Subject: Business Accounts

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Know all men by these Presents that we Pamela Burr [*Pamela Benton Burr*] as principle and Robins Battell as surety are holden and stand firmly bound & obliged unto W.B. Rice Esq. Judge of the Court of Probate for the District of Norfolk [*Connecticut*] in the final sum of Two Thousand dollars, to be paid to the said Judge, or his certain attorney or successor in Office
———
Now Therefore, if the said Exectrix shall make or cause to be made a true & perfect Inventory of all & singular the Goods, Chattels, Credits and Estate of the said desceased, which have or shall come to the hands, prossession or knowledge of the said Exectrix or into the hands or possession of any other person or persons for her — and the same so made do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the registry of the said Court of Probate in the District of Norfolk at or before the 12th day of March next ensuing: & the sd. Goods Chattels, Credits & Estate, and all other Goods, Chattels, C. & Es. of the said Deceased at the time of his death & disposed of by said last Will & Testament which shall at any time come into the hands of or possession of any other person<*s*> or persons for her shall & do well & truly administer, & faithfully discharge the duty & office of Exectrix of the said last Will, & duly execute the same, same, settle the said Estate of said deceased according to the provisions of the Said Will the Orders of the Court of Probate & the rules of Law; & shall settle all the accounts thereof with said Judge, within such time such time as he shall limit & appoint: Then, on such performance, this obligation shall be void, & of no effect; but on default, to be and remain in full force & virtue

(L.S.) P.B.
(L.S.) R.B.

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[*New sheet of paper with a London watermark*.]

Notes <u>on time</u> are liable to interest after they become due, whether demand is made for their payment or not —

Notes <u>on demand</u> are liable to interest from the time demand is made until the payment of them —

_____

$200.00 Tolland, Nov. 1, 1841.

On demand, for value received, we severally & jointly promise to pay Joseph Ross, two hundred dollars

I. D. Bond
F. H. Bond

Either of the signers to a note of this form are responsible for its payment —

_____

$75.00 Tolland, Nov. 1, 1841.

Six months from date, for value received, I, John Frost, as principal, & I, Henry Frost, as surety, promise to pay J.D. bond seventy five dollars.

John Frost
Henry Frost

The one who signs as surety in a not of this form is not responsible for its payment, unless from the inability of the principle —

_____

Form of Receipts —

$60.00 Tolland, Oct. 1, 1841. Received of George Carpenter, sixty dollars, in full of all demands.

J.D. Bond.

A receipt of this form is good against all claims, of whatever kind, if it cannot be made to appear that the person giving it acted ignorantly of facts which would have influenced him to do otherwise.

$25.00 — Tolland, Oct. 1, 1841. Received of Lewis Tiffany twenty five dollars, in full of all accounts.

J.D. Bond.

A receipt of this form is good against <u>accounts</u> only.

<u>Cash is debtor when it is received</u> -- The person from whom it is received is creditor
<u>Cash is Cr. when it is paid out or goes from you</u>. The person to whom it is paid is Debtor
In book account mark the <u>right hand page Cr.</u>, & <u>the left Dr.</u>

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[*Written on back*: About Cornelia's things]
Pamela Burr's share of Cornelia Benton's thing

		$
One Red black & yellow Single yarn Kersey Blanket	3	
1 White Kersey single yarn blanket Blue & yellow border	3	
1 White & yellow Single yarn Blanket not new	2.50	
1 Old red worsted bedquilt		1
1 Old Feather bed brown linen tick		3.50
6 1/2 yds. new diaper white linen homem[ade]	1.63	
Old flannel sheets what Frederic did not have	1.25	
1 2/3 yds. Coarse tow cloth for under bed		1.04
2 old linen sheets 1 brown 1 white		.75
3 New brown towels 1 1/2 yds. New kersey tow	.75	
6 old tow towels brown	.34	
2 1/2 yds. New Linen coarse		.60
2 old white <*diaper*> <*towels*>	<*.14*>	
<*1 Old pillow case*> 1 old worn out corset		[...]
3 Old cotton chemise		.16
1 Old worn out calico dress		.16
Sundry small articles twine pieces of cloth &c	.25	
Good Linen chemise		.34
1 skirt quilt & 2 skirts very old	.16	

[*Written on other half of page*]

1 High chest with 2 drawers		1.50
1 stand with 4 legs & drawer		1.50
1 Trunk covered with <*Leather*> skin	1.00	
1 New papered trunk		.75
5 Old baskets all she had here		.34
1 Little old papered trunk		.20
1 set blue cups & saucers		.34
1 Blue Pitcher		.17
Several Old wooden dishes all she had	.30	
2 Old pewter cups 1 quart 1 pint	.25	
2 Old pic tins		.13
Old Candlesticks		.16
Some Old crockery & tea canister		.12
1 Old pewter tea pot		
2 earthen milk pans		.12
1 Pair cards		.25
1 Old red Bedsted & rope very low		.50

1 Pr. Silver <*corset*> frame spectacles	1.34	
1 Old Calico Bedquilt in Squares	1.00	
Emelines Bed puff of Blankets plain wove plain filled with wool	1.34	
1 Pair Cotton pillow cases partly worn Emelines	.18	

[*New sheet of paper*]

<1 Blue & white cotton & wool Blanket $6>

Emeline's Share of C[*ornelia*]'s things		
1 Blue & white cotton & wool Blanket	$6	
1 Red & Green Blanket doubled & twisted wool	4	
1 Old large Silver spoon	2.50	
1 Pair New Linen Sheets Marked No 1	2.50	
4 Old Linen Sheets 1 old kersy table cloth 1 white towel	1.72	
3 Pair New Linen Pillow cases	1.50	
1 pr. No. 4 1 No. 7 1 pr. Not. numbered		
3 1/4 yds Diper new		1
1 Large fall leaf Table		3
Half Loom Harness &c	4	
Best Low Chest	1.25	
Taylors Iron		.75
Looking Glass		.25
Large quart Glass		.12
Blue Plates		.50
Steel yards		.25
1 Linen Chemise		.34
		29.49

[*Written on other half of page*]

1 <*Nearly*> New Feather Bed		$10
Weight about 23 lbs. Linen Striped Tick		
1 New Red worsted bedquilt yellow lining		10
1 Pair <*Nearly*> New Flannel Sheets		5
1 Trunk Largest covered with skin		3
1 Pair New Linen Sheets white	2.50	
1 Calico Quilt pieced in Striped	1.50	
5 yds. New Linen		1.25
3 1/4 yds New Diaper		1
2 pr. New Linen Pillow Cases		1
1 <*New*> Linen Chemist	.34	

The letter C. is marked on both the Flannel sheets & C.B. No. 2 is marked on the linen sheets & No. 2 on one pr. of Pillow Cases & No. 3 on the other & C.B. on both

	35.40
	16
	$51.40

The above articles & 16 dollars in clothing are Susan J. Benton's [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*] share of Cornelia Benton's House Hold furniture & clothing
Feb. 26 1838

[*On the reverse*]

New Diaper near 1 1/2 yd		.36
2 Old white diaper towels		.14
1 Old linen pillow case	.06	
		.74
		29.49
		30.23

Clothing 23
$53.23

Emeline Benton's share of Cornelia Benton's household furniture and clothing

It is set down on both sides this paper She has $3.07 cents more than I do because I took a Bed puff & pair cotton Pillow cases that were Emeline's for my self with 1.53 & paid her out of my share of E's things
March 10. 1838 Pamela [Benton] Burr

[*Written on other half of page*]
Emeline's & Jane's things that were Cornelia's are all in Emeline's low chest that was Cornelia's best

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[*Written on back*: Miss Lyon's [*Mary Lyon*] receipt of $32.]

Received of Mr. Ebenezer Burr thirty two dollars in advance for the board & tuition of his daughter. Mary Lyon.

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*, *Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], Nov. 9, 1837.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs Eben Burr [*Pamela Benton Burr*]
Norfolk [*Connecticut*]

Norfolk [*Connecticut*] March 1[9?], 1828

Mrs Burr This note Miss Grants Brother left here saturday for me to hand it you yesterday but you was not to meeting so I sent it this morning —
You may send me 50 lbs of good rye flower soon if you please
I expect to go to N York [*New York*] the first of April & shall want the money then for the tuscan hat

Respectfully yours
B. Dowd

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs Pamelia Burr [*Pamela Benton Burr*]
Norfolk
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Wethersfield [*Connecticut*], Sept. 4, 1837.

My dear Madam,

My Mother being absent on a journey, I have taken the liberty to open your letter, & will endeavor to answer it, as far as in my power.

There is no doubt in my mind, that Miss Benton would be cordially received into our school, & that her expenses would be at least as low as at any similar institution in the vicinity. We have always felt a particular interest in young ladies who were preparing themselves for teachers, & I know that my Mother would be desirous to afford her every facility in her power.

If we should be so situated as to render it practicable, we should be happy to receive her into our family (that is, if she would be pleased with our plain style of living) in which case, she would not be under the necessity of going out at all. The expense of boarding in our family, including every thing, would not probably be more than $2 a week. It might be considerably less,

though living as you know, is very high now. If we cannot receive her, we can doubtless obtain board for her at a short distance, but the expense might be somewhat greater. Tuition is at the rate of half a dollar a week.

Our school closed the 30th of Aug. Vacation continues three weeks. There will probably be a short Fall term till about Thanksgiving time, then a <*weeks*> vacation of a week perhaps. The winter term has generally been about sixteen weeks. The spring vacation continues two or three weeks, I believe.

Pupils can be received at any time, but it is generally preferable to enter at the commencement of a term. The next term, you perceive, begins not far from the first of Oct. If she should conclude to come about that time, we will expect her without further notice. She can come directly to our house, & we will see, that she is provided for. And I would just remark, that this season of the year is perhaps the most favorable for study. Should she conclude not to come, then we shall like to be informed. Mother's return is expected in about two weeks. Should she wish to communicate anything different, will write immediately.

Your respectfully,
Nancy Emerson

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[*Addressed to*] M. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Ct. [*Connecticut*]
—
with box

Winsted [*Connecticut*] Feby .25/40

Mr. Ebenezer Burr 6th By Bal. on Books			$0, 12
By 9 1/2 [*marking*] Butter	at 18 cents		1.71
" allowance [obeyed?] & Drilling not sent before		.15	
			$1.98

Sent this day 11th [Copper?]		1.64	
" " " 2 1/4 [yd?] [...] Drilling	.34		$1.98

Mr. Burr, our Books showed a balance of 12 cents due you before the trade this day — to which I have added as above the Butter & one [yd] [short mason?] in Drilling and had sent Drilling & Copper to balance I suppose that you owed in a little until I looked at the Books but as they show it different We have sent goods accordingly if there is an error we can rectify it hereafter — we have sent Miss Dorr Sugar for the [Lace?] as requested

Yours truly

Hinsdale & [Beardsley?]

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

Folio post.
[*Post stamp:* Prairieville, Wis. [*Wisconsin*] Feb 25 1844]
Dear Parents,

I have just returned from the office with the sad news of sister M's [*Mary Burr Hill*] sickness. I wonder we have not heard it before. Fear much the next we get will be more melancholy, but we wish to hear <*all*> particulars.

I hardly know what to write, but think as I have neither time nor room to say much I will confine myself mostly to some particulars which C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has noticed. You wish to hear more about our land & I will make you as well acquainted as I can with the limited time and room which I have. It is as you know 3/4 of a mile long from east to west, & 1/4 wide, containing as nearly as I can guess about as much marsh or wet prairie as dry land, the wet, pretty wet, and the dry, very dry. Many people think the marsh will be the most valuable land in a few years & I think there is some reason for such a supposition but our upland is not as good as I wish it was, it being white sand or gravel, that is, considerable of it. There is however from 20 to 30 acres good land and perhaps a little more, but that is but little for such a farm. The object I wish to accomplish is to sell 40 or 80 acres here and buy forty on sec. 11, the E. line of which is <*a*> due S. line from the W. end of this farm. the S.W. corner of this 1/2 mile worth of the N.E. corner of that. Besides preserving all the advantages of this, it has a good many in addition some of which C [*Caroline*] has mentioned. The tract contains 80 acres, 40 of which Joel owns. We cannot sell this at present for money, but presume we can in a few months. have two opportunities in view not room to tell about them. If we buy where we wish to at the price C [*Caroline*] named we <*have*> must decide soon, for others stand ready to take it as quick as it is to be had. It is land under a mortgage & not likely to be payed & the mortgagee has made the mortgager an offer for it in lieu of foreclosing & he says as we have one half of it he will let us have the other half for what he pays. The land I bought for J [*Joel Grant*] sold for $8 per acre last spring J [*Joel*] paid but little more than half that & suppose that I can get the rest for $4 If you can furnish the money, we can use the avails of this land if we should sell part of it, to build a house, if not we must let the opportunity go. I feel that if such an arrangement could be made our condition and prospects will be much improved, at least, I believe I shall be contented. wish father would advise as much as he can in all my affairs

We wish to know what you will do as quick as possible, lest we lose the chance. we get the mail only once a week and the delay of one day may put us back a week, write if possible within one day after receiving this. If you pay Capt. Thayer be sure to get it indorced on the receipt which I gave him.

My time is all occupied with work but I dont work very hard think it not best. much love to all

Your affectionate son,
Dan'l [*Daniel*] Grant

During the latter part of Dec. & Jan. there were meetings here days & night for 4 weeks — the methodist, Baptist & Congregation churches united — quite a number of conversions — I was down to the village 11 days — attended meetings most of the time — Hope I rec'd [*received*] a few mercy drops — Kind friends invited me to their houses & so freely too that I sometimes scarce knew wh. [*which*] way to turn We have presented our letters to the C. [*Congregational*] church & have been rec'd [*received*] — We feel distressed to hear of Martha's illness — feel anxious to hear often as is consistent — have rec'd [*received*] no letters this winter from Father Grant's people at home or from our brothers at New Haven [*Connecticut*] — We sent Joel a letter — think in Dec.

My love to all our relatives & friends,

very aff. [*affectionate*] Your own Carrie — [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

[*Written across side*] D. [*Daniel*] says that the price of men's labor depends altogether upon the number of laborers — sometimes it is high & sometimes low — the price now is about $12 now for good hands — when navigation opens & laborers come <*in it will*> wages will doubtless be less —, pork is $5. per. hund. [*hundred*] wh. [*which*] is very high for this region it usually being $2 or 3 — potatoes in the fall were 25 cts. [*cents*] bushel we engaged 5 bushels for that & paid mostly with oxens work — they are now 37.

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Frenches Hotel. Wed morn, Sunrise

Dear all of you

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

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

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

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

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

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[*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

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

Prairieville [*Wisconisn*], March 30. /47.

My dear Parents & Brothers,

We were very glad to receive your letter last Sat March 27 — I wondered why we did not hear before but did not allow myself to feel greatly troubled about it. I did not hear much worse news than I expected to for I concluded she was sick, or at least I feared it. O how it makes me feel but I cant help it. I am very glad to hear Ma [*Pamela Benton Burr*] say she intends to be careful about her diet, for I think it will be a great preventive to sickness — I shall not exhort her as Mary did to be picking up things &c. but rather to do as little as possible & not get overdone. Am glad you have got a good girl for a while

Brother John wrote us a letter about a week before the removal of his tumors wh. [*which*] he did not send until after the operation when Martha Woodward who accompanied him to N. Haven [*New Haven, Connecticut*] enclosed another giving an account of the operation. his state &c. he became very much exhausted & was for a time considered in a very precarious condition — The physicians thought before the operation that the tumors were the cause of the paralysis, but on removing the tumors discovered that the back bone is diseased. so that there is no hope of his ever being well — this fact John was not aware of when the letter was sent — but frequently spoke of being able in a few weeks to walk — what must be his feelings when he learns his situation I cannot bear to think of it — <*I do not*> it is enough to depress all our spirits. but there is comfort in thinking that God knows what is best & will do all things right —

It is comparatively healthy here at present although there are a few cases of typhus fever — quite a number are again having the ague as the Spring is opening Daniel did for two or three weeks feel quite aguish but has taken medicine & hopes to escape it — he is better now — he has been in school a little more than three months & expects to close soon. he gives good satisfaction for aught we know & <*does*> is not so tired of teaching as to feel that he will never again engage in it.

We have lived much more comfortably & pleasantly in this little room this cold winter than I expected to. we have had an excellent family to live with.

We expect soon to remove to a very pleasant place in the village about a quarter of a mile from here, have room enough, as there are in the lower part of the house two rooms a pantry & large recess for a bed, beside a shed. in wh. [*which*] is the well there is one plastered room in the chamber. beside the # house,

This house has rented this winter for $12.25 cash per week

we are to have & garden, & another small piece of land & the use of a cow or its equivalent, & in exchange we are to board the owner of the property & do his washing he furnishes his own bed. — this gentleman is a goldsmith & besides employs persons to make tin ware. he will wish to employ Daniel some in <*p*>selling tin & doing various other jobs for wh. [*which*] he will pay in cash

& otherwise as we need. Daniel does not think it best to try to go to farming at present but expects to work out, or teach school or both or do something else & get what he can & live comfortably as we go along Mr. Pennington in whose house we are to live is going to put a plate in our looking glass frame. we also hope to have a bureau or something of the kind before long but can not tell whether we shall be able to.

Daniel now expects to put up a house in the upper end of the village on the road leading by Joels 40 acre lot. as I have before said we shall be able to make the house very comfortable to live in without going much if any into debt though he will now be obliged to take this winter's wages as he was disappointed in selling sand last fall — he now expects to purchase the lot on wh.[*which*] he intends to build there is about 1/3 of an acre — price $50. we do not think there will be any risk in getting this property as there is little doubt but that it will sell or rent should we wish to dispose of it — should we have a house of our own where we think of we shall not pay rent & shall be conveniently situated to obtain work. attend meetings &c. It is a great privilege in many respects to reside in a village. I dont see but Daniel is just as busy as when we were on the farm — has earned several dollars this winter beside teaching — when not at work there are meetings to attend & his relations to some of them are such that he feels obliged to attend being Secretary of a Young Ladies & Gentleman's Temperance Society & President of a Phonographic Association — these meet once a week & there is also a stated Thursday evening prayer meeting, beside other meetings occasionally — We like our minister better than I expected to like one after hearing Mr. Curtis.

Little Abby is well most of the time, several weeks ago she came very near having the croup. she was suddenly taken about bed time with a very hoarse dry cough & oppressive breathing so we gave her some lard & molasses & put a little oil upon her throat she seemed a little relieved but continued so bad that we rose twice before morning & bathed her in cold water pouring it most freely about the neck & chest. we then rubbd her off briskly, wrapped her in flannel & laid her in bed — for sometime we kept a cloth wet with cold water upon her throat & chest over this we put a flannel one — we think this method of treatment vey good indeed — it is said to perform wonderful cures in cases of croup — Mrs. Curtis cured her baby by the application of water — I should mention that Abby had some croupy symptoms remaining in the morning but they seemed much abated Abby does not seem much more fleshy than she was last summer, but grows tall is 2 ft. 7 1/2 in. in height. she will attempt to say almost any think that she is told to, & speaks very plain for one of her age, so all say, she puts words together considerable she will say "Papa gone spool", "here comes Mama". Yesterday Mrs. Root put her rag baby on a little cup — Abby says (after being told I suppose) "here 'tis baby on cup." you cannot know how pretty all this sounds, as you do not hear the peculiar emphasis with which she speaks. here Papa comes, she accents the first word half sings & half laughs — Mrs. Root she calls Anny for Anty & Antoinette she very distinctly speaks Annette. she sometimes hops & dances. when things do not go to suit her, but she is usually a very good little girl to mind. I take her to meetig week days, but Sundays one of us stay with her — when she goes out she wears that scarlet flannel dress & pantalets & white apron — I have made her that little black hood wh. [*which*] she wears common & have got most of her summer clothes in readiness making them shorter with pantalets &c. . In answer to your inquiries I will say that I did not pay any thing for extra baggage when coming. I did not materially injure my new delaiu on the journey through I got it some soiled. but cleaned it — it makes me a very pretty dress, but is not going to wear well my velvet hat was repaired in Milwauk [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]. I gave a dollar for it — was glad I did not have it done before I left as the style was not such as is worn this winter — I lost on my journey [...] scissors, a little [...] of sweet oil & that calico loose dress that was Mary's — think I left the scissors at Aunt Emeline but am not positive I intended to have mentioned them before — none of our things that we left were injured of any importance —

A few days since I had four decayed teeth taken out — I am going to sew to pay for it — am glad Ralph takes so good care of his —

Our heifer has been dry two weeks but we expect to have new milk within a week or two —

We had rather live here than in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*].

The name of this town is changed to Wankesha. I do not like the new name half as well as I did the old one hope it will be changed back again next winter —

I was grieved to hear of the death of Aunt Jane's little Edwin. I know they will feel his loss deeply — am daily looking for a letter from May I have rec'd [*received*] no letter from Father Grants since we wrote to them a long time ago — but know they cannot write often — I would like you to send them this & then we shall not need write them at present — hope they will write soon telling particularly about Martha [*Martha Woodward*] & John [*John Grant*] Give our love to all our relatives & friends It is our prayer that you may bell all of our dear friends

Yours very aff. [*affectionate*]
Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Waukesha [*Wisconsin*], Nov. 3, '48.

My dear Parents, Sister, & Brother,

I intended to commence a letter before my confinement & had Daniel finish it & send it on soon after, but that took place the first day of Oct. & my letter was then untouched but we <u>did</u> intend you should hear before this will reach you, but time passes before we know it. D.'s [*Daniel*] time & mind have been variously & busily occupied, & I have been negligent I will admit.

We have a little son, a pretty child, plump & apparently healthy – he has thus far slept a great deal, but likes to be tended when awake. — his father has given to me the selection of his name & I am at quite a loss what to decide upon. Would like to name him after all of our friends, but our Parents & Grandparents gave to <u>most</u> of their sons names that sound rather graceless to my ear, have thought of the several names of our brothers with the letter E. for a middle name wh. [*which*] is an initial of the name of our Father, two of our brothers & other relatives but wh. [*which*] of the brothers names shd. [*should*] we take! I think John sounds the best. — I have always fancied the name of Edward, & have thought of the name Edward Burr or Ralph Edward. what say you to all this? — I got along very well indeed after confinement & at the time too had slight pains 16 hours or more but not [some?] more than 1 or 2 hours had some fever two or three days took a little cold I suppose the second week, but have had no trouble with caked breasts or sore nipples. I now feel quite well & strong – had good help – was with us between three & four weeks, & Daniel has since, as usual, been very kind & good to assist me. He has for several weeks past had some trouble with a weak & sour stomach – has & is taking some medicine — two or three weeks ago he sprained his left wrist & has not been able to use it much since — he has seemed to endure labor better this summer than for two years before & has earned a good many dollars. he is not yet decided what to do this winter, thinks <*te*?> of teaching school if he can.

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] is healthy – is generally a very good & obedient little girl – as you always wish to know what she says & I often think when she makes remarks that I will recollect them & tell you, but <*all have*> none come to mind now except these – when her Pa was putting out pea brush last summer she said Papa was planting trees – we last summer asked her who made the stars. she says why they come right out from the sky. once as the clouds were passing over the <*sk*> moon she says, "Mama see the moon run." She uses such words as she hears us, as perhaps, probably, commenced, indeed &c. — We rec'd [*received*] the barrel about the middle of Oct. the things are all valuable & highly useful & we feel very grateful for them – the dried fruit we highly prize – have used the currants in the little <*dipper*> cup. Abby said they were very nice & we agree with her. Want Sister Nancy to receive as many thanks for those she sent as there are number of currants. the hankerchiefs & gloves I think a great deal of. there were two pair of india rubber,: one pr. [*pair*] had fur around them, were they yours or Martha's. I am glad of them — & all the other things too — You need not worry to get me any more stockings. Nov. 4. I did not get time to finish this to send by to days mail am sorry – baby is in my lap, Abby is playing around the room & Daniel has gone to preparatory lecture. this forenoon I made six pumpkin pies & by the way we have a very good supply of pumpkins – have also an abundance of cabbage, beets, turnips & onions & a few beans shall probably be obliged to buy some

potatoes before Spring have some corn & expect to have enough soon for our winter's use — I have six gallons of cucumbers salted — the fore part of July got 5 hens – one died in about two weeks they have found their own living & laid 18 dozen eggs, but I suppose this winter will tell a different story – have 8 doz [*dozen*] in salt, sold 2 dozen Last summer we bought some berries – dried 6 or 8 quarts of blackberries – some while I think of say that I will have quite a curiosity to know what kind of dried fruit that is that was in a small bag in the large bag of apples – it has the appearance of sweet apples dried 2 & chopped 1. — From the first of Oct. last year to the same time this year we used about 50 lbs. sugar & 7 or 8 gallons molasses. so you see we had quite a supply, though we should have used more if it had been convenient to have always just as much as we would like.

Nov. 5 Sab. [*Sabbath*] P. M. – babe is 5 weeks old this P. M. – feel that we have got reason for thankfulness that I am so well & smart as well as for other mercies that we are constantly receiving — There has been considerable sickness here this fall but not much that has proved fatal — in the summer the<*re*> summer complaint prevailed considerably among children & there were several deaths — I learn by your last letter (wh. [*which*] we rec'd five days after my confinement) & also from Abigail [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] that there are cases of dysentery around you & some of them fatal — think of you a great deal – dread to hear from there, but still I wish to — we cannot too much feel the importance of being at any time prepared to die — O that we all might make that our chief concern — heard a few days since of the severe sickness of Mother Grant [*Elizabeth Phelps Grant*] – feel anxious about her – hope she may be spared to us yet — I did intend to write this time to Erastus & Nancy but am so anxious to have this letter on its way to you that I will not this time — do believe I shall before long, hope they will receive my love & many thanks for the beautiful currants — kiss the baby for me & Abby — love to all relatives & friends — Mrs. Pendleton

Abigail says she hopes Mary will spend some time with them this winter. I should be glad if you could but dont suppose you can. O dear.

