now an effort being made to have a life of Aunt Banista published a Miss Guilford who was a graduate of Mt. Holyoke Seminary [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] who has been for 30 years a teacher in Cleveland O. has undertaken it. She travelled around with Aunt was greatly interested in her and was one of her dear friends. Aunt spent several weeks with Miss Guilford when she was in Ohio in 1857. Miss G. has been troubled that no life of Aunt B [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has ever been written and at first wrote some reminiscences of her for her own pleasure. After awhile the idea of writing a life grew upon her, and She has been consulting with Friends of Aunt B upon the matter Mary says that she came to Oberlin and read some of the introductory chapters to her. that they were very interesting, and that Miss Guilford is a lady in every way qualified to undertake such a task. Miss G. does the writing as a labor of love, but she has not the means to publish it unless she can sell enough books to clear herself. She has consulted with publishers and finds that she will have a pay five hundred dollars to have an edition of 400 volumes that is the least she can do. which would bring the books at $1.25 apiece. Mary is very anxious that the relations should come forward and subscribe for as many as they can so that Miss G. shall feel that she can go forward with the work. I believe that [Many?] hope that as many as 200 may be subscribed for among friends and relatives. Mary is going to write to Uncle Marcus about it, but we thought perhaps you would be more likely to remember to mention it to the friends than he and see what could be down in Colebrook.

Well I am too tired to write any more and must say good night. With much love to the friends with whom you are,

Your aff daughter
Abbie C.G. Burr [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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

[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Oberlin, O.
Feb. 28th '84.

My Dear Aunt,

I am glad to learn, through uncle Marcus, that you are at Andover [*Massachusetts*]. I know a visit to Almon's [*Almon Burr*] family, while situated in that classic town, must be pleasant, both to them and yourself. I hope you have all been well this winter, and that baby has made such progress in strength and good looks, as he gave promise of doing when I last saw him. Laura had a pleasant letter from Carrie, some time since, from which we gathered that "all was well" with the family, up to that time. I hope that Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] received a letter from me, written soon after I reached home, the 1st of last Sep. – I addressed it to the care of Capt. Hathorne, through I was not sure but she had left there, before it would have arrived.

I talked with Abbie, last summer, about a life of Mrs. Banister, which was being prepared by a Miss Guilford of Cleveland. I now write to you, upon the same subject. The life was

completed some weeks ago and Miss Guilford, at my earnest invitation, came here and read it to me. I was very greatly interested in it. As a literary work, it – seems to me superior to either of the lives of Mary Lyon. It is also complete, covering the whole 80 years, and giving extracts from correspondence and papers, which Aunt Banister had carefully preserved for such a use. If published just as I saw it, it would make a duodecimo volume of four hundred pages. But since then, Miss Gilford has sent it to Mrs. Cowles of Ipswich, in whose judgment, it should be considerably abridged. My last word from Miss G. is that she will have it returned <to her> and undertake to shorten it. That will diminish, somewhat , the expense of publishing. But I doubt if 500 volumes (the least number which a publisher would care to undertake) with a good picture, could be gotten out much short of $500. Miss Guilford does not ask any reward for her large share of the enterprise. The Tract society will publish the book at actual cost, but will not take it, and depend upon the sale of it, to meet expenses. Somehow the money must be raised, or the book will never be a book, except in manuscript.

I dislike to have the matter dropped, after Miss Guilford has taken so much pains, partly on her account, but more because I think the book is a worthy memorial of an excellent woman, whose life and work ought not to be forgotten. Mrs. Cowles offers to give $100 toward the expense of publishing, besides something more to help furnish a good picture. I have taken it upon myself to find out what can be raised among the Grant relatives, and I think Mrs. Phillips will do as much among the Griswolds. I have corresponded with aunt Susan Grant, and she is willing to pledge, for herself and family $50. I think our family will do as much, though I fear Theodore and I will have the most of it to pay. Cousin John Grant will give $10. Mrs. Phillips is sure of $50 or more in Winsted. So we have $260 pledged out of say $500, which leaves a large sum yet to raise. It would seem as if there ought to be a good many among Mrs. Banister's friends who would be glad to purchase her life, and pay for it beforehand. Unfortunately I have no acquaintance with any of them. I have written to uncle Marcus, and hope he can do something among the Colebrook friends. I know you, Abbie and Edward, will all be interested, and will do what you can. The money will not be needed till after the manuscript has been sent to the printers, and they have made an estimate of the cost of publishing. There is time for correspondence and consultation among friends.