Yours very aff. [*affectionately*] Caroline.
[*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Mrs. Root returned two or three weeks since with her children & Mother — her Father expects to come in the Spring. I intend to go there while the plastering is being done & drying.

Nov. 6, Dear Sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]

I am ver<*r*>y sorry I cannot pay you what I owe you now I know you ought to have it I shall make every effort to get it soon as possible think without doubt I shall be able to pay part in the spring if not the whole It appears to me I had not better make out a mortgage at present for it will be considerable expense and the probability is that you will get your pay in the spring and you are safe any how whether I live or not. But if I find that I am not likely to pay I will have the security attended to or if you really think it best I will attend to it at any time

Your affectionate brother D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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

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

Dear Children

This P. M. your Father [*Ebenezer Burr*] went to town to Meet Mr. Hill [*William Hill*] they reached home about candle light bringing your letter mailed Feb. 11. So as soon as we have told 'bout things here will say what we wish to D. [*Daniel*] & try to send that to Dea. [*Deacon Elijah*] Grants tomorrow. The house was in order Mary Dressed & tea nearly ready when <*Mr.*> they arrived now near 10 o'clock they <*are*> Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Mr Hill are in the South room made very warm by a box stove which we borrow for a few weeks your pa & Ralph are in bed I am by our cook stove in the kitchen burning some coffee while writing. Suppose <...> that bed was worth 50 cts. [*cents*] a lb. [*pound*] here but I would not sell it unless you are coming here to live & never intend to go back there <...> to live Dont sell it <u>with</u> without cash down — & do not

sell it at all it seems very strange that you should even think of selling the only good bed you have every family wants a bed & you would not be likely to buy a good feathers again why do you wish to sell it? It is late & I have a great deal on my my mind & cannot write well & have a poor pen so good night hope you will do what is best we are all well don't sell any thing for less than it is worth

Pamela [*Benton*] Burr

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

Dear sister & brother

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

Mary Burr

Dear Sister & Brother

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

Ralph E. Burr

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Flemington, [*New Jersey*.] Apr. 26, 1849.

Dear parents brothers & sisters

I suppose you imagine us nicely settled in our own home ere this — But we are not there yet — House painting & preparations for house—keeping occupy time & we shall not be thoroughly fixed probably before the last of next week or the first of week after — Father, Hetty & myself went to New York last week for furniture, going Tuesday – returning Friday — It was thought best for father to go rather than William [*Hill*] because he is better acquainted with New York & more accustomed to shopping — The goods are all in Somerville & most of them here — A woman has been here this week helping make the carpets – Carpet for parlor 28 yds. [*yards*] at 81 cts. [*cents*] the best of ingrain. Colors – the various shades of blue & buff — It is considered handsome & is quite showy — Carpets for dining room & spare room are alike – colors various – quality good price 62 ½ cts. Mother gives <*me*> a carpet for my room – not a new one but one suitable for the place — Mother also gives chairs & wash stand for our room – so you see that she furnishes the room completely – all except my <...> <*rear*> bureau — William takes his own case of drawers – pretty ones of black walnut — <...> Friends of the family a lawyer & wife – have just left Flem [*Flemington, New Jersey*] – going a considerable distance they sold their furniture. I took a handsome mahogany bureau with mirror affixed at 14 dollars — Mrs. Clark paid 18 dollars in New York about three years since — I also took her own mahogany bureau an old one for five dollars – am getting it dressed over for three dollars —

Have got a high post bedstead for 6 ½ dollars — Beside the double bed in spare room there will be room for a single one – shall get it when convenient — Have a cot for the woman – whom we have engaged – an Irish – stout & strong — Mother seems to take the same interest & care in getting me ready that she would in her own daughters — & so do they all — I received from every member of the family the utmost attention & kindness — I feel perfectly at home & shall be sorry to leave — Have attended 4 tea parties & one large party since writing — Have written Laura Kennard – but received no answer — Want to hear from Carrie exceedingly — It will take all my money — & more too to set us up – beside all that mother has given us — Dont know exactly how much William will have to do – but a good many dollars worth — The whole interior of the house is being painted — We have a nice closet in our room beside a small one under the garret stairs — William gets in this [town?] a set of pretty maple cane seats for dining room – also a sewing chair — In New York – got a secretary for 29 dollars – the style you wished – an enclosed wash stand mahogany for 4.50, hair seat chairs for 2.50 – hair seat rocking chair 10. Cane seat & back maple rocking chair 4. Card table 12.50 table cover 3. Sofa 22. Mirror for sitting room 4. for our room 1. Counterpane 3. 1 doz. tea knives & forks 5.50. 1 doz. best dining knives & forks 3.75 9 common knives & forks – price I have forgotten — Block tin tea pot 1.12. Block tin coffee pot 1.12. — Lamp 4. — Bill for china including tea set, dinner set & chamber set & two waiters & 1 doz. tumblers 30.72, tea set white porcelain – dinner set white stone china — Oil cloth for [entry?] 5. Stair carpet 3.19 —

Mother has given me a nice calico comforter beside what they wrote about & will lend some covers for the boys. My comforters both quilted & one bonnet made &c.
For three weeks or more I was obliged to dress every day for receiving calls. But they <...> have all <*through*> been I believe & my return calls are nearly finished My comforters are liked & quilts too, & every thing else too I believe — I often think of you & want to see you all – the darling little Mary I want to kiss — Love to all — Dont fail to write soon — Remember me to Kendleton & Canfield families & all friends & relations.

Your aff [*affectionate*] daughter & sister
Mary B. [*Burr*] Hill

Please don't scold us for not writing sooner have put it off from time to time, until such & such things were accomplished and here it is six weeks since we have written home. I have been very busy indeed this spring have had my house & garden to see to beside the farm and the business part of the shop. Could get no help to dig garden except for one half day have peas up, potatoes, onions, bunch beans, Radishes, beets, carrots, & parsnips planted. On the Farm have sowed 22 acres of oats, ploughed 6 acres, for corn 18 acres to plough yet made ¼ mile of fence, put down 300 ft [*foot*] blind drain. I shall be very glad when we get once settled & glad to hear from or see any of you whenever we may have that pleasure find much more work getting ready than expected, but am still in a good humour with my wife and the trouble too. please write soon, once to our once, yet awhile

Truly as Ever
William H. [*William Hill*]

P.S. I would have written while Mary was in the City but she thought best, to wait until her return
W. H.

Hope ma has not been sick yet. How do pa & Ralph get along breaking colt — Has Nancy commenced cheese making? Miss Allen has given us two silver butter knives. My health is perfectly good.

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut

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

Dear all of you

Believe my diareah [*diarrhea*] or Alim passages commenced about the time we were at Castillo. Did not have but one passage a day but that was very thin it caused me no pain or trouble only as I gradually grew weaker I paid no attention to it for a day or two as Dr Welch told me [exactly?] to live very plain which was all we wer doing at that time all we were eating was a little piece of the bread which came from Greytown & a little dried Beet, At Castillo my appetite had been & was then so poor & I had had so little change for so long a time & was getting so weak with a regular daily cangee of the bowels that I began to think that if I could have a meal of victuals it might do me good the price was one dollar a meal & I had just paid out 20 cts for two junk bottles of rice coffee. the fellow charged me 20 cts for one bottle but it was very strong & I got some more hot water & filled the two, & I had not paid out but 1.20 before since leaving N.Y. I thought of the drummer & the dollar & finally concluded that if a [dinner?] would do me any good I had better get it & so did dont know as it did me any good & I have been sorry that I spent that dollar. When the Director got Toro rapids I did not feel like travelling 3 miles & so went up in the [baggae?] boat Suppose I could have walked it but had rather ride at Virgins Bay I sucked the the juice of an orange with some of the ginger crackers & started for here on a mule was pretty tired & glad to lie on a bed, <*c*>found that Dr Pollard a Dr which Dr's Cockey & Rockwell advised us to employ if we needed any. He told me perhaps had better use the pills Dr Welch gave me which I did for a time but did not get better every thing that passed me was as thin as water. The Dr finally gave me something & I am better He has not given me any thing for sometime I have taken some of my pills & think the diareah [*diarrhea*] is checked, have not been very sick have been round every day & have been into the ocean to bathe almost morning when it did not rain. Have had a little rheumatism in my knees & a little in my shoulder the Dr's told me it would do me good to go in bathing & then rub myself until I got warm havent hardly any rheumatism today, Sunday 8 o clock The S.S. Lewis just arrived dont know when she will start probably in a day or two, Monday 1/2 past 3 I went in bathing this morning & came to breakfast I never eat any thing but a little boiled rice & sugar & some plain wheat bread & drink clear green tea after breakfast [S.?] & I took our dirty clothes & started for where there had been a spring of water but it was dried. we found [salt] water in an old canoe in which [S.?] washed out the cracker [...] which I brought from Flemington & the handkerchief which was wrapped round the dried beef The S.S. Lewis is going tomorrow. I washed out my flannel shirt & towel & [S.?] washed his things we had some tubs & drew the water out of the well it is pretty warm though I would rather had some heat on a stove for my greasy woolen shirt had plenty of soap got it very clean. I have had but one passage today in fact I dont any day & it is not watery although it is just probably not as thick as it would be if I lived on heartier food. Shall have a change of food & air tomorrow when we get on boat. Shall have to pay 25 cts to put this into the express Dr Pollard gave me seven [papers?] of [powders?] to be taken one <...> hours & two messes of of liquid to be taken <...> half table spoonsful once in 4 hours he kept me in <...> 4 or 5 days & has given me all the advice I have asked <...> has charged me 1.50.

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

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

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

Dear parents brother & sisters

We are all well as usual. Mon. evening – I wrote Thurs for Friday when I felt that I could not send the letter away that day — I wanted to read it more — Ralph dear brother is

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

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

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Point Defiance [*California*], July 24, 1853,

Dear Pa & Ma

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

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

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

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

R. [*Ralph*] E. Burr

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

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Point Defiance [*California*], Sept 11, 1853.

Dear Pa & all

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

Le [*Levi*] & I both sent two hundred each about a month since. Have not had a letter from the states since early in the spring, hope you get mine more regular. Have not heard from Daniel or any of the boys this summer. Am still at the same work as ever day in & day out regular as they come & am well & hearty I would give almost any price for a letter from you, want to know what you think about my coming out here & making a cook of myself, suppose it sound mighty small to you, As I can't hear from you I imagine every thing goes on the same as ever, except Eddie wears pants like any man Mary goes to school Sam runs around a real pet of a plaything & Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]
is a perfect little woman if she has staid with "Gramma Grant" Wouldn't I turn myself loose if I was among them all. Cant write much now will try & make out a letter of news before long, remember me to all friends if they complain that I do not write tell them I am at work, & it is mighty dry business writing when you can hardly expect to get an answer

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

Dear Parents

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

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

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

That piece of land of Mr Pendletons is just what I have thought a hundred times I would like to have added to ours but never expected there would be a chance to get it without the lower meadow too, if I was to have our farm I should take that by all means. I know it seems bad for me to be out here & leave Pa & Ma alone, if I had money enough to go home & take the farm

would like to do it, & live with you, but I can never think of going there to work for 12, 15 or even 20 dollars a month to pay for it, nor would I want to buy it,& 80 to work on it to pay for it, & give any great price, if I can get money enough here to satisfy you for the farm before I get off the notion of going home, shall like to go & have the farm, & that of Mr Pendeltons with it, If you want to buy that land you can take what money I have sent home to pay with & give me your note, & when I get some more will send it along till 'tis paid for, & then if I ever have the farm you will have the use of the land for the interest of, the money & if I shouldn't have it should want the money & interest of course. We are on a creek about a mile from San Francisco Bay, there are a double of packet boats one of which goes from here to town each day & returns the next fare 2 dols each way Hart & Capt [Vandrum?] had a steamer running here to town this winter but it did not pay & Hart has sold out, must have lost considerable

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

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

Is my life insured yet?

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

There are some Indians around not but a few & plenty of Grizzlies though we can never get sight of one. The boys hunted for them considerable this winter but could see none although fresh tracks were plenty, they are harder to get near than [boxes?].
I have never seen one yet. There are five women in this village all married bloody Irish Hart has a river claim & is […] this summer
Levi has always been an honest, timid, true hearted friend to me & as good a fellow as I would wish to come here with.
Ethan is the same though a little inclined to take things [aisey?]. Tomorrow I shall be your 23 your old.

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

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

Dear Brother & Sister,

For the first time since the 20th of last Oct. I am lying idle a day. My feet have been troubling me a little for three or four days & today are quite painful to walk upon, so Mrs. Wood is cooking while I rest. It appears a little like rheumatism don't know whether 'tis that or standing & running on the floor so much, we have had pretty busy times for a week or two, more boarders coming in, Have been so busily employed I have scarcely written any letters this summer, & have recd none since early in the spring excepting one from Ethan Pendleton & one from Daniel, Ethan was across the bay from San Francisco at a heavy job of cutting & hauling wood, presume he will make a good thing of it. Dont know where Daniel or any of the other boys are except Le [*Levi Grant*] he is here working by the day at five dollars. It has been cloudy & rained a little this morning which is the first rain we have had since last spring only a little thunder shower one night 3 or 4 weeks since. Fluming companies have just commenced taking out the gold & a heavy rain enough to raise the rivers & carry away the dams would break thousands of men, but we dont look for such a rain yet. It probably will not come for two months. cannot tell yet how the river companies will do but there is a fair prospect of most of them doing well. the company Levi works for worked about 25 men & took out over 2000 dollars last week it has cost them 7 or 8000 to get into the river. Although there is a great deal of gold in the country, still no one seems to be very rich that I know. It costs a great deal to live the way people generally live in this country. After a

man pays 10 dollars a week for board & plays cards for whiskey & oysters & watermelons every night & now & then a day, he is not going to have much money unless he has rich diggings, & there is not a man that I know but that will play for these things excepting Mr Wood Le [*Levi*] & myself. Out of twenty five or thirty men who compose the population of this point, I dont believe there are six that are worth 1000 dollars & most of them have been in the country since '49. Tis true that soon as men get 3 or 4000 dollars they generally leave for home but there are thousands & thousands who never have saved that much although perhaps they might have done it had they been as saving and industrious as you & other people are at home. Still everything a man eats or drinks (excepting water) or wears must be bought at an extravagant price. Most men will have what they like if they see it. I have been as industrious & saving as any man could be since I have been in the country. have worked every day I could work, have not drunk a drop of liquor nor bought more than a dozen melons or any more clothes than just enough to be dressed as decent as other people & all the money which I have sent home & which is now due me is $1020.38 cts & I had $40 of that when I got here.

I actually dont know what to write about that would interest you, there is no one or thing here that you ever knew & I have stuck so close to one place that I know but very little about the different parts of the country. The farming is all done in the valley down south or southwest from here & people say almost everyone has the chills there & a good deal of fever, no one has the chills here unless they caught them in the valley. Farming is not as profitable as it was last year although it is money making business now. I would'nt want anything better than to farm & about 25 or 50 cows all the good cheese you could make would sell for 50 cts a pound & butter for ,75 or 1,00 all the Beef you could raise from 20 to 30 cts a pound: but to <u>buy</u> a farm it would cost as much as one at home, & if you take it up it costs a great deal to fence it & make any improvements, in many places there is no timber for rails & then boards must be bought at from 40 to 50 dols a thousand – good milk cows would cost from 100 to 150 dols each, & if ever I have money enough to buy one a farm & stock it here I am going home. Suppose if I stay here four or five years more things will be so changed that Norfolk [*Connecticut*] will hardly look as it did when I left I shall scarcely know the place, the fence round the green & trees must be a great addition to the looks of the place. I often try to think how everything looks & all of you get along but somehow it always seems just as it was when I left although I know there is a change

Driving cattle across the plains from Missouri & the western states has been a very profitable business for two years & will likely always pay well but men say who came across this season that stock is getting scarce & high in the states so there is not so much profit to be made on it hereafter. Last year $2000 worth of stock in Missouri would be worth $20000 here. Teaming is good business. Teamsters get 4 cts a pound for hauling goods from Sacramento here 60 miles The roads are rather rough & hilly but a four mule team will draw 35 or 40 hundred & make a trip every six days. but I cant get a team for a good stout six mule team with wagon & harness is worth $3000. So I must work along as any poor boy has to at home. Wish I could be there a little while to see you all. little Mary trudging off to school. Eddie strutting round in pants little Sam running all round & getting into all kinds of mischief, & Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] a perfect little woman if she has staid with "Gramma Grant." Now Mr. Erastus & Mrs. Nancy I want you to write me a letter & tell me all how you are getting along as honestly as I have told you about myself. I would give ten dollars for a letter this minute from you. Remember me to all the uncles Aunts & cousins down your way Olive & Harriet in particular. Tell Uncle Cressey I am right glad I came here for I dont think I shall loose anything pecuniarially & what I have seen & learned will more than compensate for what little sickness I have had,

Your affectionate brother

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

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

R.E. Burr

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[*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*]

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[*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.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant

Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Con. [*Connecticut*]

Paid
No. 6.

Boston, March 29, 1839.

My dear Parents,

Mr. Burgess wrote you in Amherst [*Massachusetts*], & sent by Mr. Cowles. We left Amherst the next day, & rode nearly all the following night, & arrived in Grafton [*Massachusetts*] Fri. noon. The next Tues. Mr. B. [*Ebenezer Burgess*] was ordained. The exercises were highly interesting, & well attended. I was pleased with our visit in Grafton, the people are hardy, sensible, & inhabit the eastern part of the Green Mt. range. Mt. Ashutney was in sight & only a few miles from us. The people are now engaged in making maple sugar. It was a good season, & sufficient is generally made for their own use. We visited Mr. B. [*Burgess*]'s four uncles, & called on a good many cousins & acquaintances, found them interested & kind, indeed I was much more gratified with my acquaintance there than I anticipated, & think I should have regretted it, had I not gone We stayed in Grafton one week, & came to Lowell [*Massachusetts*] last Sat. where we stopped at Rev. Mr. Burnap's an old teacher of Mr. Burgess's. We spent the Sabbath in Lowell. Mr. Burgess preached half a day in each orthodox Congregational ch. [*church*] Lowell has now a population of about 19,000. About 1,000 persons usually attend at the <*ortho*> congregational chhs, [*churches*] & they are now forming a third congregational ch. [*church*] It is a city & is quite an interesting place. In the town about 6/7 of the inhabitants are females, & about the same proportion in Mr. Burnap's ch. [*church*] about 600 females, & less than 100 males. We came to Boston Monday last, and are now almost ready to embark. My health has been very good, & my acquaintances say that I am looking very healthy for me. I get tired days, but sleep, & rise refreshed & well. We are staying at Mr. Stichney's.

Ipswich, April 9, 1839.

My dear Brother, & Sister,

On Saturday March 30, the missionaries Rev. Messrs. Burgess, French & [Hume] & their wives with Miss Cynthia Gannan, came from Boston to Salem [*Massachusetts*]. On Sat. eve. private instructions were given them at the house of Rev. Mr. Worcester, by the Rev. Messrs. Anderson & Armstrong. Judge Darling of Henniker, N.H. the father of Mrs. Ballantine of the [Nahvalta?] Mission was admitted, & such relatives of the missionaries as were in Salem. Judge Darling remarked, that his love for his daughter had increased every year since her absen<*t*>ce, but he did not wish to see her in this country; he wished to have her a devoted missionary. Mr. Anderson very familiarly told the missionaries what was due from them to the Capt. <*&*> mates, helmsman & sailors on board the vessel, what would be due to the English Consul on their arrival

at Bombay &c., & exhorted them to render unto Cesar the things which are Cesar's. He gave them good counsel also, in reference to their deportment towards each other.

On Sabbath evening, Mr Anderson as the organ of the Board [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*], gave the missionaries their public instructions in the Tabernacle church, the house in which Dr. Worcester formerly preached. Mr. Worcester gave the address. The missionaries occupied the same place in the church, that was occupied by the first missionaries sent out by the Am. Board, & the first sent from North America 27 years ago. They were, as you know, Messrs. Hall, Nott, Newell, Judson, Rice & their wives. The church is very large, & it was crowded to overflowing. The number present estimated from 2000 to 2500. On Monday morning the<*y*> mission company had their state rooms, 6 ft by 5, assigned them, & they made up their berths with their own bedding, & arranged their trunks &c. so that the rooms were in readiness to be visited at ½ past 10. Multitudes went to [...] the rooms. At ¼ before 12, Mr. Burgess from the highest part of the ship addressed the crowd on deck & on the wharf, estimated at from 2500 to 4000, (probably not far from the highest number.) He said they were going to make known the gospel to those who were without it, that this same gospel was no less important to us than to them. He hoped those around them would not think some strange thing had happened [there]. They were only obeying that gospel which they themselves (the missionaries) had received. He exhorted all to see to it, that they (the heathens) became personally interested in the same salvation. The day was one of the finest of April days, the weather comfortable, the sky & air clear & the wind westerly. After singing & a prayer lead by Mr. Armstrong, persons were requested to leave the deck, & friends to take leave of the missionaries, & in a few minutes the activity of the sailors spread the sails & put all things in readiness, & the vessel was in motion. I lingered & watched her proud & easy movement until the hull & half the height of her masts were out of sight. May he who rules the ocean keep them in the hollow of his hand, waft them to their destined port, bless them & make them rich blessing to the heathen, by employing them as the agents of Christ, in turning many from Satan unto God. – What a blessed privllege it would be to give up Phelps to so glorious a work. May all yours & all mine, & their descendenants to the end of time, give their own selves to the Lord, & be co-workers with Christ in advancing his kingdom. Capt. Ward of the brig Waverly is an excellent, pious man, a member of the Baptist church. He has already carried out several missionary companies. In 110 or 120 days he hopes to reach Bombay. His wife thinks she shall visit these missionaries, within a few years.

From Sat. 5 o'clock P. M. I was at the same house with Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*] until her departure. She was cheerful, solemn & happy & so appeared to [love?] all the company.

Ever your friend & sister, Z.P. Grant
[*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*]

My dear Brother, Your letter was most precious to me. That I have such a friend in you, affords me great consolation. I suppose that Christian parents are often blessed, when they, in faith, educate their children, & that <*generally*> if they can they shd [*should*] educate them [for?] faith, even when the children are not pious. I know not what the Lord would have you do with your son John, but I trust that he will make known to you his will in this matter. You cannot safely lean much upon your children, in such a way as to depend on them in future. But if you do all you can to fit them to glorify God, & give them up to him, he will be better to you than sons or daughters. The course of obedience to God, is the only happy, as it is the only safe course. We must not desist from commencing a good work for fear, that we shall be unable to carry it through. David did well to commence what he could not finish. Every good work is commenced in the mind of some deviser. I mean when commenced & carried on understandingly. May Heaven guide & bless you. – Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*] handed me $50. in return for my loan. I do not want the funds from Mr. Bass's estate forwarded to me

My connexion with Ips. Fem. Sem [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] closes on Tues. the 10th. I have no doubt, that it is my duty to give up all care of a school for some time to come. By quiet, & much exercise in the open air, together with the blessing of Heaven, I may again have comfortable health, & enjoy the luxury of laboring for others. But to obey the will of God seems to me more desirable than any thing else. In my abundant cares in closing business, my poor body suffers, but my spirit is wonderfully sustained Teachers & pupils are as kind & faithful as possible, & so are all with whom I have to do. The Lord deals with me in great mercy. – I do not

expect to visit Colebrook [*Connecticut*] for some time to come. Whether I shall be moving about in [a hass?] next summer, & be stationary I do not know. My health will be my object. Miss Elizabeth [Heaton?] expects to go where I go, to stay where I stay. She can write such business letters as I must have written, & <*perform for*> gives me the sisterly attentions I need. – The future in this world is a blank, but I doubt not, the Lord will provide – I hope you will write me again before long. Direct to Ipswich [*Massachusetts*]; This will be my head quarters for six weeks to come. After that, I shall keep the P. M. [*Post Master*] here advised of my movements. I send you an Essex Register.

Much love to all your children.

Your ever affectionate sister,
Z.P. Grant.

I should have written last week if I had been able. I write in great haste now.

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[*Addressed to*:] Dea. [*Deacon*] Elijah Grant
Millbrook P.O.
Colebrook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Deacon Elijah Grant Hartford May 18 1842
Dear Sir

I mean to write a letter to you and I hope for the assistance of the Divine Spirit while I do it. May you when you read my letter be enabled to do it in the exercise of a Gospel temper and spirit should you so this the letter will do you no injury & may have a better effect than I have any reason to expect (i.e.) <u>of</u> <u>myself</u> You know how you have long felt towards me and what those feelings have prompted you to do from time to time I now ask you Dea. [*Deacon*] Grant to enquire for, and search out as is your manifest duty and privilege to do, the cause of your having the feelings towards me leading you on step by step year after year acting against me Have I ever done you evil? Have I ever injured any one of your family in any manner or form? Has any member of any christian church ever witnessed against me? Am I the man that has caused by my wicked acts and life so much trouble loss and disappointment to a large community I ask in sober truth if you believe all this against me if you come to the conclusion you do believe it I ask of you then of what use facts disclosed to you (if by me) will avail or what possible encouragement I have to move another inch or to try to convince you of your mistakes If in your account against me, you shall on investigation find me charged with 40. 50. or 75.000 dollars of <u>A.</u> <u>Sage</u> <u>&Co</u>. money, and you find the dates to be in 1836 & 1837. to make the amount correct you won't want to alter the dates, but the monies thus charged you will before your account will be right have to put down to the debit of some one or more men whose name is not any part of it Sage, but Hawley Now Sir comes the tug Do you feel to cherish kindness and charity towards those that have been robbed and pity towards those who are the robbers you will now have a chance for the exercise of both I tell you the truth, I lie not when I say Deacon Hawley has been advised unwisely, men advising him in 1836 & in 1837 wanted money very much they took this course to get it some of the fist movers in the matter were unfriendly to me and long have been, and not as friendly to Dea. [*Deacon*] Hawley as he then took them to be and as he has by experience since found to be true Now who were those that wanted money and persuaded Dea. [*Deacon*] Hawley to hand over I say it was men human beings with deathless souls men that hated me without a cause men combined together and agreeing to break down Sage by keeping all his money in their hands and throwing all the debts against A. Sage &Co. in his way to pay They have succeeded and they have done it with money made south by A. Sage &Co. too, and I know who the men are. and you Sir are well acquainted with the men and some of them are visible members of a christian church. Men that you would be slow to believe base enough to swindle I confess it makes me feel pitiable towards them I hope I have no envious unchristian feelings towards any fellow creature Your business and my business Sir is to seek after the truth. all I ask is to have you know the facts respecting A. Sage &Co. Southern business the whole you nor I cant know in this world It was a deep laid plott cunningly planned: the fruit of it awful and

Dear Sir I do rejoice and thank and praise and bless my God that tho [*though*] I am and every one of my family with me left poor and with miserable health I have not the goadings of guilt

[*added in another hand*] that all must have that have been accessary to the robbery

My desire is that you may know enough of the truth of the whole matter in time, to take a fair view of what you have been doing

Your friend & well wisher
A Sage

N.B. What do you suppose was the matter of Capt. G. H. Barr or what do you suppose in other words killed him. Was it any disease of the body Barr was an honest man of himself and was it because of this or was it from - - - ask Genl. Phelps Martin or Tharon Rockwell J.C. Hayt Dr. C. or Edward C. or Dea [*Deacon*] Hawley

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[*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

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[*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 --

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[*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

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

Wankesha [*Wisconsin*], June 13, 1848.

My dear Mother,

Since the receipt of your last letter it has seemed my duty to spend considerable time with two sick neighbors so that I could not consistently answer your letter immediately as you requested. With regard to our going to Ct. [*Connecticut*] to live I do not know what to say -- Daniel has for sometime seemed to have some idea that it might be best -- at least he has occasionally spoken as though we might sometime go, says he does not doubt but that it would be better for us if we were there -- provided he could find some employment that would not be too hard for him -- it is evident that his constitution is not sufficient to labor hard upon a farm, but if he is obliged to do it, we had better remain here -- <*If we thought that was a p*>

Daniel has lately talked considerably as though he should try to make arrangements to go with in a year or two -- if we thought we should go within a year, should not think it best for you to send much if anything except the apples, unless it was a dark calico dress pattern -- but mind & every thing is so changeable I make no calculations for the future -- I hope the Lord will direct us.

Our present prospects are not very encouraging, nor do I know that they are particularly discouraging -- D. [*Daniel*] has disposed of the team, for he did not find it profitable keeping them as he was not able to get money enough to meet his expenses -- was obliged to take some kind of pay that would not buy grain, or wait a long time for the cash --

The wagon and sleigh are yet on hand --

He has not yet succeeded in getting into other business as he thought he probably could -- presume he can get a school next winter though it is somewhat doubtful whether he will be able to get one & be at home much of the time --

His health is <*pretty*> good. Abby & I are well I wish you would not worry so much about us. If Abby has a return of that complain we intend to use more water in the treatment of her -- we are now reading some borrowed Water cure Journals edited by Dr. Shew of N.Y. [*New York*] City -- they contain more valuable information -- have not yet seen any particular treatment described for cases like hers. I wash her almost daily in cold water, or rather in water that has the extreme chill taken off, but she is exceedingly averse to it --

June 20. Yesterday was Daniel's 30th birth day -- he feels that that he is getting to be quite an old man, but I supposed you & Father consider him young yet.

He has been intending to write some in this letter & has been waiting, thinking that perhaps he might be able to say something definite about going to Ct., [*Connecticut*] but he cannot at present -- presume it would be better for us & more pleasant on many accounts to be there, & for some reasons it might not be as well for us. dont think we had better go unless we can make arrangements without sacrificing a great deal --

I dont know as we have much <*sparsely*> more reason to fear sickness here than there -- more & better pay is given there for labor, & payments are met more punctually but I do not know as we should be able to get along there with quite as little expenditure as we do here -- but I am not particular where we live if we can only get a comfortable living, & keep out of debt without Daniels working beyond his strength -- D. [*Daniel*] has come to the conclusion in his own mind that perhaps it is best for us to return to Ct. [*Connecticut*] independent of any thing, that has been said to him -- I have said nothing to him on the subject till within a few days past for more than a year, but he has occasionally spoken about it.

July 2 1848.

Dear Mother,

It is sometime since we received your letter and I will now try to get it answered It is not easy to make up our minds what it is best to do in regard to what you proposed. We are so situated that we shall soon be able to enjoy ourselves here perhaps as well as any where (but that is impossible to tell) and there are great objections to our returning I can't see which way the scale will turn

If I knew of some business where I could get fair compensation, for my labor and business that I could follow I might think it best to go. but it may be as difficult to find such business there as here and I never can go there to work on the turnpike and if I have got to work on a farm, I had certainly better be here than there.

Mr. Cummings one of our merchants told me a few days ago that I must not go back says that he knows that farming is too hard for me, but he will find business for me that I can get a good living at better than I can do east, but then I cant depend upon him, that is I must look out for myself. He expects soon to build a house, near us and he intends to have us for neighbors, so there is a little selfishness about it.

I do not now fear the disease of the country, cold water I think will drive them away

Mr. Cummings I think will find something that I might do to a good advantage if I had three or four hundred dollars in money but I fear he will not without. But dont trouble your self about us, my health is better than it has been for more than a year and a half before, and if I can find employment that I can bear I will risk my health.

If we should conclude to go it would be a year before we could get away

Yours &c. Daniel

Shall send to Joel soon & intend to write to John before long -- think a good deal about his weak back. fear it will never be strong -- hope Marcus is well & doing well -- what do you hear from Elisabeth Hope you are not obliged to work very hard.

Abby said she wanted to write to Grandma so I let her scribble a little -- I am distressed because this letter was not sent before, for I know you wished to know what to do about sending Martha's things -- As it is impossible for us to tell now, when, if ever we shall go to Ct. [*Connecticut*] think you had better send what you wish to, if you have an opportunity that you

consider safe, but if not, keep what you feel the most choice of till a good opportunity presents -- (turn to margin on first page)

Since I wrote you before, I have written to our people that perhaps it would be best to try to send some things by Ms. Root, as I had seen Mr. Root & he said he could have the care of them &c & represented that She would return before long but he rec'd [*received*] a letter from her two weeks ago & her Mother has so far recovered as to be able to walk about the house but is not able yet to endure the journey out here & she did

Mrs R. [*Root*] did not tell when she thought she should return -- I presume she will not before fall if then -- but if our people thought best to send by her presume they have seen her before this -- We expect to have the bed room & one other room plastered before winter. D. [*Daniel*] has been to work lately for a neighbor farmer --

remember us aff [*affectionately*] to all friends –
Yr. [*your*] aff. [*affecitonate*] daughter
Caroline

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

Jefferson, Ashtabula Co. O. [*Ohio*] Sept 17, 1850.

Dear Father,

Having understood from Mr. Smith that you have some thought of removing to the west, I am induced to drop a word in regard to it and will merely state a few facts, and how the matter strikes my mind in view of them. And in the first place, there are farms for sale near this place, of different sizes, from 200 to 30 acres; one of 30, with a small but new and well finished house and barn, within about a mile, all considered cheap.

But another plan has struck our minds, -- the house we have purchased is quite large enough for two families, with a barn altogether larger than we need, indeed large enough for a middling sized farm. If you had a mind to come and occupy with us, we might entertain the hope that it would be agreeable all around. The amount of ground attached is only 6 1/2 acres but if you should still be disposed to do something in the agricultural line, there are pieces of land for sale within from one mile to half a mile, from this place. If you should be disposed to pass the balance of your life in comparative ease the plan of removing would occur to me to have the recommendation of economy. We both now occupy an extent of building that we do not need, and not available to any profit, at all corresponding to the amount of capital invested. In the plan of your occupying with us, and improving a small piece of land, there is on our part a touch of selfishness. Is it that you might afford to our sons, some part of an agricultural education. They promise to be tolerably able bodied and have altogether more action than either they or I in our present situation, know what to do with.

If you wish to inquire as to any particulars I have not stated please communicate.

If you should seriously entertain the thought of removing and occupying with us, and would wish a piece of land in the vicinity, I would either improve the first opportunity to purchase such quantity as you should designate, or have it till your arrival, to be decided by your own judgment. We understood by Ms. Smith that you had present opportunity to sell, where you are. If so I hope you will not lose the opportunity at least, without giving the subject due deliberation.

I have employed Elizabeth as my amanuensis and for this you will see a sufficient reason in my signature. She intends giving mother a more particular description of the premises.

Yours affectionately.
Wm. Burton

Dear Mother,

I hardly know what to write, but hope to hear from you soon. Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Smith, & Mrs. Roxana Marshall, with her husband and two children have visited us since I wrote you. I heard some thing of you through them. Mrs. Smith said you had not heard from Daniel for some time. I rec'd [*received*] a letter from br. [*brother*] Jno. [*John*] day before yesterday. He wrote from Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], apparently in haste -- stated his own calculations, but said nothing of Daniel, or Marcus. Please write soon about them.

I am very anxious to know your own calculations. I hope you have not misimproved an opportunity of selling your place. I should feel so much better about you if you were located more snugly. I have often wished you could live in our house. Mr. & Mrs. Cooper still occupy some room in the house. They are very accommodating, and though Leavinia's babe cries a great deal they do not seem to be annoyed by it or the other children. I cannot say whether you would enjoy living in the house with so large a family of little children, but if you could accommodate yourselves to us, it would be pleasant to us, to have you here. I did not like to say much about it. I waited to see what Mr. Burton would say, & you know he is rather slow with regard to some things. I fear this letter will be too late.

Brother Phelps & sister Susan have been quite sick but are better.

I wish to send many thanks to sister Caroline for her kind letter. I rejoice that she manifests such a Christian spirit. I should love much to write to her, but my time is occupied. I have to write a great deal for Mr. Burton

Margaret is attending school in Austinburg. She started on Monday. I hope to hear from you soon.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] daughter,
E. [*Elizabeth*] Burton

Much love to all our friends. I am very anxious to know what father thinks of coming west. I have seen none of uncle Calvin's family yet.

Much love to sister Caroline & her children, also to Joel and his family.

I visited at cousin Leysander Cowles (Rachel's) but aunt Olive had just gone to see Kezia, & I did not see her. She has since returned to Austinburg.

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Dec. 4, 1854.

Dear Parents,

I am happy to be able to report to you again that we all <*continue*> are in pretty good health, and that we have met with nothing particularly unfavorable since I last wrote you. We are somewhat encouraged with reference to Willie, who for a few days past, has had his fits in a modified form, and not so frequently as formerly. His general health is very good – he grows very fast, and is fleshy. He does not talk very much as yet, but is learning rapidly. His musical powers develop more rapidly than any thing else but he seems to be sufficiently bright in all particulars.

As to medicines for his relief, it seems probable that we shall never be able to secure any. We have prescriptions made every day <*from*> by persons who profess to have been similarly afflicted, or to have had friends who were. Some of these prescriptions are curious enough. One woman says a string of beads made of Lima beans and worn on the neck will cure, another says that a like string of the rattles of the rattlesnake, has cured her son. While yet another says, that a prescription given by an Indian Doctor cured her brother wh. [*which*] Prescription was to cut off the head of a mud turtle, and let his blood run into brandy, and give the mixture. Yet another, (a Mr. Savage, brother of the Rev. Mr. Savage, who is, or has been, Agent of the Tract Society in Ct. [*Connecticut*]) says that an Indian Doctor prescribed for his daughter Camphor dropped upon sugar, some six or eight drops every morning, and that it was successful, though he thinks the fits had injured both constitution and mind before they tried it. We know the daughter, and though she is not very bright, and is weak in constitution, yet her capacity is very respectable, and her character very lovely. Mr. Savage resides in a neighboring town about six miles from us. Yet another person, (a lady who represents herself as having been a sufferer) says that black Cohosh is a cure. (The article is one found in the ships but I know nothing of its origin

or character.) Besides this we have had Peony root prescribed, and various other articles that I will not stop to mention. We have tried the Peony root, the spirits of camphor dropped on Sugar, & are now trying the Cohosh though we have recently learned that the lady who recommended it did not have epileptic fits nor fits of another kind. From all this however we derive this comfort; that as some persons have had fits, (perhaps epileptic, & perhaps not) and recovered from them, we may hope that Willie will recover. In medicine we have very little reliance, but in that vigor of constitution wh. [*which*] he now seems to be gaining we have much.

When I last wrote I had the Jaundice somewhat severely. I have now recovered from it, several pounds lighter in flesh, but not otherwise affected. My recovery has been rapid, much more so than those acquainted with the disease judged possible. I took no medicine except the Homeopathic. Whether my rapid recovery is due to its operation or not I cannot say, but think I should resort to it again if I had an attack.

We received a letter from Marcus, dated Hamilton California, Oct. 18, last Wednesday Nov. 29. He intimates that his intention to return was providentially frustrated. If he had secured all the money due him, he should probably have taken passage in the Yankee Blade, and perhaps have gone to the bottom of the sea, or reached shore without friends or means.

The dairy during the summer furnished him a support, i.e. his food, medicine & [. . .] about $30 more. It was his expectation [. . .] he and Daniel, with James Allen, would together work a mine about 18 miles north of Hamilton. He was then working for $40 a month near Hamilton, though temporarily laid aside, by poisoned feet.

The last news from John arrived Dec. 1, and was dated Nov. 4, at Padua in Italy. He was well and apparently improving his time to good purpose. Our village paper has not been issued for the two past weeks in consequence of the illness of the publisher, and some other difficulties. It will be a good deal behind hand in publishing John's letters. I think there is a marked improvement in his communications, and though many deficiencies appear, yet they are so much better than the first that I feel encouraged. Meager as the first and second were, I put in a good part of them on my own responsibility, being unwilling that such a mere skeleton should appear in print. I took care, however, not to modify facts. The succeeding letters were published almost as he wrote them, as <*he*> in future they will be.

Your aff. Son,
Joel Grant

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

Gainesville, Sumpter Co. Ala [*Alabama*]
April 2, 1857

Dea. [*Deacon*] & Mrs. Grant,
My dear Brother & Sister,

I was wonderfully refreshed and strengthened by the peculiar genial atmosphere of the "Indian Summer" after my arrival at Tuscaloosa [*Alabama*], October 11. From the first of December through the winter months, I suffered from various symptoms. In the coldest weather, (meaning once down to 4° above zero,) my breathing organs were quite embarrassed, showing that they would not well sustain a northern winter. The two weeks of vacation at Christmas, I was most mostly confined to my room, & also that cold week from Jan. 17 to 24. Besides this time, & a few other additional days, I have taken charge of the opening exercises in Mrs. Stafford's school of 100 pupils, for half an hour. Tues. Wed. & Thr. Mornings. This has sometimes been all I could do. Till Dec. 18, I was at Mrs. Stafford's. Then I went to Mrs. Maxwell's, & have not again been to Mrs. Stafford's because I could not well endure what I could not help feeling & doing, where so many young ladies were accessible, & needed so much done for them. They board 20 more or less.

Early in March I accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell to Mobile [*Alabama*]. After resting there through a long rain, we took boat, by "the inner passage" (inside the islands) & over a part of Lake Pontchartrain to New Orleans [*Louisiana*], 180 mil [*miles*] that Paris of the U.S. The Cathedral, the Battle Ground of Jan. 8, 1815, "The Levee" several miles in length, a place of immense business; the peculiar site of the city; "The Cemeteries" in wh. [*which*] all their dead are entombed above ground, (because the crust of the earth over the water is not thick enough to dig a grave) -- & were well worth seeing. Fortunes there are made & lost by variations in price of produce almost in a day. One man, a Scotchman McMahan deals only in lard. Sometimes he has bought & sold 200,000 pounds in a day, on wh. [*which*] his commission was $2000. One firm of Spaniards, has during the last 25 years accumulated a fortune of $400,000 dollars, by dealing only in Spanish Cigars. This one firm, and Capt. McConnel, who is continually passing to & from Havanna, trade with this Scotchman, Mr. McMahan; & from these alone he makes enough to support his family, & his office or place of business.

I came up the Tombigbee to this place to visit some ladies of Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] memory. A line from Tuscaloosa [*Alabama*] mentions the death of Prof. Tuomey of the University of Ala. [*Alabama*], who taught in Mrs. Stafford's school. He was distinguished for his great attainments as a naturalist. Mrs. S. [*Stafford*] depended on him to teach Chemistry, mineralogy, Geology, Botany, & Conchology. He was born & bred in Ireland, & he had a large <*of*> supply of Irish wit, & good judgment in using it. – a very interesting man—adhering to the R. [*Roman*] Catholic form of religion, tho [*though*] worshipping with his wife in the Episcopal Church. His family, including two lovely daughters as all his children, I suppose must be left destitute of pecuniary means.

Next week I expect to return to Tuscaloosa [*Alabama*]. This excursion has done me good. Tho [*though*] yesterday and today, I am trying total abstinence, excepting gruel, & mostly lying by to get rid of some ailments. I have written with great rapidity, that I may send this to your son John.

Have you succeeded in gaining some statistics of our ancestors of the Grant family? I want a list of all you have, sometime. Perhaps I can have it thro' [*through*] John.

Probably I shall not leave Tuscaloosa [*Alabama*] before the first of May. Tho [*though*] my movements must be regulated by my company of wh. [*which*] I have now no knowledge.

Remember me kindly to each of your children & to inquiring friends. Your aff'te [*affectionate*] sister

Z.P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Cousin John, I should like to have you send this to your brother Phelps's wife & request her to forward it. I think of her & hers with much affection, & I cannot write them.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. John Grant
New-Haven
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Boston Nov. 2, 1839

Dear Brother;

I am now able to forward the money I borrowed of you, which, though it is <about> all I borrowed, will not I fear be enough to pay your expenses. If this should be the case you must borrow of Wm. [*William*] Gilbert and send it to him as soon as you get home, or perhaps you can be trusted till you can send the money, or perhaps again, you may not be well enough to leave New-Haven [*Connecticut*] at present and you can write to father and have him send you some before you go home.

The only item of news I have is that our ship is to visit New-York before she leaves the country, and it is probable she will make the visit some time next week. She is getting into pretty good trim now, and I suppose we go to New-York principally to take on board Com. Ridgeley, who is to be our commander, and whose dignity might be hurt if <he> we were not obliged to go to him, rather than he to come to us. But whatever the reason may be, I build upon the fact some additional hope that I shall be able to visit home before we go. I think I can make arrangements

so that I shall meet the ship at New-York, and while it is going from here there I will go home. If such should be the case I will visit you at New Haven [*Connecticut*] if you are not well enough to <go> meet me at home.

We are making arrangements for our "Mess" as it is called, that is for our boarding establishment. I have paid $70 towards furnishing it with necessary food. I expect the expenses for board will be rather large. If I can get along for $5 per week it is as cheap as I expect. Provisions are quite dear I am told in that part of the world to which we are going. On the whole I think I shall make out to spend my time very agreeably, though I am well satisfied I must look to other sources than my associates for happiness. I must be shut up with 500 or more men, all of them from the lowest ranks of society, a compound of ignorance, indolence and vice. The offices are certainly entitled to rank better, for they are men from the better <*raks*> ranks of society, but their education is not I expect very good, at least not so good as it ought to be, - and their principles such as we might expect from persons who from early childhood have had no religious training, who seldom or never the voice of prayer but daily listen to oaths till they almost become their natural language, such must be my associates, and though I see good evidence that they are desirous to treat me with respect, yet I rejoice that I have always cultivated a habit of seeking my happiness in my own bosom, for now I shall have occasion to look to that source, rather than any other. My situation is not <*to be*> like that of a person who goes to teach school on land for he is situated among a moral & religious people a great portion of whom can agree with him on subjects of a moral nature. But I am not discouraged. No, were it not that I wish to see home once more I would gladly set sail on Monday. I wish to see our vessel "ploughing the foam of the sea with her brazen beak" I long to see her sweeping over the waves in "light majestic beauty" though from her size I should suppose she could never sail very lightly. Still they say she can outsail any ship that was ever built; though one of the first ships built by the United States she is <*one* > the best. There were however two or three frigates built about the same time which are said to be nearly as good. The Brandywine, <*however*> which was built in 1825 cannot hold a candle to the United States, for a few years since they tried their strength by racing together and the United State beat the Brandywine "all hollow" But I am in a hurry, so no more at present from your affectionate brother

Joel Grant.

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

U. S. Ship Potomac
Monte Video [*Uruguay*] Oct. 21, 1840
Dear Brother,

It is now one month since we sailed from Rio to this place where we arrived after a passage of eight days. We are obliged to come to anchor at a distance of five or six miles from town on account of the shallowness of the water, a circumstance which renders my situation rather unpleasant as it gives to the ship much more of the nature of a prison than is agreeable. My school of course occupies me generally during the five days of the week, and the only days which I can, without express permission, spend on shore are Saturday and Sunday, upon which days the weather is very likely to prevent my going. As there is no land to the south and east of us and none within a hundred or more miles to the west the waters are much affected by the winds from those quarters, so much so that it is often with the greatest difficulty that boats can reach the shore or come from the shore to the ship. Of course on many days a boat does not leave the ship at all and I am sometimes unable to go ashore <*when*> my duties on board would permit. I have however been on shore once, and will endeavor to make known to you some of the impressions I received. Monte Video [*Uruguay*] is a city with a population of about 15,000 principally of Spanish descent. Its houses are all of brick or stone and built in such a way as to resemble a city of forts or prisons rather than the residences of peaceful people. The following

figure will give you some idea of their form. [*Diagram of a floor plan for a house is drawn in the corner of this page*]

The outside wall is built very strong and in some instances the only opening it has is the entrance the <*light*> windows all opening inside towards the court, which is an open space paved with marble brick or stone according to the wealth or taste of the proprietor. In the middle is a cistern so fixed as to receive all the water which falls upon the roof, and as this means is universally resorted to procure water for use it is a matter of much importance. The roofs essentially differ from any I have ever seen. They are nearly flat and like all the floors of the house are built of brick supported by wooden sleepers and plank.

The top of the house being then made safe by the height of the outer and inner walls becomes a very pleasant place for the gambols of children, the dances of <*the*> light hearted youth, and the thoughtful walks of soberage or youthful gravity. In this country the advantage derived from them is inconceivable. The seasons do not vary here as they do in Colebrook [*Connecticut*]; the winters are not cold the summers are not intensely hot, consequently there are but few days in the year in which a promenade on the roof will not be agreeable. By this means every parent can afford to his children a play ground without the necessity of sending them into the street. <*for amusement*>. If there are any windows opening into the street they are defended by strong iron gratings thus rendering entrance against the will occupier impossible, without the use of battering rams or some like instrument.

Montevideo [*Uruguay*] is at present the capital of a province which claims to be independent called Banda Oriental or Uraguay [*Uruguay*]. <*It calls its*> They call it a republic, but I doubt its ability to govern itself well. It was originally a province of the Viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*] but was eventually claimed by Brazil as a part of its territory, and became the occasion of a protracted war between the that empire and Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*], which resulted in a treaty that the disputed territory should be left to itself for five years at the end of which time it might choose for its master whichever of the contending parties it saw fit. <*for its master*> The result was as might have been expected; the province after managing itself for five years concluded that it would never more acknowledge a master. This is rather a bold step for a people like this numbering it is generally supposed not more than 70,000. But in South America every body seems disposed to be independent, and to live rather by war than the arts of peace.

The people here retain many of the customs of their original country Spain. Bull fights are exhibited usually as often as once a week, and what will surprise you they are made part of the religion and are exhibited on Saint days, in honor of the Virgin Mary St. Paul etc. I am told that these exhibitions take place oftener on Sunday than any other day of the week and that the good Catholics attend them as their afternoon service. I shall if possible attend one <*if I can d*> and if I do I will write a description of it for you.

The French still keep up their blockade of Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*], though there is now a prospect that a few weeks will put an end to it. The more I learn of the affair the more I detest the conduct of the French, and the more I admire the conduct of Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*]. The matter is now in a very doubtful state, as it seems not unlikely that the French will bombard the city. The inhabitants who do not carry arms are leaving the city in great numbers, and it is though that there are not less than 5,000 women and children, in this city from Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*]. The soldiers with <*their*> General Rosas at their head are determined to die rather than yield to the claims of the French. To the original claims which occasioned the war France now adds about $4,000,000 which have been expended by her carrying on the war, a circumstance which presents a double barrier to the making of a treaty. But of these things I will endeavor to write more then I know more.

While I was at Norfolk Va. [*Virginia*] I met an old <*child*> friend of mine, a graduate of Yale College, who had just set up a school there, and who was pressed for money. As I knew his noble spirit would not stoop to ask me any pecuniary assistance and as I knew likewise he was in debt I offered <*him*> to lend him $50 or $60 if he wished it. This offer he accepted and though I do not think he will be ready to pay it for some time to come yet as he may be I will state that I have his note for $60 dated April 17, 1840 and that I gave him a certificate stating that a receipt from my father, Elijah Grant or from Wm. [*William*] Gilbert (now a member of college) stating that the money with interest due had been paid should cancel the note. The name of the individual is

Samuel Bailey. Perhaps it will never be paid (though I have no fears, if life and health are spared him) but if it should be this explanation will enable you to understand the transaction.

Our Commodore has gone to Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*] in one of our sloops of War. It is impossible to tell how long we shall remain here but probably two or three months longer at least. The country and the people here differ as much from those at Rio as those at Rio do from the country and people of Norfolk Va. [*Virginia*] and I doubt not I shall be much interested. Beef here is very abundant, the best selling for no more than two cents a pound, and a fat sheep ready dressed for cooking may be bought for a dollar. Beef and mutton however are the only cheap articles of food, as flour sells at about $20 a barrel and potatoes at about $8 a bushel. These prices are not I presume permanent ones.