You may have heard something about an expectation that some money could be obtained from Mrs. Hale's estate, inasmuch as she made a verbal request that such was her wish. Miss Guilford, at one time, has strong hope of such help, but has now given it up. Mrs. Hale's estate went to a distant relative, who feels no interest in the life of Mrs. Banister.

May I hope to hear from you, sometime, when you have leisure to write upon the subject? Please remember Mr. Shurtleff and myself to all of Almon's family. The little girls would send love if they were at home. They both attend school, and are as well and happy as we could ask. We should all be glad to see our Aunt Caroline here in Oberlin. Is there not some hope of you visiting here, before long?

Affectionately your niece
M. B. Shurtleff.

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

Flemington N.J *[New Jersey]*
Jan 4th 1891

Dear Auntie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

It is too bad that your kind letter with enclosure has not been acknowledged before, But we have been so busy & sometime too tired to write that we have put off writing from time to time. I was so sorry that I could not send you anything for Christmas this year, but I could not nor to Sam either, so resolved that I would write you each a letter, I am writing to you first Sams letter has not yet been started, you were very good to remember us, but I wish you would not do it, for I know you can ill spare it. Minnie has come and gone, went back Friday eve. was home three weeks. We were very busy while she was at home doing necessary sewing. It takes a great many stitches to keep three children in cloths. We turned Sophie's best coat -- which she has worn for three winters -- that was quite a job and we had a woman to help. Then we had two night drawers to make for her and a new waist to make for her school coat and a new flannel

skirt. I did not want Minnie to sew so much while she was at home, but I think she thought it was her last chance to do much for us, and she wished to improve the opportunity She sews very little while at Oberlin, so in way it was not a rest. She went out some, had a new cloth dress made for herself at dressmakers All the sewing done was not for Sophie, some was done for Carrie and for Minnie herself. Aunt Hettie is making Minnie some new underwaists she has done a great deal of sewing for M. which saves much expense. Minnie will not be married until sometime next Summer, time not fixed yet. I doubt if we home folks see much of her after she is married If Mr. Wrights work calls him East in Summer she may come with him, but I do not know how it will be. Chalmer's father is here now making us a little visit, he goes home to morrow. He and Chalmers have gone out to church this evening. All the children are in bed and asleep, they go to bed early, and usually waken early. Mary is a dear little baby. She is fifteen months old, walks all around & has for two months, but talks very little, She is a very happy little thing and full of fun. Sophie goes to school and gets along very nicely, reads very well & does well in arithmetic, She is seven years old this 15th of Jan. Will is an active, restless boy, likes to be out of doors with his father & grandfather he does not go to school yet and we shall not send him this winter, he is a little over five We all think him quite bright -- very observing and quick to understand things, There is a strong affection between him & his father. Minnie <*say*> said she would write to you after she got back to O. but you need not expect a letter soon, as the first few days there are very busy ones. Aunt Hettie sends her love. says she often thinks of you, spoke so nicely of you to night Carrie and I belong to a reading circle Chautaugua, so that takes some time. We get behind sometimes and then have to make desperate efforts to catch up. We have English History English Literature, and articles in the Chautauguana Magazine <*bup*> published by the Society Carrie and I read aloud to each other. We have a local circle in F. about 33 members. Of course while one stops to read, we do not get along quite so fast with any sewing we may have to do.

Father sends love, says he will write sometime. he is well now, but was sick about a week after he came from Mass. took a heavy cold. I was away at the time, up at Bloomsbury, father's sickness and Mrs. Hulsizer's death, put us back with house cleaning, so we did not finish until after Thanksgiving, Carrie and I did most of housecleaning ourselves, the girl helped some.

I thought I answered about Ladies Home Journal, they came & we enjoyed them very much. Carrie says she thought she had acknowledged the calendar, she is very sorry, if she did not do so. There are some very good things in it.