I now say I cannot be content more than six months longer without hearing from you. My father and mother how can I endure to remain in suspense concerning them. Perhaps they may one or both, be sleeping in their graves. Let me assure you that, notwithstanding some faults, they, like other human beings have, never were children blessed with better parents than we. Often let our prayers ascend that as the prime of their life has been laborious, self denying and prayerful their old age may be peaceful and happy from the virtues and character of their children and their death the sweet repose of the righteous.

My brothers and sisters too how I long to know their situation. And as from time to time I run over the list of uncles and cousins which it is my happiness to have, I feel that none but those who like me have wandered can like me feel the worth of home. It is now summer here or rather it corresponds to your month of April. The winds called pamperos blow here with great violence and last night we had one which drove off to our ship 15 or 20 poor birds that could not (or did not) resist its force

Your affectionate brother Joel Grant

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[*Daniel and John Grant to Joel Grant (?)*]

Marysville May 22 – 52

Dear Brother

I have just written a letter to Mr. Hill to rent the house in Mil [*Milwaukee*] for enough to pay expences if he can or to sell it for what he can get if he thinks it will be worth no more or is not a suitable spot for a good building It has worked so far about as I expected & I suppose it is not much matter what becomes of it

I can give no Idea now what the situation of the city is but presume that lot is not very favorable

You may give Mr. Hill such instructions as you please. I wrote to him to let you know what expence he has been at & to have you forward him the money I think the $119, that is deposited some where in such shape that I can't get it will be sufficient to make you good if it is not I think it is in my power to do so

Many of the new comers to this country are dreadfull homesick & all that I have seen wish they had stayed at home but they say now we are here <*you*> we must do the best we can Nothing meets their expectation

The strong reasons for my staying here you have before this time I did not give them for strong reasons but for reasons that I thought sufficient <*reasons*> under the circumstances

Your aff [*affectionate*] brother

Daniel Grant

Dear Brother

As Daniel has left a few lines to write here, I will add a few words I am now stopping in Maryville how long I shall stop here I do not know though not more than a month I think. Where I shall go do not know but I have a place in view but certain reasons prevent me from going now. The Water in the rivers is now very high, and the weather very warm. One reason for my staying here is so many rushing into the country from every direction. There is a good deal of excitement getting up in the country in respect to the chinese. Why the chinese should be such particular

objects of veng<*e*>ance I do not know unless it is that <*that*> they have kept themselves secluded so long and then all at once come rushing in to this country. But I think there will good <*good*> grow out of it. The chinese that are here do not come from China proper but from [Tartarry?]. The first that came from there some five. I believe the first that came the chinese were very wild and did all in there power to send them back again but without success I believe. This is all that I shall write this mail I think.

I.M. Grant

I am well. I received a letter from Abby this last mail.

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[*Daniel Grant to Joel Grant*]

Sept. 27th 1852

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

<*Bartons Bar Sept 26*>

<*Dear Brother*>

<*It is now nearly two months since I received your affectionate letter dated June ??*>

I shall be able to work next week. I earned $10, last week in the co, by going on to the works & taking charge

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] Brother,

D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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[*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.

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[*Annotation, "part of a letter to Caroline Burr Grant from Daniel Grant undated"]*

[*in pencil*] city property is stagnant every where owing to you tampering with the currency The Republicans are making very bad work. I am afraid that a change to a Democratic administration will be necessary to save our country. If you buy property of John you can have no idea what it will bring a year or five years hence yet to try to save John I am willing you should buy some but you must look out and buy it very low. Low is not sufficient. It must be very low. Real estate in cities is not worth to sell I suppose half as much as two or three years ago.

City property here is worse than a stand still. Property I bought 10 years ago is not worth what I paid for it then and I bought it low.

If it cost us no more to attend to the Wis. [*Wisconsin*] land than it would if Mary had no share in it that is no reason why she should not pay her share and if she is to have any <*ex*> equal share in it as a matter of course she must pay her share of expenses but it cost us more to pay the taxes than it would if she had paid her proportion. You estimate the taxes and cost of selling $100, when I think $500, will not pay it. I can't now tell how much it was but I made two or more trips to Wis. on that business at an expense of more than $100, a trip. I can't say how much but I distinctly remember that I paid for a ticket from N. York [*New York*] to Milwaukee [*Wisconsin*] $52, and some cents wh. [*which*] would make the fare alone for two trips about $225, and one tax in particular I paid was $83, and some cts [*cents*], and that was not as large as the last tax for I paid about $25, between $25, and $30, I think besides about $60, you paid. I don't remember how many years we paid taxes after Mary sold but think they would amount to nearly $300, if not more. You can easily see that you are paying Mary a good deal more than you got when she does not need near as much as you do. I know she has been kind very kind to us and I am willing she should have pay for it yes very glad — but to give her so many hundred dollars is wrong. If Wm. [*William*] is improvident he has a good situation and earns a good deal & has a good deal left yet. At any rate she is much better off than you are.

It may be years before I am ready to go east Can't tell. Intend to wind up here soon as I can but it is going to take some time
Love to the friends

Ever Thine
D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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[*undated*]

Sunday
MillBook [*Millbrook, Connecticut*] Aug 13

Mr & Mrs. Daniel Grant
Dear Relatives

Your Welcome letter came to hand last evening at about our usual bedtime wish we could hear from you oftener but will take much of the blame to ourselves

The note which seems an important item in your letter may run as long as you wish — indeed I had almost forgotten there was such a note — have managed to pay off our haymakers without it And Mr. Gay at the Bank said I might go on and do another haying if need be and draw needful

What a discouraging time this haying season has been men under pay and little progress made — but we managed to live in through — so much cloudy rainy weather it was enough to make one crazy some of the time

Get in our last yesterday except the "West. or Brown Meadow" which I have not seen this summer but am told it has been pastured and flooded so I think it will not be advisable to try to mow it

Glad to know that your health has improved so you was able to mow and get in some of yr [*your*] hay yourself even on a wheelbarrow For Ourselves we must report about usual health though a gradual decline in strength gives unmistakable evidence of approaching dissolution — in not far distant future.

Susan (Martin's widow) who is at the helm in business has hired her haying done by job Marcus has had a man hired but I am not informed how much he has got along but have heard said he was near crazy at having so much dull Weather But the rains have added to the heft of the crop —

We know not what is to be our future but I feel sensibly that I ought not to have the care of the farm another year and perhaps I shall not It is too much for my declining strength mind and [memory?] too are getting treacherous — but such is order of nature to which submission is a duty — With kind regards

I am as ever

Yours Truly
A.O. Finney

Dear Cousins

Was glad to put on my dress & open the door to get a letter from you glad business drove you to write — It was Sophia Rockwell that died not Elizabeth, Henry Rockwells sister, John has been here & wife we talked of you but did'nt see how he could go to you — like his wife much, think he has got another exceptionally good woman — the gullweed you sent me will last me a long time, let some one else have yours or take it yourself Mr & Mrs Beecher were here the first time this summer few days since Beecher looked worn, M, as well as usual <*ly well*> J.C. took me to the cemetery & [...] myself to J.M. Grants for a few minutes — I am very glad you went to the Anniversary — have read some about it in the advocate — Walter Wakefield's wife died Thursday at her sisters in Winsted [*Connecticut*] was buried in Colebrook [*Connecticut*] Walter was sent for & see to her burial, her son was there too I hear — so we go, "One by one" — I love to think of you in your pleasant home think you have many mercies. Hope I do not quite envy you, — — As long as you can get your milk conveniently I would say don't get a cow it will bring so much care at Barn & House let some one use the poor hay for litter for horse or other stock —

You <*&*> both write such good letters, and they do us so much good, can you not make a duty of it & write us often? and we ought to see each other as often <*er*> as four times in a year, but do not see how I can do my part of the duty —

Elizabeth

P.S. remember us kindly to Edward and Wife

A.O. Pinney

Tues. morn [ ]

Dear Children,

I have thought that some of these rainy days we might see some or all of you — but dont suppose it is convenient — I think we have great reason for gratitude that we are not all sick such uncommon weather as we have In some parts they suffer with drought — Have word from Abby that she & Arthur "may make a short visit fore part Sept. or perhaps later or possibly not at all"

has not been well, “is not fit to visit.” & does not want word sent all around that she is coming — If she does come perhaps it will be so that you can come up

Our haying was finished week ago today The Bergmans helped — Your Father says it was not worthwhile for Edw. [*Edward*] to come for such small piece as he wanted done with machine —

Think our oil will last about two weeks — when you come probably better bring some in your oil can. And if you have potatoes to spare would take half bushel or peck — would prefer some of them at least old ones — all old if you have plenty. Shall be glad of a few cucumbers as you spoke of —

There are things of yours ready that I brought that I should think you w’d [*would*] want. Expect you get your oats in all right & I hope yr. [*your*] Father B’s [*Burr*] haying is done “well as could expect” any way —

Mother G —

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BitterSweet

4—11—86

Dear Aunty

We were all glad to hear from you and we are sorry that you have so much on your hands

It is too [bad?] to talk business on Sunday but it seems necessary in this case We did not remember about Carrie’s bond and thank you very kindly for letting [us?] of it

We would like it reinvested and if Cowels & Eldredge will advance the $11.45 we would be glad to have them to so We cannot without great trouble, send any money just now

Messrs C.&E. will of course reimburse themselves with interest, and pay themselves with next years interest

If the party who now has the money wishes to keep it longer I should think it best to let him do so and continue to put in interest in Savings Bank

I hope this will not give you too much trouble and if there should be any expense to you in connection with the business I beg of you to take it out of this years interest

One reason that we are short of money is that Father’s Life Insurance has now been fully paid up and the

[*page perhaps missing?]*

All send love and Sophie sends this kiss that I have marked below

——

[*curvy circle*]

kiss from Sophie

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

Andover Theo. Sem [*Andover Theological Seminary*]
July 7, 1843
Dear Brother,

Atmost two months or a little more than seven weeks have elapsed since I parted with you at Albany [*New York*] and I have as yet heard nothing from you. I can however easily account for your not writing without making any disagreeab[le] suppositions, for I know that you must hav[e] a great deal to do, and when you get a moment to devote to the writing of letters there are

many whose [claims?] are prior to mine. I can therefore easily pardon the omission, and call it my misfortune not your fault. If however you have not written me on the receipt of this I hope you will soon and that for reasons which you will fully appreciate.

Within the enclosed letter you will find (unless it has been extracted) some money which as I have not it at hand I will describe hereafter, which I wish you to use at your own discretion in purchasing some [l]and for me somewhere in your vicinity. It is a small amount which I do not expect to want for a year at least, and I do not like to lend it to anyone for fear I shall never see it again, and I do not know that I can do better than to buy a little land with it. In order to buy it to best advantage I think you had better devote a few days after harvest &c. to siding around the country to see what there is for which I will allow you as much as it will cost to hire a man, and 37 1/2 <*day*> cents a day besides for your horse. This will give you a recess and will improve your health if it is out of order, and give you an opportunity to see the country, and become acquainted with the people, and the land. At the same time you can determine whether it is best for you or sister Caroline to purchase the lot which lies east of the one you own, and which as you recollect I value at $170 with interest and taxes from Oct. 1842. If you should conclude not to take it I think I shall get Levi or some one else to put up a log cabin upon it after which I think it will sell to a good advantage to some emigrant who [wo]uld like a pla[c]e t[o] put h[is] family. As f[or] the land you are to buy for me, I have but to say that I would prefer you should [buy?] it of goverment in tow lots of 80 acres and within 20 miles of Wilwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*], or if that cannot be, let it be uncultivated land within 16 miles of Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] and at no greater price than two dollars and a half per acre, or if you think it worth while to pay more, write to me. I think it cannot but be that land will increase in value in the vicinity of Milwa[u]kie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]at least as fast as [money at interest for?] some [time?] to come [if?] you [should?] [r]eally believe i[t] best to buy land at a greater distance from Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] than 20 miles, I will leave it to your judgement, though if the wise admits of it, I wish you to write respecting it before making a purchase. I should not like to have you spend more than 12 days in my service looking for land.

I suppose you will need soon to pay the taxes on my lot, I enclose $20 for that and such other expenses as you may be at on my account. Upon the other half of this sheet I will write a few lines to Caroline and if I think of any thing more to say to you I will do it there.

Your affectionate brother,
Joel Grant.

[*other side of paper*]

What do you think of the 80 acre lot that lies south of the wood lot? I doubt whether it is worth buying but in case you should not want the wood lot I do not know but the two together might be so divided as to make two good farms. The streams which would then pass through each would I think render them valuable. If however you want the wood lot I suppose it would not be best to buy the other as it would not be worth any thing by itself.

If you could purchase the land somewhere near you so that I could make you my attorney for its sale it would be well. I know the land there is principally occupied, but perhaps you could find some [...] that has been overlooked. I have not heard from home since I left, directl[tly] Remember me to Levi and his wi[fe].

What do you think of father's selling out and going to Wisconsin? I do not know that it would be best but I wish some method might be devised to free him from the load of debt under which he now staggers, and which must embitter his old age. I do not know indeed that he could be persuaded to think of the thing but if you think best I will mention it to him some time.
You probably have heard of the death of Cousin Maria Cowles. Please write immediately or send a newspaper to indicate the safe reception of this. If you send a newspaper Mark the figure 4 upon it somewhere, by which I shall understand that you have received this safe.

[*Addressed to*] Daniel and Caroline Grant
Andover Theor. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*]

July 7, 1843

Dear Sister,

You have been often in my thoughts since I last saw you at Albany [*New York*]. How often I have imagined to myself your little farm away off there in Wisconsin and revolved in my mind how you and brother Daniel felt. Still with all my revolving I have not been able to resolve my doubts, and I have looked with some impatience for a letter from one or both of you, as I thought you would by the time you had been there a fortnight be able to wr[i]te a little to me. But I kno[w] how it i[s]; you have so much to do, you have so much to see, and you were so tired after your journey that you could not write any except those letters most immediately necessary. If it should prove that you have not been sick, and that no accident has occurred, I shall readily pass over what may now seem neglect. <*I a*>

I arrived s[a]fely at your father's the day after I left you, with no other injury than a burned face. Your people made many inquires concerning you and when they heard how cheerful and happy you appeared to be, they were themselves rendered cheerful. They sent soon after some things by the Canaan people which I hope you have received ere this. I told your people they had better direct them to the "care of Dowsman & Hosmer, Agents of the Merchant's Transportation Co., Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]," and unless they have written to you differently I presume they were left there, and if you have not already obtained them you doubtless can by sending. You would do well to send to your people the <*indi*> names of the individuals to whose care you wish things sent.

I learned soon after I reached home that steam boats on the lakes had formed a combination and raised the price, so that you had to pay more than I expected you would for your passage. I was then sorry you did not gage a p[a]ssage thro[u]gh from Albany [*New York*], but it is another proof that we mo[r]tals are short sighted, and know not what is for the best.

I hope you find means to employ your time pleasantly. If you have any considerable leisure I think it would be well for you and Mrs. Levi Grant to make two or three friendly visits in the course of a week to some of the families around you. If it be possible I would select such as are in the habit of attending church somewhere. Such visits will cultivate the social feelings, remove all tendencies to exclusiveness and selfishness, and will make the time pass cheerfully. If you could start a sewing society, whose object might be to assist your minister, adorn your church, or furnish a Sabbath school Library, no finite mind can estimate its good effects. I confidently expect that in a little time, you will enjoy yourself much, and you may be the means of great good. I hope you will endeavor to make (and I know you will) your house the abode of cheerful, though not expensive hospitality and I believe you will not generally need to labor so hard by that you can have some time to cultivate your mind, your heart and your manners. More I might say but for the present time let this suffice.

Your affectionate brother,
Joel Grant.

Dear Brother

The following is a description of the money I sent you [viz?]

One treasury note of $100 No. 20412 dated Sept 2 1842, Issued [Oc]t. 14, 1842.

One $100 bill o[f] the Mercha[n]t's bank at Boston. No. 184.

One $20 of the same bank No. 665. The Treasury note has been on interest at six per cent ever since it was issued and will continue to be so until Oct 14 of this year when it will cease to draw interest. It will be taken at the land office at any time in payment for land and can be sold at its full value I presume at the brokers. I wish you to inform me what mode of sending you money will be best, whether by treasury notes bills, drafts, certificates of deposit[e] or by what means. If I could have procured another Tre [*Treasury*] Note of $100 I should have sent instead of the bill and if you can not pass the bill without a loss of considerable you may return it to me. The Treas. [*Treasury*] notes I gave you were on interest till June 30 after which the interest ceases. Let me know how you managed them and also at what expense you <*re*> were in getting to your place.

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[*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.

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

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] May 6, 1844

Dear Brother and Sister,

Your letter we received three days since and as there are somethings in it which seem to require immediate attention I think I will write at once. But first in reference to Martha I will say we have moved her from S. [*South*] Hadley [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] home after she had been there five months (from Nov. 30 to April 29) upon a sick bed. We brought her upon a bed in [Esq. Badlelle's Barouche?] and were but three days on the journey. She cannot sit up at all, and was a good deal affected by the journey, but has now we think nearly recovered from it. She is no worse than when I wrote you last, and perhaps we may be permitted to indulge greater hopes of her recovery though that is very doubtful. She very probably may live months before the disease conquers her, and it must be moths before she recovers.

I visited your father Burr's people yesterday and carried your letter to them. We talked over the proposition of Mrs. Burr and as you ask my opinion in reference to it, I am ready to say I see no objection to it and would advise you if it be not too late to adopt the plan she suggest if you still feel anxious to get the lots of which have been thinking. You may have my part of it for what it cost me and the interest at six per cent from the time I sent the money and I am ready to give a bond to that effect, though I should not like to wait more than once year from this time for my pay. If you can get the other half on terms to suit you I advise you to engage it and send, for the money as soon as you possibly can. I presumed Mrs. Burr will not be willing to forward it till she knows whether you can have the place of not. If she can send you $200 or so, would you not do better to buy with it some place entirely new farther in the interior, and by selling your present place get money enough to put up a house? If you like the place you think of <*such you*> however, as it is near a village and not far from Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] probably you had better take it. I suppose however it is not as good land as you can find elsewhere. Do not exchange your present place for one which you will not like, but if it is possible to get any place you can like do by all means leave the one you now have. I should be unwilling to make you a better offer to exchange your lot for mine than that which I made in a previous letter. Hope it is not enough, but I do not want anything to do with it.

You state that you do not think Levi has ever paid the money I gave him as attorney for somebody who formerly owned the lots east of the creek. I think I am safe whether he did or not, but I would thank you to ascertain whether in Wisconsin it is necessary to have a Power of Attorney to sell land recorded before it is legal. If it is not I am perfectly secure, if it is I must send it out at once to have it recorded. Should you find it necessary you will write me at once. I do not believe it is. I am in haste and shall write no more unless I think of something

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother

Joel.

P.S. You ask how you can pay Capt. Hayers If you are to receive money from Mrs. Burr you can direct her to pay him any amount you have in your hands and that will save send it to you. If you should not, you must buy a draft on some of the Banks of Hartford or New York for which you will have to pay about two per cent premium or more but which must be at Capt. Hayer's expense of course you must if possible make arrangements for the purchase of the lot immediately, and take care you do not pay too much for it. The owner, seeing how much you might want it, may take advanta[g]e of you. I do not see why you might not take my half and keep the whole or a part of your present farm, but you probably do. I wish in your next letter you would make a kind of a map of the lot putting down the roads for I have not a very good idea of their situation.

I am very glad Mrs. Burr is willing to make arrangements to [acc?]ommodate you, for though I offered to send you $150 it was only because I wished very much to accommodate you. It would put me to great inconvenience.

I have no doubt your present farm will sell at 4 or 5 dollars an acre during the present season some time. Were it mine I would not take less than five but you know best.

Martha sends her love. Marcus is well and grows more awkward continually though I hope he will make a good man. Cousin William talks of going to Wisconsin this summer, but it is doubtful. We have procured a pendulum rod and ball for you and intend to sent it, by Mr. Hurlibut of Norfolk [*Connecticut*] who is to start in three or four weeks. It is impossible for us to imagine that yours were left here but if you can not find them that makes not difference. Mr. Knapp talks some of going to Wisconsin in the fall but has hired to father till Sept. and it is doubtful whether he

will go at all, I think he might like your present place. I will talk with him and let you know next time.

Yours Joel.

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[*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.

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Canton, Ohio. June 25, 1844
Dear Brother,

I this morning sent to Massillon a large box in which was contained all we can find of your things, excepting your rocking chair, which it was found very inconvenient to pack. It is to be addressed to you at Praireville [*Wisconsin*], care of – Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]. I sent it to Mr. Rhodes with a request that he would name some suitable house in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] to whom to consign it – he will name I suppose the same persons to whose care the box I sent last year was sent – I forget their names. I never heard of the arrival of the box I sent last year, but presume you must have received it. When you receive the box I now sent please sent a newspaper, if you have neither time nor occasion to write.

My family are all well. I have no information from father's family except such as you must know you have of course hear of Martha's long sickness. A letter from Joel written about a month since, expresses a hope of her recover, but she was still very feeble.

The same letter states that you consider yourself as having a claim to the note of $35 against Craig of New Philadelphia. My own recollection is that I have accounted for that note in full. When I gave to Joel the note for $75 payable to you (which note Joel now holds) I considered it in full for all which I had of yours, and thought it very liberal. But Craig has never paid but $20 on the note and I am afraid will never pay the rest. I have always supposed however that all money I should realize on this note would belong to me.

I should be glad to hear how you get along if you can find time to write.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
E.P. Grant

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

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] September 9, 1844
Dear Brother & Sister,

Your letters of July 30 and Aug 14. have been read for wh. [*which*] we thank you. We rejoice to hear of your success in all ways that you are blessed. We are glad you have been able to find a piece of land with wh. [*which*] you feel pleased and hope that in future you will have no occasion to change your views.

You have not adopted the course in reference to money wh. [*which*] I wished you to, but hope it will prove for the best. I want or am going to want it very much, unless you can sell my 40 acre lot, and even in that case I do not wish it to stay where it is one day after you can get it even for the interest at 25 per cent. I thought my instructions were plain in reference to it, that if you did not want it you should send it back to me at once, and if you have not already learned, it will be well to learn that in such matters you must "obey orders if you break [owners?]." Had you sent the drafts to me they would have needed to endorsing. But as it is get the money as soon as you can and send it to me.

Strong has written to me that Swift called and paid your note, and I shall, as you have directed, take the money and give you credit for it. I do not wish you at once to send me the money you get for your wheat, as you will have abundant use for it yourself. If there are a few dollars you can send you had better do so say some $10 or $15 but the rest keep for yourself. I would not sell at present for less than 50 cts [*cents*] per bush. as it will doubtless be worth more than that during the year.

I have been thinking some about your land in the S.E. corner of Dodge Co. I have no doubt it is good land – excellent land and all that, but had you better go to live there? How far is it to any respectable meeting? How far to a physician? How far to neighbors who can get together

& form a sewing soc [*society*]? How long before there will be any thing like comfortable society there? These and many like questions have occurred to me and as I have thought of your going there it has made me feel badly. You are wild enough now without going to live among the bears. I would not however attempt to influence you, for you know best what you should do. It has occurred to me that a plan wh. [*which*] I have heretofore suggested to you will now perhaps meet your views. You now have a good lot of land, 160 acres of the very best, but man was not made merely to live on good land. He needs society and you need it as much as any one, and Caroline feels the want of it as much as any one. Had you not then better take my 40 acre lot? It is as much as you can take care of, if well taken care of it will yield you a good living. You may have it for what it cost me and the interest at 6 per cent. It is so near town that it would not be necessary for you to keep a horse & waggon, two pretty expensive articles. You could then enjoy society, go to meetings, improve you mind, and grow wiser year by year while upon the first rate land in Dodge Co. after ten years no one would know you from a barbarian. It seems to me that you like thousands at the West <*do*> forget that land is not all, that there are many things worthy of consideration and of weighty importance besides land. I think then you had better let the lot you have bought, and cultivate one nearer the residence of men. If you do not wish to do so, then sell my 40 acre lot as soon as possible for wh. [*which*] purpose you perhaps will not need to take a deed at once. You and Caroline will be happier however to reside upon it yourselves and then is it be best you can sell either the whole or a part of the lot upon wh. [*which*] you now reside, and you can use the avails in building a good house, where you will be comfortable and in a state to receive company with pleasure to yourselves and them. You will probably never see such times should you go to Dodge Co., or at all events not for many years. In case you wish to take my lot will endeavor to make the terms of payment as easy as possible for you, especially in case you can send me the $100 I sent you last summer.

It does not seem to me you had better let your farm for so long a term as five years. You know not what you will want to do with it long before that time comes around. If you have not already arranged that affair you had better think a little before you let it for more than two years, at most. If you are to live upon it yourself I do not see the wisdom of letting it at all.

I am willing you should cut some poles from my lot for fencing and making a barn if you wish but you must do it yourself, you must not let any tenant or hired man do it for you, even to be used on your own farm. Could you not sell my lot there and yours together to good advantage? I always though they ought to go together and your request to cut timber from mine shows that you think so too at least in part. Perhaps some one would like to buy 80 acres of yours and mine too thus leaving you 40 acres which is more than you can well cultivate. I hope you will think well of the matter of taking the 40 you bought for me “within one mile of the village, upon a good road” as you described it when you first wrote of it, it is simply for your good I urge it. I offer it to you for less than to any one else, and that is not all I am willing to wait for you a little time a thinking I would not do for any one else, no not if they offered to pay me 25 per cent, interest. But unless you see it to be best do not be influenced by my opinion for I have already made you trouble enough. I do not doubt there is better land elsewhere, but will you be any better off upon it? What is the question, not how good is the land?

I regret to say that Martha has made no improvement for the last six weeks, but if any things grow worse. Her case is very discouraging indeed, and its result very doubtful. The remainder of our family are well. The typhus fever is raging very violent by in this region this fall. It is of a kind that is very contagious and destructive, and its [ravages?] <*ever fearful*> in some neighborhoods have been fearful, such that the hay and crops have been left untouched. Our neighborhood has hither to be spared, but a short time since Mrs. Robbins was taken sick with it so that we now have it here. Cousin Olivia Cowles and Mr. Knapp are to be married Sept. 11 (day after tomorrow) Olivia sings rather more than usually about these things your affect brother Joel.
Sept. 18, 1844

I have waited nine days in the hope that some of our people would write but mother has now a most terrible and painful felon on the second finger or her right hand, and John has had one of his fingers smashed by the falling of a piece of timber. John’s finger is getting better now and I do not think the injury is important. Mother’s finger too is a little better and I cannot but hope she has seen the worst of it.

Mr. Knapp and Olivia were married one week ago this evening, and this morning they started for Ohio.

Martha is not I think quite as well though there is not much change.

You will see the reason why Mother does not write, and as I am in a great hurry you will excuse me for closing this letter now. Mr. Burr's people are well.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel.

Mother wishes me to say for her that many times tenants prove very troublesome indeed, and she thinks you had better not involve yourself for five years.

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

New Haven [*Connecticut*] July 28, 1845.

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

I received your letter a day or two since and as it requires an immediate answer I haste to give it. I have no news to tell. Martha is no better. We had her make a visit to Watertown [*Massachusetts*] <*to*> at Dea. [*Deacon*] Woodard's, hoping it would improve her, but it did not. She had to ride there and back on a bed.

As to your selling your place I shall be glad to help you by letting you sell a part or the whole of mine with it, but I do not think you ought to sell yours short of $500, and I think it ought to bring $600, or $5 per acre though of course you can judge of that. You know how land is selling with you and can tell better than I.

I find there are some objections to sending you a power of attorney to sell my land, though they have reference to the expense solely, which after all would be no more than two or three dollars. If after my explanation you think best to have such a power, write me and I will send it. It must be made before a justice here, and must be recorded at Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] before it will be good for anything. A better way seems to be for me to authorize you to sell and I will give the deed as soon as the name of the individual is made known to me. This will be I think satisfactory to any one who wished to buy, and will save expense and trouble. If you think differently however, let me know. At all events such a plan will suit some folks, and therefore I authorize you to sell the whole or a part of the 80 acre lot. If you sell the whole it must not be for less than $200 or $2.50 the acre. If a part it must not be for less than $3 per acre, and as you know far better than I what land is worth you may get as much more as you can, remembering that all you can get more is your own, though unless you need it much I should prefer that you would apply it to the extinguishment of your debt to me of whose amount I know nothing. [Terms], either cash, or one half cash and the remainder secured by mortgage, interest 8 per cent, (or more if you do not think it wicked to take more, less if you feel that it ought to be). Perhaps you can divide both your farm and mine thus making two pretty fair farms with plenty of wood, though at some distance. Do as you think best but remember that if you wish any one to value your farm you must not run it down yourself.

What do you propose to do after selling? I hope you will not think of going into the wilderness. I care not how good the land may be, it will never pay you for being <*ex*>secluded from society. Perhaps if you can sell your farm you can take my 40 (though you say you can take that whether or not) and buy a part of the 80 for wood &c. and then if you can get a house up on the 40 you will be very comfortable. But I feel altogether incapable of advising you. As land is not diminishing in value I should be in favor of your keeping yours for a year or more, till you can get a house somewhere to live in, but perhaps it is not best. I give you full latitude as far as I can.

I do not think I shall come to Wisconsin. You have as many ministers now as you <*can*> ought to have till people can do more for their support. I do not decide <*conclus*> finally however as yet.

Write me at any and all times just as much as you can. The postage now will not be a severe tax especially if you will hand your letters to some one who is coming within 300 miles of

Mill-Brook [*Connecticut*], though you need not take great pains to do that. You can send two letters at a time however nor need you be very anxious to fill them full. Our [term?] lasts only till Aug. 21, therefore you will direct to Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] for me and to Newberg N.Y. [*New York*] for John. He has taken a school there, though his prospects are somewhat doubtful. Both John and I expect to speak at commencement. I enclose you my duplicate, though I do not see of what use it will be to you. I am certain it is of no use to me. Your affectionate brother Joel.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Prairieville
Wisconsin.

[*April*] 1 1847

[*Date supplied from date stamp:* Lockport Apr 2 Ill. {*Illinois*}]
[*First page in phonography shorthand. Numerous sums of money are mentioned.*]

Please let me know if all is plain. I would prefer I think a mortgage on my 80 to a mortgage on any other place. If however the purchaser wishes no more than a bond I suppose no mortgage will be necessary

The letter we sent you last was not double for I had our postmaster weigh it before I sent it. Still we will be careful in future.

Write as soon as you can learn whether the term I propose suit, or if not what will be likely to. do so. I have thought it best to inclose a rough draft of a bond which should it suit you may cause to be copied and returned to me for a signature, or should it be imperfect or incorrect you may alter it.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant

Statement of the amount due each year on a debt of $300 upon wh. [*which*] a present payment is made of $36.50 and an annual payment thereafter of $33 1/3. Interest 8 per. cent. Time May 1847

1847	263.50	The amount for any year is found
1848	251.20	by adding the interest of the amount
1849.	237 96	due the precieding year at 8 per
1850	223.66	cent to that amount and sub-
1851	208.22	tracting $33.33. It can be seen
1852	191.55	at a glance how the whole ac-
1853	173.54	count may be settled at any time
1854	154.09	Thus the payment of $43 in
1855	133.09	1848 besides the $33 1/3, or $76 1/3
1856	110.07	would carry the matter forward
1857	85.90	at once to 1851 or through th[ree]
1858	59.44	years. Should the purchase[r]
1859	30.86	wish it I am willing this an-
1860	33.33	nuity should be made larger.

If fifty dollars were paid at first and fifty each year thereafter it would require not quite seven years to pay the whole, or about half the time required by the annual payment of $33 1/3. Should the purchaser prefer to enter into an arrangement to pay $30 now and an annuity of $100 thereafter until settled allowing interest as above I will assent Indeed almost any way will answer wh. [*which*] allows the lot to have a present value of $300 and provides for the annual payment of at least $33 1/3. You are at liberty to show this half sheet to any one who wishes to purchase and assure them these are my views

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel Grant

[*written across side*] Abby sends her love
[*following sheet enclosed in letter*]

Form of a Bond

I hereby bind myself, my heirs, executors, or administrators to give to Y. M. his heirs heirs executors or administrators a full and sufficient [Warantee] Deed of (here describe the lot of which I am now in full and undisputed possession, on the following conditions viz. the said Y M. to pay now $36.50 to my full satisfaction and to pay annually thereafter $33 1/3 in the same manner for thirteen years the last payment to be made in the year 1860, the said Y. M. to have the privelege of <*paying*> claiming the benefit of this bond at any interveneing time <*mak*> paying the then present value of said annuity allowing 8 per. cent interest.

This bond is to remain in force so long as the above conditions are complied with but should the said Y M his heirs executors <*an*> or administrators delay <*said*> the payment of said annuity for a longer period than three months during the first <*three*> six years or longer than one year thereafter this bond to be null <*and*> void and the <*complete*> right to dispose of or use said land shall revert to me unrestrained by any of the conditions herein <*desc*> adopted.

In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of 1847
Should it be wished the annuity part of this may be varied as follows The said Y. M. to pay now $40 to my full satisfaction and to pay annually thereafter $50 in the same manner for seven years the last payment to be made in 1854 &c

Or as follows,

The said Y. M. to pay now $42 &c and to pay annually thereafter $100 for three years the last payment to be made in 1850.

If none of these terms will suit I know not that it is best to trade.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Waukesha
Waukesha Co
Wisconsin.

Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*] Sept. 23, 1847

Dear Brother and sister [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*],

Today we have performed the sad duty of following our dear sister Martha's [*Martha Grant*] mortal remains to the grave. She died night before last (Sept. 21) at about half past eleven o'clock, after a season of most severe suffering. I found her very low upon our return, though I did not think her case hopeless. She has been sinking gradually ever since, and about three weeks since we began to feel more anxiety on her account. About one week before her death, she became very weak, so much so that she could not see company except in extraordinary cases. Last sabbath she became still weaker and we became apprehensive that her end was at hand. Her sufferings were very great indeed, and we sent for the doctor, hoping he might give her something to relieve her pain. He did so, and she had a more comfortable night, but in the morning she was unable to swallow any thing, so that she was beyond the reach of anodynes. She appeared in the course of the day to be dying but she again revived, and lingered in great suffering till Tuesday night when she expired.

In her case we are privileged to record another triumph of divine grace. She has all along expressed herself resigned to the will of God, and has felt <*more*> deep anxiety lest she should cease to be patient under the <*deep*> sufferings which it pleased God to send upon her. When I prayed with her, it was usually the burden of her request that grace might be given her for that purpose. She felt almost ready to chide the slow approach of death. Her sufferings had made her very poor, and weak. I never saw a human being so much wasted and emaciated.

She bade us all farewell, and gave us such advice and exhortation as she judged adapted to us, and sent messages to her absent brothers. She said "Tell Daniel to be faithful to himself in the study and contemplation of religious truth, never suffering his business, his cares or his prosperity, to interfere with his religious duties. soon he may be like me upon the bed of death. O may he be prepared to follow his sisters who have inherited the promises."

A post mortem examination was held which showed, that, as a result of protracted disease her lungs had grown to the sides of her chest, and her bowels had become one solid,

agglutinated mass. Dreadful has been the suffering she has endured, great (as she said <*before*> the day before her death) beyond the <*pow*> belief of the world in general. But she sleeps -- sleeps in Jesus, and we cannot mourn that she has exchanged this life for another. We could not take care of her. -- Physicians did her but little, if any good. All our care could not relieve her sorrows, or comfort her upon her bed of suffering. She has gone, we trust, to the Great Physician, where her case is perfectly understood, and where no sorrow enters. Let us praise God for his grace that called her to his kingdom, and not sorrow as those without hope.

My health has improved rapidly since our return and I am now quite well. But Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] has had a severe and dangerous attack of billious fever, which lasted about seven weeks, and from which she has scarcely recovered yet. It is about eleven days since she came from her father's here and since that time has been for the most part with us. Our people are usually well.

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

P.S. Sept. 24. Whenever the business is all completed with Mahar and the papers properly recorded I wish you to let me know. The time for the payment of $15 is at hand (Oct. 1.) I wish you to use such portion as may remain in fencing out the sand bank on the 40. I think that about 1/2 an acre more or less should be fenced with boards. Fence five or six feet high, boards nailed to posts set in the ground, and with a gate that can be locked, so that no one can get at the sand without going to you for permission. I would like to have you do the labor, keeping an exact account of it and in due time I will pay you. Perhaps you might make some arrangement with Mahar to deliver the timber on good terms. Joel Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
<Prairieville> Waukesha
Waukesha Co
Wisconsin.

Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*], Dec. 28, 1847

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I received your letter of Nov. 7, about a month since, and have delayed to reply to it for two reasons, the first of which is a very common one, viz. that I have been busily employed otherwise, and the second and most important is that I have not known what to write. The apparent importance of writing something however has at last led me to take my pen.

It seems that you have sold my 40 and now have a team; whether your investment was wise is more than I can determine, and it being already made there is the less need that I should as the action can not be recalled. But as I am now the owner of a team perhaps it may not be amiss to say something about the future control of the matter, though even here I can do but little more than to suggest some ideas which perhaps are even more palpable to your mind than to mine. In the first place take good care to curry and to feed them well. Be careful also in muddy weather not to drive them, or if you do so to take very light loads. Remember "the die is cast," if this speculation fails I know not where you can look next. I know not where you can stable them, nor in what shed you can shelter your wagon, but this I trust is known to you.

But I wish to write you something respecting the religious bearing of your business. It is God alone who can give you success; none but He can save you from the thousand dangers of failure and consequent loss both to yourself and me that attend you. This truth should be acknowledged, not merely with our lips, but in some way that is calculated to carry more of the feelings with it. I have become satisfied that it is every Christians duty to give, at least, one tenth of his prosperity to God -- to consecrate it to the promotion of his kingdom on earth. This principle I have acted on for the last six months and I mean to do it while God shall give me life. Now as far as I have any share in the team you drive, I wish this principle applied, & I should feel much, very much safer if you would apply it to your share. I wish therefore to have you <*state in some*> ascertain what is the amount of my capital you have invested in paying for <*them*> it. I propose something like the following. Horses, wagons, and harnesses are of so perishable a

nature, that if you cannot pay for them in the three years, it is not probable you ever can. The business will be far from a profitable one, if you cannot do as much as this. This will be 3 per cent a month for 36 months (allowing about 3 months in which to pay interest) I propose therefore that you at once enter on a plan of paying that amount month by month for that object. I think you can find no difficulty in doing this; certainly you cannot if the business is to be any other than a losing one either to you or me. As nearly as I can estimate from your account of the matter you have invested or are to invest about $237. dollars in the team, $163 of which you have already paid. Aside from this you seem to have used $15 paid by Mahar, $29 paid by some one else, and $10 or more from the store <*which goes to pay*> in payment for the lot, making in all $217. You ask also to be permitted to use $29 coming to me early in Jan. which will make $246 -- not lacking much of $250. I give my consent to your using the note of $29 come due in Jan. and as all the rest that comes from the lot will be used soon we will call the whole lot invested in the team, that is $250. Three per cent on this is $7.50 per month which I shall expect you to lay aside to pay for the principal this, beginning, if possible, Nov. 1, 1847. or at least as soon as Jan 1, '48. If you cannot do this your business will be far from a profitable one, I am confident, and <*unless you can*> the loss of the whole team will eventually fall on me.

I cannot give my consent to the investment in a team of the mony that is to come from Mahar next spring <*in a team*> unless you can make the payments I have just mentioned. I am owing nearly $300 which those funds are consecrated to pay; I cannot therefore venture to place them in so uncertain a state. But this I am willing to consider upon, viz. If you will pay $7.50 a month from Nov. till May (which will make $45) I will consent to the investment of a part of it, otherwise I cannot.

Mahar is sufficiently correct in saying that I gave my consent that all the taxes that had been laid previous to the sale of the farm might be deducted from the amount he was to pay. If the taxes have been laid since I sold the farm, no deduction can be made.

I wish you would write to me as often at least as once a month, presenting a clear and distinct statement of what you earn with your team and also of your expenses. Such a statement will soon show you whether you can live by teaming, and also whether I can expect a remuneration for the investment of my property. Of course you understand that it is no security for you to call the team <u>mine</u>, for it is property that will not avail much as security. I like the proposal to have the deed of your lot taken <*from*> for me, but not because it gives <u>me</u> a security that is of value, for if you cannot pay otherwise, do you think I shall take the lot from under you? Unless I am willing to do that, such security is of no worth to me. All my security lies in the hope that you will manage business well, and that God will smile upon your efforts, and add his blessing.

I presume you will appreciate my motives in what I have written. I have endeavored to be accommodating to every member of your family. I shall still endeavor to help if God gives me the means. But I now am poor, yea $300 worse than poor. I have lent brother John $1000 (with the interest it would now be $1200) and that is sunk beyond hope. How much <*what*> I have heretofore lent you, I have no knowledge, but believe it is not less than $60, which together with what you now ask for will make $300, and perhaps by next May $350. It is plain that I must stop the practice of lending money where it is so uncertain whether it will ever return. The $250 you may take, and may God's blessing go with it, but with present prospects ought I do more? I think you will feel that I ought not. Still if you can show that teaming is a business that holds out a prospect of supporting you I will do so much as to lend you a part of what you may earn between this and May, but the Mahar money must not be touched.

If you have not forgotten your Phonography I should like to have you write to me in that, as I care not to have every body read our business transactions. You can write it first in long hand and then copy it is Phonography: You must not suffer yourself to neglect writing for in a few years you will forget entirely how. I see you have forgotten very much already.

I hope you will consider carefully the subject of benevolence and if you do not feel able to consecrate <u>one tenth</u> to God, try <u>one twentieth</u>, and do whatever you do cheerfully, laying it aside as a sacred treasure, and taking of the best you get, that is <u>money</u> for this purpose.

I have as yet not employment. I have been preaching for two sabbaths in West Avon, and perhaps shall settle there, but do not know. Abby has for the most part recovered her health. John is teaching in Woodbury [*Connecticut*], but his school is small only about 30 now, and will

not have so many in the summer. Marcus goes to school to him. Father and mother are well as usual as are also Mr. Burr's people. Am sorry to hear that you suffer so much from ague. hope that a change of business will relieve you. My love to Caroline and Abby. <*and*> In haste

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel

I believe Mother intends to write soon but I have filled this letter so full that I cannot well give her a chance in this.

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[*from Austinburg, Ohio, 186-?*]

Dear brother Daniel,

As I am sending home, I enclose a few lines to you. Abbie is pretty well generally, tho' [*though*] she has complained of a lame ancle lately & some head aches. She is better to day. How your family is scattered. No two in a place. And with other news we see in the paper you sent, that you have disposed of the property you bought in Winsted [*Connecticut*]. Have you done it advantageously? & will you now be able to redeem the $600. note you mentioned? Please tell me all about it. I wish to know more of your prosperity & of your adversity. I <*do*> would not buy property if you have to run in debt for it, the yearly interest is such an eating mother [barnowl?] – you stay at father's & help father & [brotheren?]. Better be in no business than a [sinking] business. May there not be an opening where you can labor for a salary, or for regular wages, if you wait awhile?

We hear nothing fr. [*from*] bro. [*brother*] Josh for a long time. Bro. [*brother*] John wrote the last he knew of him, he was in Chicago on government business. We are quite anxious to know more of his plans.

What a gloomy prospect our country now presents. O. that we may all so return, with weeping, mourning, & supplication, to our God, that he may have mercy & restore peace to our once happy but guilty land.

Henry Bowles spent nearly two weeks in Austinburg [*Ohio*], recently. He held a number of meetings here. He does seem to be one of the holiest men I ever knew. He took tea with us, & called several times[.] Aunt Olive & Mr Marshall's family were well as usual when I last heard.

Dear brother, I hope we shall learn how to pray in this day of our sore visitation as we have never done before. What else can we do. "He that knows how to pray has the secret of safety in prosperity & support in adversity." If we preserve this world it proves a fleeting show, but if we "set our affections on things above," if we "lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven" we shall soon experience the glad fruition of all our hopes.

Please write soon & freely. It is dark, I fear you cannot read this

Your aff..te [*affectionate*] sister Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Daniel Grant
Waukesha
Waukesha Co.
Wisconsin.

W. Avon [*West Avon, Connecticut*] July 5, 1848

Dear Brother

Having waited many months with great anxiety to hear from you, I have at last concluded to take my pen and write something myself. Since your letter of Nov 7, '47 (now eight months) I have received nothing from you, and have heard only a few indefinite reports. My last letter to you was dated sometime in Dec. last so that it may <*be interesting*> interest you to know something of what has haped in the mean time. I was at that time preaching here, and after a few weeks I received a call to settle as their Pastor, wh. [*which*] call I accepted and after delaying a time I was installed the 14th of last month. It is a small society, and they cannot give a large salary, <*though*> and it is by extreme effort that they are able to pay me the $500 which constitutes my salary. They are however a very pleasant people, and the place is situated conveniently to Hartford, being about 12 miles west.

We have a son born April 21, whom we talk of calling John Cowles. He has been healthy until about a week since, when he was attacked with some kind of a complaint wh. [*which*] has made him feeble and worrisome. He is now better, and has a good prospect of recovering entirely. Since his birth (almost eleven weeks) his mother has been very feeble. For a few of the first days she seemed to be doing well, but then she seemed to come to a stand, and soon after began to recede with frightful rapidity until she reached the verged of mortal existence. For many days her case seemed almost hopeless. Such was her state at the time of my installation. At last however she began to revive a little, and she is now better; though still unable to sit up and as you may infer very feeble. My own health has been in general good. I have heard, through a report of some one (stated to rest on the authority of a letter from Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] to her mother), that you have been ill this past winter. Of the nature of the disease, its power or duration I know nothing, but presume it has some connection with the ague. I have also heard that mother has written to you <*advice*> advising you to return to this country after settling up your affairs there. If your present disease properly originates from the country in wh. [*which*] you live I should think such a course a good one and I believe I suggested it to you when I last visited you in the spring of '47. I suppose the great difficulty will be in disposing of your property without a sacrifice that would be ruinous, yet I think if your health is constantly suffering from billious attacks you must do the best you can. I do not know that it would be wise for you to return to Conn. [*Connecticut*] I suppose better farms may be bought in the interior of N. Y.[*New York*] at equally reasonable rates, and in situations equally exempt from billious tendencies. But of this you can afterwards determine.

It has been a matter of surprise to me that you have given me no information concerning my business affairs. You have [*been*] appointed my confidential agent with all the formalities of law, and besides this I wrote you a very urgent letter last December, a letter which I expected nothing but bodily inability would prevent your answering. On the first of last April a $50 annuity was to come into your hands, to be forwarded to me, or to be satisfactorily accounted for. You had bought a team with my funds, and at my risk; and common justice should have led you to report to me the result, or by some means signify to me a just cause why you did not. A report (I know not that it is to me, though it comes on the authority of a letter to Mrs. Burr) has reached me that you have sold them. With this I do not find fault, but why do I hear nothing either of the sale or its proceeds from you? As to the $50 annuity I admit that it may never have come into your hands, but if not why am I not informed, both of the fact and the [the?] reasons of it? I must confess these things give me great anxiety, the more so as I am in immediate and pressing want of money, and shall be yet more and more so for some time to come. The propriety of the matter does not rest upon this, however, for it is the undoubted duty of agents to inform their employers of the state of the affairs entrusted to them, and faithfully to deliver over all property that comes to them in a shape to be thus delivered.

May I then expect that you will give an immediate answer to this, informing me [both] of the present state of the team and all the affairs connected with the sale of the 40 [acres]. Of the payment due from Timothy Mahan on the first of last April, whether the note then due was taken up, & if not the reasons why as far as you know them? Perhaps it will assist you to <*tell*> be told how far I understand these matters already. Your letter of last November is my only source of information and from that I learn that you sold my 40 for $250, taking in payment,

2 mortgage deeds of village lots _____ $163.00
2 notes of $29 each _____ 58.00
Cash to balance _____ 29.00

$250.00

(Of the last item you make no explanation, leaving it doubtful in what way you received it, or whether you received it at all.)

You afterwards bought a team for which you gave the mortgage deeds above mentioned, and agreed to pay $37 this spring and $37 next November, making its entire value about $237.

As far as your account with me is concerned I believe it is embraced in the following items

Oct. '47 Cash received of T. Mahan _____ 15.00
April '48 do. do. _____ 50.00
Nov. 47 2 notes of $29 each _____ 58.00
<*2 village lots mortgage*>
Cash (rec'd to balance as above) _____ 29.00
Investment in team _____ 163.00

$315.00

From this there may be something to be deducted for taxes <*due*> laid on the 80 before I sold it to Mahan, but I know of the way in which the rest can be accounted for. If there is any error in this statement you will inform me. [Thus?] let the matter be at once explained, however bad it may be. I shall keep a copy of the above statement , so that I can see what I wrote to you and compare it with your reply. I have endeavored to get the whole case before you so that you need have no difficulty in explaining it Brother John has left his school in Woodbury [*Connecticut*] & is now engaged as Tutor at New-Haven. His health is as good as it has been at any time since he had the operation performed.

Abby sends her love to you and Caroline to wh. [*which*] I would add a great deal of my own. Do not delay to write directing to West Avon Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Daniel Grant
Waukesha
Waukesha Co
Wisconsin.

West Avon [*Connecticut*] Feb. 26, 1849.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Riding horse----------$60
Two pack mules---------$120
saddle bridle, & spurs-----12
pack saddles----------8
----------$200.00

Provisions 150 lbs. flour----------$3.00
75 do bacon----------2.00
20 do coffee 1.50 50 sugar 4.00 5.60
Salt pepper vinegar etc.---2.40----------13.00
$213.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mill Brook Ct Mar 4

Monday March 4th 1859

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Marcus

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California, Oct. 20 1849.

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to]* Mrs. Caroline Grant

January, 9, 1850. No. 3.

My dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

I was too late in the mines last fall, to get a start before the winter set in, but I have been able to get enough to pay my expenses, which have been almost $350, I fear some times, that I shall not make as much mining as in some other way, but the chance is so much in favor of making more, that I am not willing to accept of such an offer as $200 a month. [My] information is more extensive than when I last wrote, and I think that the majority of the emigrants are not sorry

that they are here, <and> instead of one in ten as I stated in my seco<o>nd letter, but nearly all that were comfortably situated at home, wish they had stayed there, and many that thought they were not well off at home, have learned here that they were.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jan. ‘50

I suppose this sheet will make double postage but I dont care for that, I pay a dollar to get it carried to the states, & I suppose it will be the same whether I send one sheet or two. The man that takes it leaves for the states on the 16th of Jan. and will take the Feb. boat, he is from Mo. [*Missouri*] has made $1,500, and thinks he can’t stay from his family any longer He run a carriage from Hangtown to Sac. City [*Sacramento City, California*]. will not be more than a year from his family. I have been able to preserve your letter sent by Dr. [Blye] and have just read it, & will answer it. The logs Mr. Root was right about. You did right about the saddle. Mr. Tichenor must

have been mistaken about the dollar, for I paid him the common price for all he did. The long dress I did not want, but shall I ever get home, should have thrown it away as I did a good many things, if I had had it. I sent a letter from Ft. Larimie [*Ft. Laramie, Wyoming*] in wh. [*which*] I enclosed a lock of hair, but perhaps you did not get it. Will send another lock in this, my hair is short now, cut it myself, & cliped pretty close. I will give you some description of our company. We have 2 houses built in a small <rav> ravine, about 2 miles from the road leading from Hangtown, & Weverville, to Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] about 45m from the City. Our house is 14 ft. by 12 ft. with a chimney at one end, built out side. My chums are Walter Young, of Sheboygan [*Wisconsin*] & Joseph Ludington, of Mil. [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Young is a tailor & not very agreeable, though a tolerable good fellow. I worked with him, from the commencement of my mining, till <...> December first. Then we separated, & for three weeks, not feeling well, I did not mine. He is very profane. Ludington is a very pleasant young man 20 years old, also profane but not as bad as Young. Young left his wife with her father near Diesner's mill. He is 35 years old. At the other house is Mr. Burlieu, from Sheboygan 25 years old, quite profane but a first rate fellow, also Mr. Peters fr. [*from*] She. [*Sheboygan Wisconsin*] 25y old very profane, but a good companion in every other respect. Mr Jones from the lead mines Wis. [*Wisconsin*] 35y old I guess, uses profane language some, & is a clever man. The other (for there are four) is Mr. Matthewson fr. Hartford Ct. [*Connecticut*] A fine young man, does not use profane language, but is not so agreeable as I wish he was, a good companion though much more so than Young. He is my present partner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The rainy season is not so unpleasant as I supposed. Sometimes it rains for 3 or 4 days so hard that we cannot work, & sometime will be wet for more than a week, raining more or less

evey day, then a spell of fair weather for a few days, or may be a few weeks. The nights are frosty in fair wether. The rainy season continues 3 months, & generally commences between the 20th Dec. & first Jan. This season it commenced the <first> second week in Nov. so I suppose the rainy season is pretty well along. Today is the 10, thursday & the third rainy day this week. I probably shall not make any more than $20, this week, perhaps not that.

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

Daniel [*Daniel Grant*]

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

California, Feb. 3d 1850.

Dearest Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I wish I knew whether you are alive or not. I shall continue to direct my letters to you till I know. I have another opportunity to send a letter to the states, & this time to Boston, the chance is so good that I cannot let it pass, for if this man is careful<l> to mail it at Boston or N.York [*New York*], it will most certainly reach you. Twice I supposed I had sent for letters when I had not, the first time I left my name with Mr. Mudd, I think from Ct. [*Connecticut*] but instead of bringing letters he went to his home in the states. Next I left my name with 3 or 400 others at a store in Hangtown, to be sent by express but in consequence of some little difficulty between the merchant, & express men, the merchant would not let the express have the names, I have sent again & the man is expected back every day. If he does not bring letters for me I shall go myself pretty soon. It will cost me at least one hundred dollars to go to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*], & back, my time too will be worth another hundred, but I want a letter I would give a hundred dollars tonight, to get a letter, if I could get none cheaper.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Feb. 6

Dear Wife,

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

Your husband

Daniel

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

Marysville [*California*], Jan. 1, 1851

My Dear Dear Wife

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

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

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

Wm. Elder, passed through this place on his way home about a month since I saw Wm. Graves as I was walking through the streets, he recognized me & hailed me & told me that Elder had started for home, in a small boat to go down the river. I went to the landing & found the boat had not yet started, saw him got some news from home, & I learned that John Howel was at or near Weaverville, & had made

by tra<*i*>ding 30 or $40000,00 G. C. Cone had gone home with about $1500, Eliott & Woodworth were in the mines & had a good claim. He gave me to understand that he had made by tra<*i*>ding about $8000,00 but Graves said he had not made $1000,00 Graves said that he himself had made nothing, but I think he had, two or three hundred dollars, he is keeping a small ranch about 20 miles from here, says he is going home in the spring.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

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

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

Dear Sister Caroline,

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

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

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

Jno. Grant. [*John Grant*]

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

Newark [*New Jersey*] Jan. 12, 1852.

Dear Sister Caroline,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marysville [*California*] May 23 1852

My Dear Wife

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daniel Grant

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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

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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

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[*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 have sole butter at 40 cts. but not much. We dont have very good luck making cheese, but no body can beat us in butter.

I was just in time taking up land to meet the low prices, just as I expected, I should have taken land sooner but every year I thought prices would be down, till I ascertained that farmers produce could not be imported so as to make it cheap, & I thought it would be a few years before Cal. [*California*] could supply itself, but Cal. [*California*] is not only to supply itself, but is to have a large suppluss & no foreigh market. <*as I*> 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

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

My dear beloved husband [*Daniel Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

<*I sent out to you*>

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

Write to me when I shall look for you.

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

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

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

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], May 5th 1856

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*]

I wish to address you not only as a brother by the tie of humanity but as a brother through sympathy with one to you the dearest object on earth and I wish to speak to you upon one particular subject and ask you forbearance if anything I should say seems to you more than I have a right to say – C [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has told you of the changes that have taken place of her sorrows, and her hopes, and I have seen through your last letter your failure to realize those fond wishes for which you "have endured" so much and your wife also. Let me entreat you to take one hours calm consideration of the subject of your return home, look upon it in all its bearings, consider that those here now need the comfort of your presence more than ever, and though your lack of sympathy of some of whom you have a right to expect it. You are certain of the sympathy and confidence of others, and above all if any one resolves before God to perform a duty which they have solemnly decided to be a duty they are sure of strength to perform it. Though it require much self sacrifice; and its burdens seem impossible to bear. (My " strength is sufficient for you saith the Lord") ("God is truth") With assurances like these before you let the troubled waters of your soul grow calm, think of the joy of reunion with those you love most, and that more than half our troubles come from anticipation of evil. Decide then and act before the hour of weakness has time to come again and my word for it you will find less to bear and more strength to bear it than you anticipate. Here you will be almost sure of enough of the things of this life for comparative comfort and though you would have to sacrifice much of self in returning be assured that Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] would have to sacrifice as much in doing that which would be her duty did you positively command but which love for you and her children, and past experience otherwise forbid.

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

Hoping that you will receive this in the spirit in which it is written and write to me if you feel like it. I am

Affectionately your friend Br. [*Brother*] William Hill

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

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

Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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[*Attached envelope addressed to*]
Mr. Daniel Grant
Norfolk, Ct. [*Connecticut*]

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

Dear Brother,

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

I received a letter yesterday from P.B. Hill, Milwaukie, wh. [*which*] I inclose. I have received an impression that you directed him to send the funds to brother Phelphs, but thinking

you might wish to modify directions somewhat I inclose the letter to you. The amount is (I believe) $185, on wh. [*which*] interest should have been paid from May 15 to the time of its payment about 4 months—making it about $191.

I enclose also $<*6.25*>5.12, being the interest on a note of fifty dollars wh. [*which*] I owe you given June 1, 1855, and the interest on the interest from the time it was due. If you are willing to let the note lie for a time, I should prefer it but, if you want it paid, I will endeavor to accommodate you

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant

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926 Broadway
New York, Oct. 23. 1856

My Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

Ever since I heard of your return to your native state, I have cherished the desire and intention soon to write you. When you came I was in Ohio and unable to use my pen but soon after became so well as to write with a good deal of ease. Perhaps a reason why I have till now delayed my letter of greeting and congratulations to you, has being of late a succession of very serious boils on my back and right shoulder. I know not how many I have had, but surely I never had such an experience in that line before. And just as I flattered myself that the last were getting well, behold yesterday another appeared – very sore – but apparently not to be very large. I only hope that they will prove as beneficial as they are by some reported to be.

You have heard enough I doubt not of the peculiarly sad trial of the past summer. I lay prostrate for a long, long time with very slight prospect or hope of relief. My current of life ran low and I saw many an hour of weariness and pain. At times I would have welcomed death as a merciful deliverer – so completely was every energy exhausted, and so heavy the burden of life. Our darling niece Libbie was constantly by me – an angel of mercy to whom I doubtless owe my life.

But let this suffice on that subject. Let me however return my thanks to dear sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*], for her kind remembrance and sympathy during my illness. I really do not know whether Libbie answered her letter or not. Her hands were very full.

I found your card here at my rooms on my return from Ohio. It would have been pleasant to be here to receive you on your first arrival -- as I know not now when I shall see you. But I rejoice that in life and health your family and friends once more may behold you and welcome you from your long wanderings and sojournings in a far distant land. I too rejoice with them and with you in your restoration to your wife and your dear children in whom time must have wrought many changes.

I <*have*> received not very long ago a letter from Marcus, dated Oroville, Sept. 1. He said not a word of any plans to return home and I do not know what he intents to do in that matter. I have desired an impression that he wished to come. Probably he had not yet seen teh way open and as he knew of my recent weak, helpless state, thought it better not to say anything about it. I wrote him by the last mail, about two weeks since.

My illness has proved in every way detrimental to my affairs here, but I hope if I continue well to repair some of the harm. Our school has commenced small and we shall barely pay expenses and get a living for the present. My partner feels at times discouraged, though I think without reason. I will say that it is possible he will wish to leave me in the hope of some situation where he can have his wife with him wh. [*which*] in present circumstances he thinks impracticable.

But if I buy him out I shall not pay him all he gave me in Sept. I shall only offer him what I think I can afford to give in present circumstances. Possibly he will prefer to remain. He would surely succeed if he would remain. We have now about a dozen pupils—nearly all such as have been with <*us*> me in time past, and who will remain with me if he goes. But I know not what he

may prefer to do, so it is as well not to say much about it. He is delighted with all connected with the school except his income.

Give much love to Caroline and to the children, and let me hear from you soon as convenient. Remember me likewise to all friends who inquire after my welfare. Tell them that my New York friends say they never saw me looking better. I am however not so strong as before, but am improving. The weather is delightful.

Very affectionately your brother,

Jno. [*John*] Grant

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Feb. 12, 1857

Dear brother & sister [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

We have just recd. yours mailed Feb. 11, I do not know but you have concluded wisely in buying my share. I cannot tell. In a letter sent yesterday we mentioned a public sale. I should think Erastus would be willing to take less than $1,000 than to sacrifice what he probably would at such sale. I rather think that perhaps I ought to adhere to the thousand. <*Sh*> Were I to lower my price it would in effect be giving it to Erastus as in case I lowered I suppose you would not hesitate in <*tl*> deciding that you could afford to give E. [*Erastus*] his price of $1000.* [*written in the margin:*] *which after all would help you too would it not?

I believe that in taking $1000 I throw off about $600 according to appraisement including being made equal. It does not seem to me that I would have to sacrifice more than that at public sale for <*it does not seem as*> I cannot think that men of judgment would have appraised the property more than $1.800 higher than it would sell for. After sending my last I thought that I omitted to say or to mention something which I ought but up to this present I have <*not*> not been able to think what it was. I feel sorry for you <*that*> to be fixed just as you are not wishing to stay & yet feeling that perhaps you had <u>better</u>, for <u>must</u> you need not <*of sacrificing to public sale*> that is if you would sacrific to public sale. I see by looking at old letters that the appraisement was $5.357. In paying E. & self as we offer you get it for $4.100 without deducting much I think from your own share of the appraised value. Still it is hard to stay where you do not wish to. Have just bethought myself again. 4.500 was the true appraisement so that counting your own at full appraisal 1.800 you get Es. [*Erastus*] & my share for only 600 less than appraisal as I have had about $50 and E. [*Erastus*] about the same I suppose of personal property.

Have written so often upon the subject of the farm that I hardly know what to say except that we are still willing to stand by what we said last fall, and should think you had as well buy the whole if you will feel just as much fastened by taking the north part. Which part I should prefer to take if divided as proposed. It has more meadow and lies more contiguous to buildings, of the wood and facility of getting I am not able to judge except that south part lies nearer town. Should think that that south wood lot would sell pretty well divided into 1. 2 or 3 acre lots and sold to towns people that have to buy wood. Know that here it would sell very rapidly and at good prices, but perhaps you have thought of all these things and more besides. Should not be afraid to take the place myself were I near it and run the risk of selling it or turning the wood into money and selling the meadows and buildings as well as I could and think by that time would have my money back and could afford to give some of the pasture lots away Property can often be sold to advantage by selling it piece meal – Saw 18 acres of land sold at public sale close to the village the other day in 5 lots for an average of 105 dols per acre that 25 years ago or so was bought for 28 dols per acre and it is in bad order as regards fence and state of improvement generally – If you take ours will be satisfied with the way in which you speak of paying for it as long as we do not have to pay a larger interest for money to use in its place. We can readily borrow at present at six per cent. Tell Erastus that we do not mind taking a <u>little</u> very little <u>trouble</u> to get money if we have the opportunity.

If you go to farming would advise you to raise a colt occasionally if you do not keep them till they grow to be horses as at 1 year old they are here/ and I think likely with you, as profitable as any stock and bring more in proportion counting the risk than when older.

Shall be glad to hear that you have become settled and hope you may have it all fixed by the time you receive this. I spoke in my last about coming up but if you have all things arranged it will not be worth while, would come now but cannot leave until after 1st of March. Will have ac[. . .] of Stock to take in shop &c. You must try and find time to come and see us some time as it will be doubtful whether we get up next summer. Wrote to Erastus sometime ago wonder whether he received it. Think I remember hearing that he did. Should like to know whether he remembers it. Give my best respects to all our friends and if we have not written satisfactorily please excuse us as we have done the best we could in the short time we have had to think about it and our limited knowledge of the property. Knowing but little about the woodland & pasture and nothing about the value of land except that if it was much lower it would be worth nothing. We are as ever

Yours truly

William Hill

P.S tell Daniel not to give up writing and not to fear his brother in law. 'Twill do him good to write even if it costs an effort WH [*William Hill*]

[*Written in margin*] I wish Daniel would write more frequently add something to the letters. I always like to read what he writes

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Jan 2 1858

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

The Bundle that you Sent came safely to hand, think the counterpane very pretty and Sam is very much pleased with his pencil and Liquorice root. As to money matters you need not borrow at present so send me any I can get along now very well until spring and than if it is not convenient for you to pay will try and do without it until you find it convenient Grain is getting so low here that I hate to sell it but if it continues so will have to do it corn is only 45 cents oats 30 and wheat 113 per Bushel and that seems very low after paying two dollars a day to have it gathered Hope that Daniel [*Daniel Grant*] Will write soon and tell us what he is so busy about and settle up that affair with Mary about that western land and also give us his views about Virginia. Whether he would like to go there if you can sell out where you are &c.

Father is more comfortable and has been for a few days than when I wrote before but still requires almost constant attention. You think it requires some energy to write a letter but it takes a great deal more for me to work hard when I do not feel well more than half the time & I think I grow more lazy every year and that is one reason I have for wishing to go to a milder climate and cheaper land I think, for what my farm would sell for I could buy twice as much land of better quality and have enough money to build a house & start the farm over so as to Start entirely out of debt and remain so -- whereas if I continue farming here must 100 dols a year rent or put up a House & building that will not cost less than 3000 dols which will keep me in debt for some years to come & might always Am going to try and work to better advantage the coming year and see if the prospect will brighten any -- We have very mild weather for the season and it will be a great help to those that are poor on account of taking so little fuel -- Think about, raising might answer well with [you?] and have lately seen an account of some pasture lands in Connecticut that were very much improved by the use of plaster -- have you ever tried any on pasture lands, it is one of the cheapest fertilizers and if it answers well would advise you to try some of it. Am glad to hear that some of you are being led to a better life and though we do not all think alike as to the best method of conversion (That is not quite what I wish to say but cannot express it better) we ought all to rejoice that any are turned from the eror of their ways to walk in wisdom ways of peace & comfort I should like to slip in and see you all if I could but as things are that pleasure is not to be thought of -- We have killed our cow and our hogs were done some time ago Do not remember whether I told you that we killed one that weighed 521 pounds, Jersey corn will fat hogs Am glad that you had a pleasant time (visit) with your friends and think that most of us spend too few hours in social pleasures that would help lighten the cares of life and might prove good opportunities of gathering strength in the conflict with selfishness which sin is hard to root out -- We have gone out but little on account of Sickness & Death in the family for two years past and now another has gone to his last account. Mothers Brother John was buried last Saturday and so

the world keeps passing away -- Sam wants to send a letter that he has made with his pencil and often talks about Abbie & Eddie -- Shall we look for a visit from any of you this winter – Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] is trying to break little Alletta from eating in the night and had a free concert for 1 1/2 hours last night and anticipate a continuation of the pleasure for several nights but after the playing is over they are expect to take a benefit

I saw quite a long article in the Presbyterian the other day about [gift?] lotteries and an happy to see that others coincide with my opinion, which you have been favoured with and I need not repeat [*see William Hill's letter of Nov. 8th 57*]. Only when you look at that [pen?] do not feel badly will ["?] you? But as you are lucky perhaps you had better try again & next time you may get a farm --

I am glad to hear the good tidings from Norfolk [*Connecticut*]. What a happy thing could Erastus [*Erastus Burr?*] share the blessing Is Mr. Nelson Moses living? What a trouble the counterpane must have been to pick apart all that was sewn & do it all again. But how much better it looks! I think it very pretty & am much pleased with it. Sam is also pleased with pencil & Liquorice. The socks are too small for Allie [*Alletta Hill*] that is the soles are too short even for her [naked?] feet. She wears leather shoes (she is helping me write now) creeps all about & climbs up by things & grows every day & with no change of diet or very little believe I gave her bread when at Conn. [*Connecticut*] I occasionally give her potatoes & turnips -- I like the flannel color & quality it will be pretty & durable.

The [freight?] [...]. 62 cts.

[*William Hill*]

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Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Sept. 21, '58.

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I am thus far on my way to attend to your business at Jefferson various causes have combined to delay my going -- it is not necessary to mention any of them.

Arriving here I have received $75 from Mr. Hill -- and to night I start for Whitewater as being the first point necessary to make on the journey. How I shall go from Whitewater does not yet appear, for no one I have met here seems to know any thing about the way from there to Jefferson.

I obtained from Mr. Hill a statement of your affairs and find them substantially as follows

Due on the note of Mr. Rogers (the last of those given for your place)	$38.00
Due on the money lent by Mr. Hill	139.00
Total	$177.

I carefully examined, the sum total might vary a few cents from the above. Of course the amount will increase a little every week.

Mr. Hill says the money can be paid on a very short notice. The $139 is loaned <*his*> to be paid on call, and probably will be paid when asked for, though he must be doing a remarkably good and safe business who can pay 12 per cent interest on such conditions. On the whole Mr. Hill thinks it will be as well to have the whole settled up, as you have no other interest in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*].

I would not attempt to advise you particularly, but would say that as the amount secured by Mortgage is now very small (only $38) a sum too small ever to warrant the foreclosing of a Mortgage I think it would be well to end that if there is an opportunity. Mr. Rogers says he will pay for it Oct. 1, and as soon as may be convenient thereafter he would like a release of Mortgage. He does not require it at once, but if you think fit to ask payment, you had better get it as soon as may be convenient. I inclose a form of release and will suggest one or two ways in wh. [*which*] you can execute it.

The best way, if not too inconvenient is to have the release acknowledged before some Justice of the Peace, who can attach to the document a Certificate of the County Clerk, certifying to his identity. <*Another way probably more*> I presume there are Justice of the Peace in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] who can secure these certificates with a few days delay -- perhaps at once.

On consideration I think this is the only way it is safe for you to use. In Illinois such a paper acknowledged before a Notary Public would be valid, but this is Wisconsin, and the laws are different.

I am <*am once*> expecting to move again -- I am going in the course of a few weeks probably three or four to Newark [*New Jersey*], part by to see John [*John Grant*] & consult with him about his affairs, and partly in the expectation that it may be best for me to take his school. Abbey [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] will remain here for the present until something definite is arranged. The times are so hard that just now it seems not easy or advisable for me to insist on the payment of certain debts due me -- amounting in all to near $300 about half of it for salary & the other half for other things. Under these circumstances, I would like if you think it best to take up your money in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*], to secure the loan of it for a year at 10 per cent. It will be a help to me & I should consider it a great kindness on your part. Perhaps you might be willing to let me have a part if not the whole.

If you think fit to act on this suggestion, please answer this as soon as you can inclosing an order somewhat like that in your last letter.

Should you wish it, I can secure you by mortgage or transfer of secured notes.

I will write you again after I have been at Jefferson

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

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Chicago, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 23 '58

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I have just returned from Jefferson, and am prepared to make a Report. Unfortunately neither you nor I thought of the necessity there was that a description of the land should be given (& the Township, Range, Section, and part of section) and therefore my journey failed, in part at least, of its object. We could not find the name of either Grant or Burr among those whose property was sold for taxes <*& and*> & therefore I could not select yours from the large list of "unknown" who were represented as the owners of nine tenths of such land.

The matter can however be arranged now. Please write at once to

Wm. Sanborne
Country Treasurer
Jefferson Co. Wis [*Wisconsin*].

<*requ*> giving him a description of the land, <*thereupon he will*> & requesting him to write to me the amount of taxes due upon it, whereupon by draft I will forward him the money. He will charge about 25 cents -- possibly 50 but that will be all.

I found that in 1857 the townships transferred to Jefferson Co. were re-transferred to Dodge Co. on the ground of illegality. Consequently the taxes for 1857 are to be paid in Dodge Co. The way to meet this is to address a letter to Clerk of Boars of Supervision Juneau, Dodge. Co. Wisconsin giving documentation as above & requesting him to write to me what amount is due -- & I will forward to him also by draft & in this way will have it all soon settled up. Each of these men will forward a certificate that the property is redeemed. This certificate costs I believe 25 cents in each case. I may think it best to go again to Wisconsin, & perhaps near Dodge Co. -- but if I do it will not be for your business (--wh. [*which*] had I known as much as I do now I could have settled without stirring from my study) and if I do I will endeavor to step into the office & see that all is right.

My expenses are as follows

Chicago to Milwaukie 90 m.		$2.00
Milwaukie to Whitewater 50		1.75
Whitewater to Jefferson 15		
& back by horse & carriage 15	3.00	
Lodging & breakfast at Whitewater		.75
Whitewater to Chicago by Janesville, on the Chicago		
St. Paul & Fran du Lac R.R.		3.75

$11.25

This is a large outlay for paying a tax, but is less than you could have got any one else to do it for. I have a free ticket on the road from Lockport here -- hence there is no charge for that part of the journey -- I staid with a friend while at Milwaukie, so there was no charge there. It was expensive travelling from Whitewater to Jefferson, but there seemed no other way so good. There is a stage every other day, but as I was there in the morning & it did not leave till near night, and even then would have charged me $1 each way, it did not seem best to waste time in waiting for it.

Should you ever have occasion to send to Jefferson again, the best way is from Chicago through Janesville 175 m. <*all the*> to Whitewater all the way by R. R. [*Railroad*] Probably in two or three years there will be a R. R. [*Railroad*] all the way from Chicago through both Jefferson & Dodge Co.

So the $11.25 above charged to you I must add 75 cents paid to Mr. Hill for $50 in gold – making my charges $12.

I stopped last night at State line Depot, staying with Dwight Phelps. He and his wife are well.

With love to Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] & the children I am

Yours most truly
Joel Grant.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Norfolk
Conn.

[*Addressed from*] Milwaukee [*Wisconsin*]
Mutual Fire Insurance Company
Office No. 3&4 martin's Block. 2nd floor.

Milwaukee [*Wisconsin*] Sept. 21st 1858
Danl Grant Esqu [*Daniel Grant*]

Dear Sir

Your brother is here I have paid him $75.00 I wish you to send a release of the mortgage and instruct me what to do with the money it can all be paid when you wish.

Respectfully yours Etc.,
P.B. Hill

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Bristol, Ill. [*Illinios*] Feb. 5, 1859.

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 29th ult. reached me to day just one week from date. It reached Lockport [*Illinios*] day before yesterday. My family are still there, but I am employed here, a place 25 M. West.

As to St. Paul, or lots in it I know nothing whatever about it or them, and if I did, it is now too late to give you advice. This letter cannot leave till Mond. the 7th and and will not reach you before the 12th, or a fortnight from the date of yours. As to the lots in W. St. Paul [*Minnesota*], so much depends on this situation that no one could tell whether they were worth little or much without seeing them. You need to sell your farm well <*to*> if you take them. One annoyance connected with them will be the taxes, for in a city or growing village (as I presume W. St. Paul may be) the authorities lay taxes almost as often as the months come round for some purpose

general or Special. How ever, if you have become the owner of them you must, I suppose, do the best possible with them. It is a place much visited by travellers in summer, and by some of them we may be able to learn something. It is a good ways from this – about 330 miles from Chicago, in <*in*> a straight line; probably 375 <*in*> by any of the ordinary routes of travel. At present real estate is very much depressed in Minnesota generally, & I presume in St. Paul also. If these lots are not now sold for taxes, and you can keep them free from that kind of incumbrance for three or four years, they may prove of value, but I should rather have $300 than both of them at a guess. I presume you think so too.

As to your taxes I have to day received the last letter that I needed to get them into shape. Matters have gone a little contrary, but we shall now be able to manage them I think. You will recollect a letter I wrote to the Clerk of Board of Supervisions & sent from your house. I received answer to that to the effect that he had made <*a*> two mistakes, in the letter to wh. [*which*] mine was an answer. This speaking of the sale as taking place March 10, instead of April 10 he admits was a mistake, but says truly, that it was of no consequence. Another mistake is of consequence, but it is against us. The sale was April 10 for $19,98, and in his first letter (Oct. 16) he had added 12 1/2 per cent ($2.49) for interest for six mos. and 25 cts <*cost*> fees, making $22.72. In his second letter he says this was a mistake because the Rule & Practice of the Office is to charge 12 1/2 per cent interest for the first six moths, and 25 per cent for the second, and if it is six months & a day the charge is 25 per cent & 20 on to the end. Hence after Oct. 10 -- then close of the first six moths -- he should have charged 25 per cent $4.99 instead of $2.49. As the matter now stands he demands $25.22 -- or $5.25 more than what it sold for last April. As he will charge no more until April 10, I have concluded to let the matter rest till March 1.