The children received a package of little papers from Lucy, please thank her for them, Sophie enjoys them very much, Will does not care so much for reading as Sophie <*does*> Mrs. East came back to this country the first of November. At Christmas -- She is in Philadelphia -- she sent the children a box of candy, and afterwards sent a bundle of things for us all, which she had bought in Paris.

Minnie received a half dozen pair of beautiful kid gloves, Father a handsome knife -- Jack knife with twelve different attachments or blades, for instance a corkscrew tweezers, a saw, screw driver & a lance &c. Carrie had two pins, one, Caroline in silver letters and a round one set with small pearls. Aunt Hettie had a silver bracelet. Sophie, a silver pin like Carries -- Sophie in silver -- Chalmers a little writing tablet to carry with one when traveling and I had a beautiful fairy lamp, gilt set with glass, cut in imitation of stones, blue, red, yellow, &c when a light is inside the effect is most lovely. Then I had beside a Russian Icon, which is really a picture set in silver and gilt, which is very handsome. Wasn't it kind in her to send us so much and think of us while in Paris, she has been there for three or four years. Aunt Hettie gave a Christmas present to the house this year of lace curtains for the parlor. She had quite set her heart on our having them, she thought they would add so much to the parlor, which they certainly do, and she wishes it to look pretty for Minnie's wedding, They are Madras light yellow ground -- which does not show much -- with white sprigs of leaves over them, a very pretty pattern. They cost ten dollars for the two windows. Carrie and Minnie gave father a flannel wrapper, grey with stripes of red on bottom, something [*end of page*]

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

[*Printed:*] Memorial Life of General Sherman

[*Handwritten:*] New Marlboro May 1 1891

Daniel Grant Esq.

[*Typed:*] Permit me to call your attention to the enclosed ticket which we have issued for the use of yourself and family at our store. It explains itself.

We invite you to bring it with you whenever you contemplate making cash purchases, and carefully examine our stock and prices. We will punch the amount purchased ; when the entire ticket is used and $20.00 worth bought, will take pleasure in presenting you with a copy of THE LIFE OF GENERAL SHERMAN, ILLUSTRATED AND ELEGANTLY BOUND. This opportunity to secure this great work without cost is one which we feel sure you will appreciate.

We have adopted this plan for the purpose of expressing our appreciation of past patronage and increasing our circle of friends and patrons to the largest possible number.

Please bear in mind that we have no advance in the price of our goods on account of this Premium offer, but as heretofore we continue to be headquarters for lowest prices and best quality of goods.

Inviting you to call and see us and trusting we shall have the pleasure of presenting you and many of your friends with a copy of this great standard work, we are

Respectfully yours,

[*Handwritten:*] Clark & Hayes

[*Enclosed card printed:*] The holder of this ticket is entitled to one copy of The Memorial Life of Gen. Sherman after having purchased $20.00, worth of goods, for cash, from

[*Handwritten:*] Clark & Hayes

[*Handwritten in red across card:*] Except Flour

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

[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Daniel Grant

New Marlboro

Mass.tts.

[*Printed:*] Mount Holyoke Seminary and College Observatory.

South Hadley, Mass., [*Handwritten:*] May 13, 1891

Dear Mrs. Grant, of the class of 1841: --

Excuse a stranger for addressing you, but we both are interested in our dear Mrs. Stoddard, you as her classmate, I as her pupil. You received your diploma with her fifty years ago; twenty five years ago my class also received ours bearing her signature. You and we expected to meet her at our respective class meetings next month; but her place will be vacant.

My class wishes to have some memorial of her prepared for our meeting. If you can be here, (and I hope you will be) and we could have a quiet talk. I am sure you could tell me many things that would interest us. But at that busy time I fear such an opportunity might not be ours, and therefore I venture to ask if you would not like to make the tribute to her memory of some reminiscences of her in her school days or her later years, or any impression of her character that I might use for that purpose. Anything will be gratefully received, and an early reply will be doubly welcome.

Yours in Holyoke bonds,

Elisabeth M. Bardwell.