This years taxes too (or for 1858) have been the innocent cause of some annoyance. Just about the time (after Robby's death) I had concluded to return to Ill. [*Illinois*] Abby received a letter from the Collector at Ashippan, <*station*> answering mine written from your house. Without taking any note of its contents, she inclosed it to me at Newark. (Let me throw away this horrid ink) I suppose this was about Dec. 20. I arrived at Lockport Dec. 24. The same day John, to whose care letters were directed left Newark to spend the holidays in Williamsburg -- to be gone therefore some 10 days. I leaned this, and therefore did not wonder that the letter did not return at once. It did not come, however, as I expected even up to Jan 6. I then wrote to John telling him the letter was important. He wrote back that it had not come at all -- perhaps it was among advertised letters -- he would look -- I have not since heard from him. Jan. 20 I wrote to the collector (not knowing his name even) & to day I have received answer. He says he had transferred to the county Treasurer the tax list, the day before he received mine i.e. Jan. 30, and that now I must deal with him. He states the amount to be when in his hands $22.89, and I suppose it will be enlarged $2 or $3 by the transfer. I shall write to him by the first mail, setting that matter at once. Mr. [Tichenor?] says they can be paid with 5 per cent added till last of Feb., I think. I will try that plan, and will let you know its result

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother,

Joel Grant

P.S. Feb. 7. In the accompanying letter I have given you the history of paying taxes under discouraging circumstances, but I think the matter will be closed up soon -- in three or four weeks. If it should prove necessary to visit Juneau before, or at the tax sale I will do it.

And if you have sold your farm what do you propose to do? You will bear in mind that the proceeds belong to your family, and only in a modified sense to yourself. You will of course lay them out in such a way as in the opinion of judicious persons is safe, and best adapted to promote their good. If you could arrange to invest in Ill. [*Illinois*] or Wisconsin, on good security, at 10 or 12 per cent, wh. [*which*] will be readily done, (and I will do it for you at the latter rate if you wish) that might be a good plan. At your earliest convenience I should like to know your plans. Some very good farms might be bought now in either of these states at reasonable rates, for cash, and this may be the best course. Many places are now sold under mortgages, usually bringing only the face of the notes for wh. they were mortgaged, & of course going into the hands of those who have the mortgages.

I am not certain where I shall go at last. I am engaged here till Oct. next, though not so but that I can probably leave previously if it should seem best. I do not quite like the place, though

the people are kind and appreciative & give me $800 salary. I go home to Lockport once in two weeks or thereabouts -- am going to day.

If you could contrive to work a part of Father's farm, and occupy a part of that great house, and let whatever money you can command be loaned, will not that be the best plan? I wish you would think fit. With love to Caroline [*Caroline Grant Burr*], Abby & Eddy I am

Your Aff. [*affectionate*] brother.
[*Joel Grant*]

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Bristol, Ill. [*Illinois*] March 24, 1859.
Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I have to day received the last paper necessary to put your taxes in a satisfactory shape. It has been a long, though not a very laborous process. It has cost something, but less than to send a messenger to the place, while I think there need be no difficulty in managing it hereafter by correspondence. This course is best as it is hard to tell whom we can trust in such matters. I give below a Tabular view of the whole transaction so far as I have been able to arrange it. Some parts of it (as for example the original tax of 1856) I have had to come at by calculations not having the papers.

Original Tax	Int. for		Chgs. including 25 cts for certificate		Total
1856 $16.75.	2 1/2 yrs.	$10.47	.75 cts	pd Oct '58	$28.00
1857 18.47	1 yr.	4.62	3.00	pd March 59	26.09
1858 22.89	<*no*> Int.	.52	.[88?] [*smaller*] 28	pd Feb. 10 '59	23.69
$58.11		$15.61	$4.06		
$77.78					

Now this it must be confessed is not a pleasant show for a man who has to earn his money by the hardest, but even this is not all. To all this must be added the $12 expenses of my trip last fall, and the postage on more letters than I can now think of (each letter inclosed a stamp & therefore [counts?] 6 cts) the interest of the money deposited in Bank to meet the claims, and the interest of each of these payments up to the present hour. I mention these things as you are only part owner of this property & others must therefore share the burden with you.

I will now present the account so far as I am able to make it out.

Charges to last fall's journey	$12.00
Postage on 8 letters & replies (I presume there have been more but these are all I can recollect)	--48
Int. [*interest*] on $37 kept in Deposit in Chicago to meet these taxes as soon as I could find their amount; 3 mos. at 10 per cent.	.90
	13.38

To this you should add such expenses and such interest of money as <*to you*> is justly due you. The account, as already met by you is something as follows

Oct 1858 To Mr. Sandborne <*Dodge*>	Jefferson Co.			$28.00
Feb. 1859 Allen & Atwater	Dodge Co		23.69	
charge 1859	do	do		26.09
Expenses of my trip in Sept. last			12.00	
Postage paid by me				.48
Interest				.90
				$91.16

Thus far for the taxes. Let us now look at our individual accounts.

In Nov. last you let me have $50, conditioned on my paying up these taxes.

Daniel Grant Cr. by Cash Nov. '58	$50
Int. 3 months (ere the three months was up I had to Deposit it to have it ready)	1.25
	$51.25

Contra Dr. 1859.

Cash Feb. 10 to A.A. Atwater		$23.69
do March 22 do	26.09	
Postage	.48	
Interest----------.90		
51.16		

Due you ------ $0.09

I gave you due bill for $50. If you think under the circumstances you can be satisfied to strike the balance, and give it up, you may do so at your earliest convenience, sending me due bill in a letter. You will notice that the charges connected with the taxes of 1857 are large = $3. There is dishonesty there though I see not that it can be helped. You recollect the German correspondent whom I suspected so much when at your house. Well he wrote me in two letters that your tax last April was $19.98, and after Oct. must have 25 per cent added to it making 24.97 & 25 cts for certif. $25.23. I saw no reason to doubt this <*but*> and therefore sent him $26.09, judging that he ought to have 75 cts. or more for his trouble. On the first of Jan. however he & his Company went out of office, & were succeeded, I suppose, by those who sign these certificates. They present an account whose total is only $23.08 add 25 cts = 23.33 almost $2 less than he claimed. I can discover no explanation for this, other than that he deliberately exaggerated the tax. But having got the money he keeps it $2.75 for his expenses! He would have kept the whole, unquestionably, if I had sent it in bills, but I sent it in a draft in Chicago, that specified the purpose for wh. [*which*] it was to be paid.

I am sorry this and some other accidents have happened, but am glad the matter is ended & doubt not you are so -- I inclose the certificates. With love to Caroline & the children as well as yourself I am,

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

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Bristol, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 19, 1859.
Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I was absent last week at Chicago, attending the National Fair &c, & did not therefore receive yours of the 10th. (mailed the 12th) until day before yesterday. I hasten to acknowledge its receipt -- also of its contents -- viz. a draft on N. J. [*New Jersey*] for $300. As soon as the necessary papers can be drawn wh. I will forward your note & mortgage for a loan of $500 I write now to acknowledge receipt, and answer a few questions -- also to state that Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] & John [*John C. Grant*] arrived safely in Chicago, day before yesterday (Saturday) where I met them, & they all accompanied me here. They visited John [*John Grant*] & Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*] on their way here -- speak with interest of their visits with you & yours, & seem in the main to have had a good time. They met Mrs. Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*] at John's [*John Grant*] as you have been already informed.

Now as to some of your inquiries. The taxes on this $500, it will be best to pay in Norfolk [*Connecticut*]. My impression is that they must be paid there, since there is no one here upon whom the law can properly lay any such obligation. But however that may be, it would be best to pay them in Norfolk, because taxes are so much lighter there than in any place at the West.

I do not see the way clear to pay your Wisconsin taxes from the interest of this money -- though it may be best as well as possible to do so. The difficulty will be that no interest will be due at that time. But as the amount will not be large, & as I shall be owing you more than enough to meet the taxes, I will see that all is made right. It will not be the best to pay, I think, till the returns are made at the County Office -- though I will give the matter another investigation & see how it may be. Some new laws have been passed during the past year, but whether more or less are favorable than the past I have no means of knowing.

Your remarks concerning caution were not amiss, nor do I take them so. I feel that every obligation bind both you and me to use this money sacredly. I am aware that it requires caution, I am aware that it requires caution, & Judgment to make these things right, & moreover that even these qualities cannot make matters absolutely sure. I have no fear but that I can invest it safely,

but ere many years <*long*> perhaps, the investment will need to be changed, & there will be the danger. At that time unless you have some one here in whom you can place entire confidence it may be well to put it into land. But land even here does not year by year pay even 6 per cent, and an investment in a loan, secured by land, is as safe as the land can be. The questions to be answered have reference to the title & value of the land -- If the title is good, & the value sufficient, the loan is safe. If the title is not good & the value not sufficient, a purchase would not be safe.

Indeed do not say that the view of your uncle & aunt, who keep some thousands by them for fear they should lose it, is both unwise & inhuman---–unwise because if <*you*> placed at interest, it would require by a little time (11 2/3 years at six per cent) for it to double, & even if they should lose the principal they would be no worse off than <*to*> in hoarding it, inhuman, because that money in the hands of some industrious, prudent, & deserving man would do him good, & the world likewise. But every one must take his own way. This, however, can never be untrue that riches take wings & fly away. Secured by mortgage they are as safe as in any other way -- yet not absolutely so. If hoarded, the thief makes through & steals; if placed in banks that fail, if invested in buildings they burn, or decay, or decline in value -- if invested in lands, those lands may, & often do diminish in value, (as almost every where in New England & state more so enduring the past year for two at the West) Your mortgage & note will probably be ready in three weeks. With love to all

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

Tues. [...] Sept. 20 --

Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I am at last at Bristol [*Illinois*] once more, happy with my husband, perhaps enjoying these talks the more, for having been so long away. A kind Providence protected us in all our way, and kept us from accident -- we were delayed three hours at Altoona, and in consequence eight at Pittsburg wh. [*which*] gave me only 24 hours at brother Phelp's [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], but the visit tho [*though*] brief, was very pleasant indeed -- If you ever come west again you will enjoy the south route -- from Phil [*Philadelphia*] to Pittsburg, beauty and grandeur are most exquisitely combined -- the ascent of the Alleganies is quite beyond any poor words of mine to describe. It must be seen to be felt, enjoyed, & treasured --

I was very glad of the little visit with your sister Mrs. Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*] -- I want to know her more and shall endeavor to if circumstances ever permit -- should love to live near her, and you too dear sister. How pleasant it would be if we could daily, or even a few times in a year speak to each other of the many things that interest us! I feel a great way off from those nearest my heart, (of course excepting my own husband & children) -- Let me hear from you fully & often -- Give my love to your husband & children & your sister when you write to her -- Tell Daniel [*Daniel Grant*], I am still interested in "little things," for they are what life is made up of -- J. [*Joel Grant*] is waiting, & I must close -- John [*John C. Grant*] is well & enjoys the remembrance of his visit with you sends his love to you all -- Mine also to you all

your aff. [*affectionate*] sister Abby –

My visit with you was very pleasant -- Enjoyed it a great deal more than I can tell you -- hope for more of the same sometime

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] March 14th 1860

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

I am somewhat ashamed of myself in not writing you more frequently but now that you have two correspondents in my place (wife & your daughter) it leaves but little for me to say except a few things that they may overlook. -- I have now had one years experience in the store and I do not find my health either better or worse than formerly though I think, I have not had the blues quite as frequently as formerly -- You seem to think it rather strange for me to build when so much is debt. I will state my views of the subject and then you can remain of the same opinion or coincide with me just as your better judgment may dictate First I pay where I now live about 110

dols a year rent for house -- Secondly Expect to build at a cost of not over 4000 dols which at 6 per ct makes a rent of 240 dols -- We had a lot of about 10 acres that I thought we could spare from farm and by improving the rest raise as much in a few years from this as from the whole -- that lot would bring me 1000 dols which would bring down the rent 60 dols leaving 80 dols difference on the two Houses. Then I would be getting a home according to my own tastes and the improvements around it would be adding to the rest of the property and if we can pay for it well and good if not the property will always sell for cost and perhaps more so that my creditors need not loose by the operation if I should loose a little Have strong Hope if life and health are spared of paying for it sometime. Think that we are about 1000 dols better off than this time last year, and if we can do as well this year shall not dispair = Mary's is very much disappointed at not getting that paper and her ears have itched for the good things that people have to say about an absent neighbour ever since your letter. Hope that you will not fail to send it and that the perusal may be entertaining and profitable
Have my cellar dug out about 1/3 of the stone on the ground. some sand ready and my well nearly dug Forgot to say above that we expect to get considerable of the work done for the House in trade at the store thus making the profit on the goods that go to pay for it. Want to get the house ready to occupy by next october and would be very happy to have you come to the moving --
Have been reading several articles lately about some land on long Island and if had time should go and see them and perhaps will next summer in slack times Our crops were good on the farm last year and we sold about 100 dols of poultry 300 of wheat 350 of corn 45 dols oats 100 pork, besides butter & eggs -- 60 dols of potatoes --

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 19th 1860

Dear Brother & Sister [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]
Your Joint letter came duly to hand enclosing certificate for seventy five dollars. Your statement as to balance is correct I beleive. Though I will alter the statement a little and give you Abbies [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] Expenses and the amt given to me for her -- You have omitted the first 20 dols from your statement and there are somethings that Mary has not sent you -- You Will oblige me by sending the time to which the taxes are paid on the Wisconsin Lands as I have been negligent in that matter and never kept any memorandum of how the thing stands, at least not in a place where I can find them readily I shall not place the money as Carrie says but let them go towards As expenses -- We consider that if there is anything to be said about board that we have had about one years board in our long visits every season to old Connecticut. Should like it very much if Carrie could come and make us a comfortable visit this fall or winter but if she cannot we must wait until she can --
I meant you to take out the money for that note of ours to Abbie & Edward in the final settlement and thought we had said so but as you have sent it to me and as we are building will keep it until we get through and see how we stand as to money matters --
The figuring on the back of notes amount to nothing -- Will enclose them to you in this -- Mary will wait patiently for that consistent time and hopes to hear all you saw in Maryland and please do not forget to tell me what frightened you from Long Island -- Will get the roof finished on house to day and have been looking for a showe[*r*] (which we very much need) all day to prove it. Will commence inside work this week. Am getting impatient to have it done and the burden of looking after it off my mind -- Finished our haying yesterday, have unusually fine weather for hay and harvest. Our wheat crop was rather light when we came to cut it and so do many others -- Cut 62 loads of Hay all of excellent quality -- You can no doubt find something to do about Cole Brook or Norfolk and perhaps it is not best to be in any hurry about buying --
I wish I could send Mary off somewhere to recruit a little but she does not like to take the time to do,it when she goes from home and will not take things any ways comfortable at home if she can --
Now for the statement of Abbies Expenses
First I recd from you Last fall == $20.00

2	Cash of you when here		20.00
3	Cash in Monmouth --	12.00	
4	By Letter		10.00
			62.00
	Cash paid out to Abbie. In Newark		3.00
	Fare to and at NYork --	5.06	
Jan 9	Cash for paper &c		50
7	1 pr shoes		1.75
"	Millinir for Bonnet		1.12 1/2
"	Shetland wool --		110
Mar 31	p[*aid*] Miss Powliss --		8.11
	Cash for paper & stamps		75
Ap-- 2	1 Hood		50
	11 1/2 Calico --	1.15	
	1 pr shoes		1.75
May 19 --	p[*aid*] A. J Doremus		4.00
	1 skeleton		1.00
	p[*aid*] Mantua Maker		1.12 1/2
	Lace Mantilla		650
July 3	Latin Lessons (Book)		50
	Browne Gramar	63	
	<*Rhetoric*> Arithmetic	88	
	1 Copy Book --	10	
		39.53	
	Returned to Daniel	8.00	
		47.53	

carried over [*to verso of page*]

and Bro forward	$47.53		Have you told
and to Bal notes over the $45		9.55	Carrie about
Balance due you --		4.92	Aunt Anne?
		$62.00	
		=====	

I will refer this to Mary to see if it is correct and if it is will note down the balance due you The above account does not include this last session of Miss Powliss or Mr Doremus's last Latin Lessons -- Deduct from the above Balance due you of $4.92 one dollar & 30/100 pd Milliner*

leave due you at this date $412		1.30	
	add pd for Tax	1972	3.62
		$23.84	50

*add 50 cts for Hood [...] which was a gift from Mary $4.12

This I shall credit to you and start new from this date -- Hoping the above will be satisfactory and that our present want of rain may not last much longer I am as ever your aff Brother

William H. [*William Hill*]

I suppose that if the one who is not here must stay in that district it would be better for Eddie to be <*there*> than for Abbie.* Though I should much like to have Eddie here & so would the children. I do not think you need object to our keeping him two, three, or four months & as he is to be at the expense of a visit here soon why not let him stay a while & get a little benefit from it. There are no pieces like broad border -- it was the inside one I know -- The shawl they came from last was one of two or three that were made out of a couple of handsome long shawls that were bought many years ago at $20 a piece I believe -- so that the border you have must be of the first quality -- I had sent letter off to Warren before your last arrived urgently inviting them here -- am sorry they did not get it before

[*written across side*] *and it would be expensive for you to keep her any where else.

[*written across first page*] I did not know that A's stationary was so much -- I know at the time that she was wasting a great deal of paper las winter -- The $1.11 on Miss Powliss bill over the $7 is for books she got for Abbie I do not believe that A's wardrobe expenses would have been so little to you had she been at home as they are now I know her bill must look large to you -- You see there is but 1.11 charged for last winters & this summer's mantua making -- I will send John some goosberries -- I feel great sympathy for them -- Love to all -- I think it better for A to go home & not for us to meet at John's --

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Dec. 6, 1860
Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

Your letter along with that of Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] and Mother [*Elizabeth Grant*] came to us to day, and becomes the means by wh. [*which*] my somewhat wavering purpose to write home becomes fixed. Your remarks concerning my neglect are in the main just, though somewhat sever. It is true that having business to transact for you I had an additional reason for a promptness that I have not practiced. My own cares have, however, been great, and my resulting experience shows how much easier it to do things wh. come in as a part of a system than those things for wh. no specific arrangement is made. But be this as it may I will try to do justice now and write again at least before so great an interval has lapsed as has lapsed since I wrote before (about six months.

I am now employed in teaching school, and acting also as supply for the church here to wh. I preach once each Sab. [*Sabbath*] They are to pay me for this $400 a year. My school at present is small -- only seven scholars besides John -- who pay me each $1 a week. Others I expect will be added from time to time. One comes day after to-morrow to be a boarder at $4 a week -- or $160 for a year of 40 weeks, and I am expecting another soon at the same rate. Others will be added from month to month, so that prospects are tolerably good, at least, for a supply of necessary wants. My botanical class, (from wh. I did not expect great things, inasmuch as I regarded it as merely introductory to other schemes) was not large numbering only six. My efforts hitherto have been only introductory and will from henceforth bear, I think, more fruit than in the past.

The matters that are connected with the money placed in my care are in a good state, but I have delayed having the papers executed because the mortgagor has been candidate for the office of County Recorder -- and if he should secure the office it would enable me to have all the necessary papers recorded without expense. It is true it will make but $2 or $3 difference, but I thought it best to wait. I have however bought Mr. Hubbell's notes, and I have in my hands the mortgage held by him, which I will give up when a new mortgage is given. All is safe but yet it ought to be put in proper form. As the giver of the mortgage has secured the office for wh. he was candidate and will soon enter on its duties the matter can soon be settled now.

The note of $50 you once held against me was merged in the larger note of $220 you now hold, when (Oct. '58 perhaps Nov.) we settled our accounts

I think it <u>might</u> be possible to collect the $500 (now augmented to $560 or somewhat more) within the next few months, but I do not know, and on the whole can you do so well with it? At present however times look squally, somewhat as in the autumn of 1857, and if money is well invested (as I think this is) it

[*written across side*] it seems best to let it stay. We are in pretty good

[*written across first page*] health -- Abby will write some particulars Your aff. brother
Joel Grant

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[*Joel Grant to Daniel Grant*]

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Feb. 5, 1861.

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

Your letter, accompanying one from Caroline, dated Jan 20, mailed Jan. 25, came to us about five days since, having been missent to Lockport N.Y. (a not uncommon occurrence, though less so than it used to be) and thereby delayed a day or two on its way.

Respecting the lack of witness to the Mortgage I confess I was a little taken aback when the fact was brought to my knowledge by your letter, but I learn that in this state it is altogether unnecessary, and by a consultation of the Records I find it is rarely practiced to secure them. I laid the plan for the papers and Mr. Russell took them to the proper officer, agreeing to bear all expenses, & I (too carelessly) suffered them to pass without special examination. Since the reception of your letter, I have made the necessary inquiries and learn that all is right. On consulting Mr. Russell, he declared his entire readiness to make the papers over if, after examination, I felt there was the least occasion to do so, but every one whom I have consulted (and they are men constantly employed in preparing such papers) tells me there is no necessity. I will keep the matter still in mind and if I discover it to be a defect, I will let you know, and have proper papers substituted for them. This much is certainly true that if your mortgage is defective for that reason, one half of the mortgages of this county are in just the same predicament.

The note specifies 10 per cent, and only that, because that is the highest rate that the laws of this state defend. All above that is by virtue of an understanding between the parties or their agents. In this case the additional 2 per cent. is understood to be an allowance to me for the trouble of making the loan & looking to its validity. I pay it to Caroline. Should the matter ever come before the courts only 10 per cent can be secured. I have known Mr. Russell for the past seven years during wh. time I have had various dealings with him, and have always found him an honest, prompt, reliable man, so that I feel you have no reason to expect the matter will ever come before the courts. All such things should, however, be rightly done.

You ask if I would be willing to have my part ($150) of the note against Mr. R. transferred to Caroline on condition that it should go <*to*> towards paying the note you hold against me. To this I say yes, & if you judge it best you may make that transfer at your pleasure, endorsing $150 on that note Dec. 23, 1860.

I have written to Junean Wisconsin, respecting your taxes and shall have an answer soon. I will attend to that matter.

I do not think of any other business matters that demand attention now. I am glad you propose to be with Farther & Mother for the present, and trust that in the exercise of kind feelings towards them you may both do much to comfort to comfort them, and secure to yourselves the blessing pronounced upon those who honor their parents.

Intense anxiety prevails here, as every where, I presume respecting our country's future. We suffer more in Ill. pecuniarily, than in some other regions, at present, in consequence of the disturbed state of affairs, insomuch as our Banks are nearly all stock Banks -- some of them founded on Virginia state stocks -- some on Missouri, &c. & just now those stocks are greatly depreciated, and have a dark, uncertain future. Exchange on the East has been since the Presidential election from 5 to 13 per cent -- (just now about 6) This state of affairs gives us a large crop of those men who are ready to compromise in order that business may be better. Still there are many who stand firm, and prefer to suffer depreciation of property, and even loss, to any attempt to build up the breach with untempered mortar. <*Still*> And yet it seems that if the South would buy the North, there are enough who are disposed to sell it. Part of our hope is that in God's Providence the South will not consent to purchase.

In health & other particulars we remain much as when I last wrote. We all send love.

Your aff. brother,

Joel Grant

P.S. We have a wonderful winter -- pleasant weather & good sleighing. It is now about ten weeks since our snow came -- since wh. the sleighing has not failed entirely, & the greater part of the time it has been very good.

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[*Joel Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] March 7, 1861

Dear Sister,

I forward you herewith a receipt for the taxes on your place in Wisconsin. I received it several days since (Feb. 18) but, as I had then written home within a comparatively recent period, I thought it not best to send at once.

I have been somewhat unfortunate in the management of the payment. The first answer to my inquiries about the Taxes was that Taxes and Charges amounted to $16.25. Not finding it convenient to secure a Dft [*draft*] on Milwaukie, and knowing that Dfts on N.Y. were every where at a great premium, I bought one of $15.50 (which cost me $16.74, or eight per cent premium) and sent it on. I soon received a reply that they could take it at no more than its face ($15 1/2) and that to meet the case I must send 75 cents more. This of course was unjust, but it did not seem easy to avoid the claim, and so I sent on 75 cents in Postage stamps. The whole cost has therefore been as follows

Dft in N.Y. for $15.50	16.75
Postage stamps ----------	.75
Postage of six letters (two each time I wrote) ----------	18
Miscellanies ----------	7
	$17.75

I am sorry I did not judge better, but cannot now help it. If agreeable to you and Daniel, let the above sum (17.75) be inclosed under date of Feb. 1, 1861 on the note he holds against me, or give me credit for it in some other way.

We are in our usual health -- nor have I ought of a special character to communicate. Our spring seemed to commence last week when we had several days of very warm weather, in wh. we needed no fires, or scarce any. The past three or four days, however, have more than made amends, it having been very cold.

We are hoping a good deal from our President, Mr. Lincoln [*Abraham Lincoln*], but it would seem that Disunion and Treason have gone so far that our whole country is not likely ever to acknowledge his authority. May God preserve our liberties and set the enslaved of our land free. My love to you all.

Your aff. brother, Joel Grant.

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[*Joel Grant probably to Daniel Grant*]

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] April 16, 1861.

Dear Brother,

Your of the 26th March came to me about a fortnight since and I have delayed unwarrantably to answer it, partly because other things demanded my attention, but mainly because I did not see how to give any useful advice with reference to its main inquiry -- that concerning Caroline's relation to our Father's family. We were glad to have your prompt information concerning Mother Cowles' sickness and death, and are greatly obliged to you for calling so often, and writing so particularly.

With reference to the mortgage deed I have made inquiries such as satisfy me abundantly that witnesses are in no sense necessary, but I will yet ask the Judge of our County Court and if he intimates that witnesses are of the least necessity to give the paper validity, or if intimating the contrary you and Caroline feel still any desire that witnesses should be had I will have them drawn again as Mr. R. is perfectly ready to have them.