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

Bittersweet

Flemington N.J. *[New Jersey]*

Oct 4th 1891

Dear Aunt Carrie

Have intended to write for the last two Sundays but did'nt find time one evening I went to Church and last Sunday afternoon went to the Sunday School Anniversary with the children, and that took all the afternoon we did'nt get home until half past five, and in the evening I did'nt feel equal to writing. We have been without a girl for more than three weeks now, and while the boarders stayed were kept pretty well on the go, but they have all left now, part went last

Monday morning, and the other two on Wednesday. It is a relief not to have to fuss over meals so much. We began churning again the first of September churn two and three times a week and get from ten to twelve pounds of butter at a churning. We are having a very warm Fall, need summer clothing yet, and have had no<*t*> frost as yet. The thermometer now (4-30 P.M.) registers 80° on our front porch. Fruit is very abundant in this part of the country, the apple orchards are loaded, peaches very plenty and cheap, and Father says he never saw finer corn in his life. Father and I were out for a ride Wednesday. Father had business in Annandale and he rode over there, and took me with him. It is about twelve miles from here, and we had a perfect day, and the roads were in splendid condition.
Peaches are almost over and how good these last ones taste.
Mrs Grey was buried a week ago Tuesday. She was in Oswego with Helen at the time of her death. Was buried here in the Cemetery. Helen, Mrs Charles is still here, visiting at Voorhees! She and her little daughter, the youngest, called the other day. I had gone to Mission Band Meeting, and did'nt see her but Alletta & Auntie were home.
Sophie came home from Sunday School to day feeling very happy because she has been promoted to the big room Mrs Bell Thorton (Bell Mott) is her teacher. She received a copy of The New Testament this year for learning the little catechism. She was also promoted to the next higher room in day school this Fall. She has learned to read very well indeed, and is fond of reading to herself. Will started to school for the first this year. He doesn't enjoy it very much yet, it is pretty hard work for him to keep still. Alletta expects to go to Bloomsbury for about two weeks soon and I hope nothing will prevent her going. The change will do her good I think and she did'nt get up there this summer as usual. She will take Mary with her, but of course the others must stay at home to attend school. Mary does'nt look as though she needed a change. She is as big and fat and healthy as any one could wish. Was two years old on the twenty seventh of Sept. She begins to talk more now, but does'nt speak as plainly as the others did, is a little tongue tied. Sam took a photo of her in her "wedding dress" when he was home and I will get Alleta to send you one. We think them very good. We have begun house_cleaning have two rooms done.
Kate Capner is to be married on Thursday. I am invited to the wedding and expect to go. She marries Hirvey Finch Jr.

[*written across first page*] Father is feeling quite well at present The rest of us are all well. I enclose a letter of Mins. Please send it on to Sam when you have read it, Dont send it around to the relations please Abbys caps have arrived and Min says they are lovely, hand_painted and so dainty. Give my love to Ed & family and Uncle Daniel, keeping a large share for yourself

Aff. your niece
Caroline

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

[*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

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

Bolton March 28, 87 (Mond Eveng.
My Dear Niece -- Thank you for yours & the other letters. You said I need not answer immediately. I delayed. I think I told you I anticipated coloring. I am happy to be able to tell you I have accomplished the delectable job quite successfully although not quite to my mind but as well as I could expect with no knowledge of the science. I have colored considerable in my life but always felt as I do now that I dont know much about it but I have always succeeded so that I rather have the articles after I had colored them than before. This time I colored Thibet or something that looked like it, all wool, a light brown for Sue a dress. It had a faded look, now it looks fresh. I also colored an all wool dress that <*that*> Sue had worn & soiled so that it was of

no use as it was, [alittle?] darker brown for Mollie I dont think any one would suspect they had been colored. I colored some dresses that were soiled & faded, Enough to make me two morning dresses & a few other little things, I feel glad that I have got that disagreeable work done. I hope I shall not find it necessary to color again for a good while if Ever. Mary hopes so too. <...> She did the pressing & helped what I would let her but I would not let her put her hands in. She was invited up to Miss Osborns to tea the first day I commenced coloring. I did not undertake to do it all in one day I got all through with Sue's & Mollie's the first day that I colored for myself was part cotton & gave me more trouble but I got all through & I cleared up the third day. I took it so moderately that I did not get over tired & am well rested now. I had my common housework to do in the mean time. Tomorrow I expect to wash It stormed so today I concluded to wait for a plesanter day. Mary usually washed rain or shine. I dont know as I told you that I was braiding matts I have made one good sized one & have another about half done, If you never braided one you dont know anything about the labor of it. I dont know how to do it very well & dont have the best materials but is such as I have been saving up for some time & when I get a matt done it looks very well. I made two last & am making two this Spring

Thurs. Evening I meant to have finished this letter before now. How time flies, the last day of March I can hardly realize, "The Winter is over & gone" although there is some snow to be seen now, We heard robins this morning

I hope you will persevere & get the old letters read over & burned most of them I hardly think any of your relatives will have leisure to read them over There is so much to occupy the whole time of Every one who can do anything & there is so much interesting [reading?] I presume your husband will read to you the Commentary your daughter sent I should think she was quite pleasantly situated & has good society &c I am pleased to read her letters I judge she has not much leisure time. & the Flemington girls are just as busy as they can be I am glad they can so manage as to pay a $100. on a note. Minnie seems to keep up pretty good courage which I am glad to see I wish her strength was Equal to her ambition. It seems that Lizzie Anderson Hyde has got to help pay for the new house if she has one I dont know as you have ever told me how much she had from her father & mother.

Sue & Mollie got through with the school examination very credibly & performed their parts in the dialouges very well indeed The High school gave an entertainment at the Hall in the evening which was very enjoyable the scholars were at liber[*ty*] to invite who they pleased & the Hall was pretty well filled.

Sue is hired for the year to play the church organ <*for the year*> is to have $50. which is the usual price paid here Mary & Bessie have been to Clinton today (the mildest day we have had this month I think) to have some dentistry done for Bessie & to get some trimming for Bessie's & Sue's spring dress Bessies dress is almost finished only to put the satin <*ve*> vest in. Sue is to have a velvet vest in hers her school dress is about finished [Amory?] uncle in Acton is to have a golden wedding the 27 & then the whole family is invited & I think we shall have some hurrying times to get them ready but I guess we shall be able to do it. That family is quite dressy. It must be quite an undertaking for you to get ready to go to Mt Holyoke's [...] [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] 50th anniversary. I should think you much prefer to stay at home, but you are some younger than I am. We are all in usual health & all are in bed but myself. Write as often as you can. Mr Wallis is quite comfortable if he does not exert himself which he is careful not to do

With much love

S J Wallis [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

I send little samples of the spring dresses we are making. The greenish piece Bessies the lighter blue Sues & the darker brown Mollies. I hope you are both in comfortable health

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

[in pencil at top] to Caroline Grant?
Oberlin, O. *[Ohio]* May 15th '85

My Dear Aunt,

Your good letter of the 3rd was truly welcome. Its words of sympathy have comforted my heart. I have long known that you appreciated mother's excellencies, and felt for her in her sorrows. The same too, was true of Abbie, and Mother and all the rest of us enjoyed having her with the family both in Austinburg and out on the farm near Grinnell. It was kind and generous in you both that you were willing to give the time when mother was so low spirited, and could not make it very pleasant for Abbie, when she was with her near Grinnell. Abbie had the satisfaction of knowing that she did what she could to help her aunt out of her depressed state of mind, and I hope she has not had occasion to regret it. If, as a family, we had our lives to live over again, that move to the west would not be repeated. The recollection of its effect upon mother will make us very careful, I think, what changes we make, after reaching middle life.

The Jones' family were never sorry they moved west. Mr. J. has not made a prosperous farmer. I think he would not succeed in <u>any</u> business, which he was left to carry on, in his own way. His oldest son graduated from College, and is becoming somewhat prominent as a naturalist especially in the department of Botany. He married a classmate--a lovely woman, I am told—and resides in Salt Lake City, Utah. -- Charles and Edward are not scholars, but are industrious and take to farming. Lucien is not so strong, and is learning the shoemaker's trade. The three youngest Lynds, Burton and Arthur, give fair promise of being scholars. The daughter Carrie married a kind and industrious young man by the name of Morse. They rent Phil's farm, two miles east of Grinnell and are doing well, both for hire themselves.

Phil's oldest boy, Frank, is now 14. Arthur two years younger. Katie 9 and Grace not quite 7.

Edward's children, Grace and Mary are thirteen and eight respectively, both bright and beautiful girls, but Grace is lame and delicate in health, and will never be better, I fear.

Yes, the aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] book [The Use of a Life: Memorials of Mrs. Z. P. Grant Banister *by Linda Thayer Guilford (American Tract Society, 1885)*] is soon to be published! Miss Guilford came here with the entire manuscript last Monday, and I have read it, page by page with her at my side, to question in regard to anything I did not understand. We finished, at noon, today. (Friday) I am sure all the relatives will enjoy it, it goes through the <u>whole</u> life and will be interesting and valuable to a wide circle outside her immediate friends. There are 374 pages of manuscript, and the book will <*be*> have very nearly as many. It will go to N.Y. next week, and the book is promised as early as Aug. and perhaps earlier. Mrs. E.C. Cowles of Ipswich, has taken charge of the matter, has ordered 1000 copies, and is to have it stereotyped beside.

She has made herself responsible to the publishers, for the entire first cost, and desires us to send our money to her, soon as convenient, drafts <*to be*> or postal orders, to be made in favor of Eunice C. Cowles. I suppose your books would be sent to West Winsted with those to be distributed by Uncle Marcus and Mrs. Phillips, and perhaps, to avoid sending too many drafts and orders to Mrs. Cowles, it will be best to send your money with theirs. Of course we all have the book at <u>cost</u>, which Mrs. C. thinks will be $1.-- If any of us do not care for so many books as our money would call for, we can leave them in the hands of the Tract Soc. *[American Tract Society]* to dispose of for Miss Guilford who is not likely to have any adequate return for her labor of love. So you will need to specify whether you wish the full value of the money in books.

If I do not make myself quite clear it will not be strange, as it is late in the evening and I am weary.

Mr. Shurtleff joins me in kind regards to yourself and uncle. We should much like to see you both.

Your affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff

[Note: Papers of Zilpah P. Grant Banister, L.T. Guilford, and Eunice C. Cowles are all at Mount Holyoke College in the Archives and Special Collections.]

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

Boston, Mass
Jan 5, 1886,

Dear cousin Carrie,

We thank you for the Christmas card you sent us, we all think it is very pretty indeed and we like the one you sent grandpa and grandma. We had among us thirty five Christmas cards this year. When I promised to write to you before you went away from our house I did not think I should be two years in redeeming my promise but I hear of you from grandma and I am very sure you hear of us all from her. She says she has told you about the two Christmas entertainments here. I was very glad to be able to go to one of them. I am quite well now and Friday night went to a little reading at Mrs. Rud's and again last night. Saturday night I went to a Spelling Match at the Hall. Sue, Molly and I with some others go over to Mrs. Ruds once a fortnight to sew for destitute children in Boston, we work about three hours and each one gives five cents once a month. I am knitting a rug now for "take up work" I knit it with twine <*on*> and use two coarse steel needles—every other row I knit in little pieces of cloth. I have just finished the third strip and shall begin the border. I get on with it so slowly that they sometimes say they do laugh at me and say I shall never be out of "take up work" – it has been on hand a year but I really think we shall be using it before another year. We still belong to the Magazine Club here – there are five members and it only cost two dollars and seventy five cents to belong to the club – we have the Century, Harper's Monthly, Popular Science and St. Nicholas A <*gread*>great deal of good reading for that sum we think. I am taking charge of the hens now. I began late this Fall—they have a better place than formerly and are doing unusually well. I get thirty three cents a dozen for eggs. I have not begun to pay for the food yet so of course it is very profitable for me—may not find it so when papa stops supplying. I have twenty one hens and two roosters and hope I can make it profitable as so many people say they do. I tried keeping them once before and got discouraged but perhaps I shall succeed this time as I think the conditions are rather more favorable. I suppose you know that Sam is away from home—we all miss him very much but are glad he is so favorably situated—he keeps in good health and spirits. We think of you very often and wish we could have another visit from you. If you are not too busy please write to me some time.

With much love from all and best wishes for a Happy New Year

Ever your aff. cousin

Bessy

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

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 hurredly & 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

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