With reference to your inquiry respecting the hold which your Creditors might have upon property of your wife invested in Ill. I can give no <*other*> better answer perhaps than that the fact of the property's being in Ill. will make no important difference -- it will still be subject to the laws of Conn. [*Connecticut*] in the particular respecting wh. you inquire. My impression is however that in Conn. they could have no hold upon property invested in your wife's name. Such is the assertion of the "American Lawyer and Business Form Book (Ed. 1854, p. 194) in treating of the special laws of Connecticut. If you can ask brother Wm C. Phelps you will be likely to get an answer in wh. you may rest. Nor will you need to speak of it as <*I am*> invested in Ill. for that will make no difference so long as you both reside in Conn.

I am fully satisfied that Caroline's services at Father's are worthy of reward, but it is not so easy to see how arrangements can be made to secure it. Father is scarcely able (I fear) to give it, and if he cannot it seems cruel for his children to leave him. I know the situation of Caroline must be very trying; any situation in which we become subject to the necessities of another is so. And yet if there is any means by which Caroline can secure a reward I shall be glad, or any means by which I can help her to do so, I will gladly do it. When you write again please tell me what <*I can*> you would expect, & whether there is any visible means by wh. Father can make the reward. But for the entanglements of oft repeated illness, and long continued sickness in my family I would offer to pay a part of compensation myself, but under the circumstances I suppose no one would expect it. At all events let Caroline continue till we can understand the matter better. I do not see how we can have her leave -- indeed your letter intimates that she has no present thought of doing so. God's Providence will rapidly change things in various ways ere long no doubt, and solve many a question that now seems dark

I should be glad to come East and see these things as they appear on the ground but I have no expectation of doing so -- indeed it is more than questionable whether I shall ever go East again.

We have news by telegram of the taking of Fort Sumpter -- No doubt this is but part of the deep humiliation and shame that must come upon our country for its complicity with slavery & slaveholders. Probably Mr. Lincoln [*Abraham Lincoln*] & his counsellors saw this result before it took place, but something must be done & they undertook the only thing it seemed possible for them to do --

Write again if you would ask me more, I promise to answer sooner.

Your aff. brother,

Joel Grant.

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[*Abigail Cowles Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

Lockport. Ill. [*Illinois*] July 18,'61

Thurs. P.M.

Dear Sister,

Mr. Grant left a letter for Marcus, when he left last week Friday, saying I could add one for you, but I have not had an hour since in which I could write, till now. I am doing my own work now, and it is the busy fruit season, & I have few leisur moments. We had no strawberries in our garden, but have had rhaspberries all we could use for the last three weeks, also plenty of nice currants, and are soon to have apples, and in due time <u>some</u> pears & grapes. I am drying currants. They add so much to the excellence of mince pies in winter; shall dry apples as soon as they are a little riper. The weather is very pleasant, not too warm, and the news today of the <*Ever*> retreat of the rebels from Fairfax Court House makes people look good natured. There has been & is a dreadful depression here, busines so dull, money so scarce and every thing dragging -- I suppose "there is a good time coming," but it needs large faith to see it, on toward it.

We heard from Mr. Grant yesterday. he staid to attend a prayermeeting at Cairo last night, will leave for home tomorrow, and get here Sat morn -- All the trains are taken off this rail road except one express train pr. day, each way, which is a great inconvenience to travellers. There is usually a train up to Chicago in the morn. & back at eve. from Joliet, but the hard times reach the R.R. [*railroad*] as well as other conveniences. John is making himself very useful while his father is away: he has gone to a slough a little way off, to recreate shooting snipe.

Willys fits have returned again with great violence with the warm weather. He was better of them during the winter.

How are you all this summer? When we last heard Mother was comfortable: who have you for help? Did you have a good visit with Mary and did you leave her & her little one's well? Is she coming ou[*t*] this summer? Did you visit brother John's by the way? Is Abby with Cos. Ellen yet? Cos. E. will do her a great deal of good -- has she other pupils? Do tell me all about every thing when you write, and let that be as soon as you can find time. Where does Daniel board & how is he getting along with his new business? I hope he will prosper and find it more profitable than he expected -- How are Martha & Elizabeth's family's, and Aunt Nettleton's? I wish you were

here this P.M. we would have a long quiet visit -- My head is not clear enough to write interestingly this P.M. with love to all I am your affectionate sister. Abby. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

[*written along side of first page*] John sends love to Eddie, he ought to write to his Grandma, & must ere long.

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[*Joel Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] July 24, 1861.

Dear Sister Caroline,

The times have been so very hard that I was hardly expecting my payment on the note you hold against Mr. Russell, but he has been able to make arrangements whereby he can meet the interest due the 23 ult. although it is a little late. I am glad therefore to be able to state to you that the purchase is complete, and the whole note of $750 is now yours.

You will remember that the amount purchased of Mr. Hubbell was $600, and that the amount yet due him last Dec. (see my letter of Dec. 6, 1860) was $38.20

Int. on this till June 23, '61 2.00

$40.20

This amount ($40.20) I have forwarded to Mr. Hubbell who will forward you either directly or through me a receipt for the same, so that you will have an acknowledgment that the $600 note is paid for.

The interest on the note June 23 was $45.00

Add interest for 1 month .45

$45.45

Deduct amt sent Mr. H. 40.20

$5.25

This amount I forward herewith. In the letter of Dec 6, I mentioned that there were about $5 more coming to you. This, partly because it is not convenient for me to pay, I have though myself warranted to charge for my trouble, wh. has not been inconsiderable. It is true I did not intend to take this course, but I suppose no one would have done what I have in this for a less sum.

I would like to know the exact state of this mortgage. Hereafter the interest ($90 a year $45 semiannually) will be due to you, but I understand the mortgage is pledged for Daniel's debts. The Country Recorder, here, told me he had put on record a paper to that effect. As Daniel went into business at such a time, a time when all business is prostrated -- perhaps he will have to resort to this Mortgage to keep his creditors safe. Will you be so good as to tell me at what time the notes for wh. this Mortgage is made security fall due -- what is their amount, <*and when they fall due*> what is the rate of interest, & how rapidly, in case Daniel should not be able to meet his engagements, the creditors will be likely to press his claims, and whether you suppose he will be easy so long as his interest is paid. If you deem it desirable, I think Mr. Hubbell will be willing <u>now</u> to purchase your $750 note. Some of these questions the Records of our County may answer, but I have not seen them. Please answer as soon as convenient.

Your aff. brother, Joel Grant.

P.S. July 25. You should send Mr. Russell a certificate in form substantially as follows "$37 50/100 Rec.d of B. F. Russell Thirty seven Dollars and Fifty cents, being the interest to June 23, 1861 upon a note of $750 which I hold against him."

You should then write on the note itself the words "Rec.d interest to June 23d 1861."

It will be necessary if you mention any amount to mention the interest at 10 percent -- not 12 for the language of the note is ten. Thus the payment was actually $45 but you must put it $37.50. In your indorsement on the note it will be as well not to mention any particular sum.

I have but little time to speak of my visit to Cairo. It was pleasant, and <*may*> enabled me to see many things of wh. I was glad to have some knowledge. Every thing was quiet there. Commerce on the two rivers is of course entirely suspended and the army business is all that is

done. I returned before the news of seeming defeat at Manassas was heard of. The times are fearful, but Christ is in the storm, & we need not be surprised if we find them worse before they are better.

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[*Joel Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

Sept. 6, 1861.

Dear Sister Caroline,

Your letter, with that of Daniel, was duly rec.d, and in reply I can only say a word. The true reason why I did not forward you the $5+ was that I had it not. I am more favorably situated now, and forward the amount due last Dec. (5.10) increased by interest (at 6 prct) from that time to the present, total $5.33. I do not wish any compensation for what I have done or may do.

I also forward a receipt from Mr. Hubbell wh. you may do well to keep

Your aff. brother

Joel Grant.

P.S. Our P.O. is so nearly out of stamps that I omit sending the 33 cents. I inclose therefore only $5. will send the rest another time

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[*Letter fragment to Daniel Grant, 1861?*]

(4)

It is somewhat doubtful whether money can be conveniently collected here for a few months to come. We have had abundant crops, but they do not sell, and such is the agitation of the public mind consequent upon the action of the South, that business has come to an unexpected stand still. Exchange on N.Y. [*New York*] has never been so high as now since the fall of 1857 -- some days it is as high as 10 per cent. though usually for the past four weeks from six to eight. Still this state of things cannot, it seems to me, last very long.

You will see that I have prepared Caroline's [*Caroline Grant Burr*] account up to the 23d. inst. and that there remains only $38.20 to be paid in order to make out the $600. The greater part of this will be made up by the interest due next June on the $561.80 already invested, indeed what is in my hands will make the whole $600 Caroline's at that date. If possible, I would not disturb this investment.

Would you like to know something of our weather? The fall has been very lovely and pleasant. We have had very little cold weather. One fortnight ago to day it snowed for the first time, and since that we have had a little (rather poor) sleighing. Hoping you may succeed in your new business I am your aff. brother Joel Grant.

P.S. It seems best to state a little more particularly the accounts. The taxes last year were as you state 18.72. But there were other expenses that brought the amount up to $20. These I stated in a letter to you sometime in March, but will state them again here

Taxes _____	18.72
Percentage & certificate	.78
Premium on D.ft _____	.30
Postage _____	.20
	$20.00

The money acc.t with Caroline is as follows

May 23, 1859	D.ft. on N.Y	$300.00
	Premium on d.o.	3.00
		$303.00
Int. on the same from May 23 to }		21.21
Dec 23 7 months at 12 per cent }		$324.21

Sept 13. Dft on N.Y. $200

Premium on do ___2
202
Int. from Sept. 13. to Dec 23}
3 1/3 mos. at 12 per ct. } 6.74} --208.74
Amt on hand Dec. 23, 1859 $532.95
Int. from Dec. 23, 1859 to } --63.95
Dec 23, 1860 at 12 per ct.} $596.90

Contra Dr.
Dec 23, 1859. Paid S. Hubbell ___ $500 }
June 23, 1860 interest on the above 30 } $561.80}
Dec 23, 1860 do. do _____ 31.80}
Exchange on $500 sent to S. Hubble 10.00} $591.80
March Taxes_____ 20.00}
Still in my hands_____ 5.10
Mr. H.'s claim is $600 -- and the interest on the $500 is to be paid to him until the $600 is paid

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant

Paducah, Ky. [*Kentucky*] Jan. 7, 1862

Dear Sister,

The reception of a letter from Abby, in which she says that Mr. Russell has sent her the semi- annual interest on your loan, ($45) and asks how she shall dispose of it, suggests to me the propriety of writing home, a duty I have for some time been contemplating. I am now expecting as soon as the troops here are paid (which well be in a week, or ten days at the farthest) to return home for a few days, and I have ventured to write to Abby to hold the money until I return to Chicago when I will see the Draft & all else that appertains to it. I have now been from home four months, and during all that time have not been able to send any thing to my family, for the reason that, since Sept. 1, we have not been paid. There has been sad neglect* in this matter, the more inexcusable as the Govt. has during all this period had a sufficiency of funds, and by the law of Congress the troops are to be paid every two months, which in our case would have been Nov. 1 and Jan. 1. Many of our soldiers have families (judging from our own Regiment about one seven) and in most instances these families are directly dependent on their wages for support. The disappointment has been serious therefore in their cases.

In these circumstances I have ventured to say to Abby that for the few remaining days that will laps before I get my pay she may retain the money, and I will <pay> forward you the Draft before I get home as I pass through Chicago. The only difference it will make with me is that I shall thus avoid carrying just that amount home.

It is not easy to get leave of absence here. The exception has been that we were on the eve of great events – a great expedition down the Mississippi, or elsewhere, and very few have been able to get away. After all we have done nothing, more than to hold and fortify this place, and another point (Smithland 12 miles above here) on the Cumberland River. What has kept us back we can but partly see, though I feel that God himself is holding us in check until we see clearly the way to act as our present circumstances demand, and assail the South in it weakest point. – Slavery. Should we advance without attacking this I should expect or at least greatly fear disasterous defeat. Whether our rulers will see the true nature of the crisis, or seeing it will dare to meet it, it seems at present doubtful.

Beyond all questions the times must be very hard in most parts of our country, and I often think of my acquaintances and friends who are, or are likely to be, overwhelmed by them. Many must lose their all. The shrinking of values in real estate, the stoppage of most kinds of business not directly connected with the war, and the low price of produce must ruin pecuniarily vast numbers. I feel that it is, indeed, a Baptism of Fire through which our nation is passing.

In securing the position I occupy I felt myself doubly fortunate, perhaps I ought to say triply. I felt glad to be connected directly with the defenders of my country*, I rejoiced in being placed in such a position as to do something to keep up the principles and practices of religion, and in which my labors are well rewarded. But as matters go, I fear that association with the defenders of the country is but likely to prove a great honor, for every thing seems to be another link in a chain of blunders. The other two objects I hope I am securing in a good degree.

We hold our services now in a Church belonging to the Campbellite denomination. It is new – large (holding about 500) and neat. They have no minister at present (<an is the> and this is true of every congregation here) and there is some diversity of feeling on the part of the few members of the Campbellite congregation still remaining in town with reference to our occupying their <Ch> House. I received a letter from one of them (a secessionist) professing to be in the name of the Congregation requesting me to preach there no more, though our first entrance into it was by his consent. On inquiring it was evident that he had acted without authority from the congregation, and after consulting with the Col. we concluded to go on as usual, and shall probably continue to do so long as cold weather lasts. The regiment marches to the music of a band to and from church

I have been well since coming into the service. I get permission to leave for three weeks <in view> <in the> in order to take home the spare wages of the regiment, of those who have been in since Sept. 1. he who received least has $52. I hope that on an average they will send home $30, or about $30.000. I shall not have charge of all this, perhaps not of more than a third. I am to leave as soon after pay day as I can arrange the accounts. It will be a good deal of work, but I shall undertake it cheerfully. I shall ordinarily leave the money at the nearest express office or deposit it in Banks and send Drafts. If you write me within two weeks after receiving this direct to Lockport, afterwards direct to me as Chaplin 12th. Reg. Ill. Vol. Paducah, Ky. at least till you have an intimation of my change of place. I should like to know where I can address Aunt Banister – or something about her.

The weather has been very pleasant here this winter thus far. We have scarcely had snow, and but little freezing weather, while most of the days have been even warm in the middle and after part. My love to all your aff. brother Joel Grant Chaplain 12th Reg. Ill. Vol.

* This neglect is attributable to our Gen (E. F. Smith) not to the Govt. directly.

* Yet it is the final result alone that determines the desirableness of any position. Duty is always safe

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Paducah, Ky. [*Kentucky*]
Jan 29, 1862
Dear Sister,

I have been disappointed in not getting such a permission to leave the army as it seemed best to use, (seven days being all the liberty I would get) and therefore neither have visited my family nor expect to do so at present. We took a march through the country a few days since leaving Paducah Jan. 15, and returning Jan. 25, having been out 11 days and 10 nights. We marched S. from here to Mayfield 30 miles. Camp Beauregard is about 9 miles to the S. W. of Mayfield, and was abandoned at our approach. We then went in an easterly direction, through Murray the Co. seat of Calloway Co. to the Tennessee River, which we reached 45 miles from Paducah, and 20 miles below a rebel fort a little over the Ky. line in Tenn. called Fort Henry. We met no enemy, in force, and had no battle. Our troops numbered a little more than 5000, consisting of six Regs. of infantry – and detachments of Cavalry and Artillery. The object of the movement seems to have been as much to occupy attention while a portion of our forces made an attack on Somerset, as to make any attack ourselves.

But I cannot dwell on these things. We were paid yesterday for four months – Up to Jan. 1. I inclose $45 for Mr. Russell. You will acknowledge the same <for> to him, according to forms I have heretofore given “Rec.d interest on (here describe note) up to Dec. 23, 1861. If you

mention any sum it must be $37.1/2 not $45, for reasons that I believe you understand. So in indorsing the amount on note say Rec.d interest on this note to Dec 23,'61 etc.

It is possible that you have rec.d another draft from Aiken & Norton for this purpose. If so pass this over to Father and let him endorse it on his note against me.

Your aff. brother Joel Grant.

[*The following part of this letter was written in pencil and does not appear to be in the hand writing of Joel Grant*]

The form wh. he gave when he sent the other interest is as follows.
$37.50/100 Rec'd of B. F. Russell Thirty seven Dollars & fifty cents, being the interest to June 23, 1861. Upon a note of $750 wh. I hold against him.

You will please acknowledge rect of money will you not.

C. [*Caroline*]

I do not know whether Abby will send on that letter to him though I presume so You can if you think necessary write again to him at Paducah Ky. Chaplin 12th Reg. Ill. Vol.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Daniel Grant
Mill Brook
Conn.

Your Sister Abby Grant. Feb. & Apr. 62

Lockport, Ill. Feb. 19, 1862.

Dear Sister Caroline,

I have delayed too long the answering of your letter, and Abby's, both of which gave me great pleasure. I can give no good reason for the delay, except that every day brings all I can meet, and my correspondents have had to be neglected, all but one, my husband.

I write to him always once, and generally twice a week. Several days since he wrote me to write you respecting the address to Dodge Co. He said Tell them to address, Treasurer of Dodge Co. Juneau, Wis. asking amount of taxes, and offering to pay in a Draft on N. Y. I presume you have heard from him recently, for in the last I had, he said he had just sent a draft to Father Grant. I can hardly express to you the scenes we have been thro' here since last Friday. We hear by the morning paper at 11. & evening one at six, all that the papers can give of the war news. We knew when the troops started from Ft. Henry, for Ft. Donelson and knew there must be terrible fighting before it could be taken, and we were sure our men never would give up. Sat. eve buo't us no comfort, & then came a long day and night in which we could not hear. Sunday was a day to fear in, for the last news was of our wing being driven back. Monday morn & all was uncertain, Mond. eve paper came headed "Ft. Donelson is ours" – In that every heart rejoiced, but the fear, the agony of suspense as there was no list of the killed and wounded. Brief mention of a few officers, who had fallen, buo't grief to us, for there was one Lieut. Irwin, from Joliet, whom some of us knew - I have met his wife. It was a sleepless night to all of us who have friends there; husbands, sons, brothers, lovers, gone from this place, made many very anxious. – No full lists have yet been given, but I hope, from the fact that I have received no telegram, that my husband is among the living – People often say to me, Mr. Grant is in no danger – but I cannot conceive of any one being there at all, and being safe. – The accounts in yesterdays & to-days papers, shew the bravery, & courage of our men – I cannot see how they can face such danger, how they can rush up such steeps, and into the enemy's rifle pits. Thus they did, and a great victory is gained. I expect to get a letter soon telling how it [seemed] to Mr. Grant. I fear for him constantly, but find some rest in committing him to Our Father's care.

His trip from Paducah to Ft. Henry was tedious but Mr. G admits he was glad he went etc. etc.

You will see the particulars of the battle etc etc – so I will say no more about it.

Mr. Grant wrote me the week before they left Paducah, that he would as soon as possible go to Cairo an St. Louis, and telegraph to me, & I was to leave the next morn for that place. I was ready only putting things in the truck, to go. John was to stay at Mr. Smiths (they are Ct. people, have a son near John's age, with whom J. is intimate) I cooked just enough to last from day to day, etc. when I saw the announcement that the 12th Reg. with others were in route for Ft. Henry.

It was a great disappointment to us both, but we do hope yet to see each other before long. I wrote last night to know if I might come to Ft. Donelson. Hope I can go. You will judge by_____

Friday P. M. There I was interrupted, till after mail time – yesterday a friend from Iowa came in the morn, & has just gone.

[Tues.] eve I had a letter from my dear husband, he wrote at intervals when he could get a moment. The scenes thro' which he is passing are heartrenching, but no better man than he could be found to perform kind offices – Fear I shall not see him till after they have been on to Nashville – A good many have been in to hear the letter read, and ask if Mr. g. made any mention of their friends. –

Had a letter from John yesterday. All well. My John goes to school steadily, is the best Latin scholar in school, (thanks to his father), is not specially forwardly in other things tho' I hope tries to be faithful in the main – He is getting more careful this winter about a clean collar, cravat, brushing his boots and clothes, but cannot yet remember to clean his teeth, every day, without telling. He saws the green wood we use in our sitting room stove, we bo't the dry all cut. Our cow is now dry, we buy a pint of milk a day, we have a doz. chickens wh. we mean to eat along before summer - We drink part, sometimes all barley for coffee. Almost every one uses some substitute for coffee. Had a present a few days since of two gallons of sorghum. It is excellent, we use buckwheat about half the mornings, we often wish our dear absent one could be supplied as we are. He sometimes gets the best, then again gets little – Think I will send you his last letter, and you may send it to brother John. You will all be interested in it. I long to see him again.

Willy's fits are better for a few weeks, as they often are in cold weather. John is over ft. high, some taller than I am – Is as strong as any one growing so fast can be –

I hope Daniel will do well in his business and find it easier to get along than in the past. Abby cannot be in a better place than with Mrs Phillips – I shall try to write her ere long. You see I have written mostly about war matters. If the excitement is less next time, will try to be better.

Hope Father & Mother keep well as usual, and Marcus, and you all. I hear nothing from Norfolk. Guess they have all forgotten me, it's no matter. I shan't forget them – If I have not answered the questions you asked, please give them in y'r next. I will try to be more punctual in writing, but my work takes a good deal of time, & duties of church. Sab. School, Sew. Soc.' – Female & c'h. prayer meetings, Sociables, etc., ect., keep me unusually busy. It is getting dark. I must close - Let me hear some as you have time. Much love from John & me to father, Mother, and you all – Your aff. sister

Abby

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
3 m. S. of Cornith, Miss.
July 1, 1862.

Dear Sister,

Abby informs me that Mr. Russell has paid to her the semi annual interest on your loan, and asks me what she shall do with it. Being thus in a measure called upon to decide, I conclude to send you a letter, through her. I shall direct her to inclose for you a draft for $45, for wh. you will indorse on Mr. Russell's note "Rec.d interest to June 23, 1862." In a letter to Abby, which <you> she will send to me you will also inclose a receipt for Mr. Russell. You will mention no specific amount (or if you do it will be $37.1/2, being the interest at 10 per cent) but will say, "Rec.d of B. F. Russell the interest on a note of #750 which I hold against him to June 23, 1862, " or words to that effect.

The papers have informed you of the main facts respecting us here. Our Reg. (together with others) was assigned the duty of garrisoning Corinth, & taking care of Rail Roads etc. in its vicinity, and it seemed probable that <I> we might stay here for some time. But the news of McLellan's reverse near Richmond came yesterday, and also an order for 25,000 troops to be furnished by the army here, to succor those in Va. As the result we may be called to Va., though, as yet, we have not rec.d orders. Our former Col. (now Brig. Gen. McArthur) has rec.d orders to

go, with all his Brigade – which does not embrace us. In any case so large a withdrawal will weaken us here, and render us more liable to attack in points where the enemy may see fit to mass his troops, and pour down upon us. The news of McLellan's ill success created great sorrow here, as it must over all the land. We were looking for the speedy subjugation of the rebels, but this will probably postpone that event many months.

We are in a pleasant place at present. Our camp is in a shady grove, is dry, and, for the climate, healthy. We have, as yet, no trouble from musquitoes; a relief we did not expect. The weather is hot – every day, but as yet we have had no special sickness resulting from the climate. It will be wonderful if we escape long in his way.

I was sick for three or four weeks, dating from one week after the Pittsburgh battle. I recovered so as to be in the siege of Corinth during its three last weeks, and am pretty well now. With love to all. I am

Your aff. brother,
Joel Grant
Chaplin 12th Ill. Inf.
Corinth, Miss.

I have lost sight, for the present, of Philander Burton. I cannot tell where he is and have not heard of him for several weeks. I suppose he participated in the siege of Corinth, but am not certain.

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[*Addressed to*] MrsCaroline Grant
Mill Brook
Ct.

Lockport, Ill. 4th. July '62.

Dear Sister Caroline,

Not knowing if you have of late heard from my husband, & if not, Father & Mother will feel anxious. I will write or little this P. M. We are not in a jubilant mood at all here; the news of McClellan's retreat, the terrible loss of life, & the dark war aspect in other quarters, make us sad, and undemonstrative

Received a letter from Mr. G. last eve written June 27, & 28, - he was at Corinth, Mis. there are 13 Reg. three Brigades there they expect to remain for a time & garrison Corinth. Their Div. Generals name is Gen. Daviss -

Mr. G was well, except an attack of Cholera Morbus, from drinking lemonade; he will not try it again I hope; the water is so bad, anything to relieve it must be tempting.

He thinks he shall not try to get a furlough till Aug. or Sept. when he will have been absent from home a year -

The demand for Western men at Richmond, may change the whole programe & the next thing I hear may be, - that that Div. are on their way east. I feel uncertain in every thing, always expecting if the porter from the telegraph office is coming on this street, that he is bringing me a dispatch of some kind. Mr. G. says the heat is terrible there, & the dust, flies, etc. etc., most uncomfortable I hope he will keep well, & out of the hands of guerrillas and that in the course of two or three months I may have a visit from him.

We are in usual health. John with the other boys of his age has been trying to amuse himself on this 4th., but he says it is very dull down town, a few fire crackers, occasionally a pistol shot, are all we hear –

Willy is much as usual. The anxiety of these days make them pass rapidly, in the main, tho' some pass slowly. We are having warm weather now, our rhaspberries are just ripe – have plenty currants, some cherries, & prospect of grapes –

By a letter from Mary Phelps, yesterday, I hear that Abby is not well. I hope it is nothing serious.

How is Daniel, & does his business go well? Is Eddy well? & is your own health good this summer?

How are Father & Mother? and Markus? Are the other friends well?

I hope to hear from you ere long. How shall the $45 int. money be sent you? In what form?

With love to all, I am as ever your aff. sister

Abby –

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Newark, July 29, 1862.
Tues. P. M.
My Dear Sister –

Your favor came this morning – and almost decided my course for me. Yet with regard to the proffer of pecuniary assistance, I may feel compelled to accept it temporarily, but shall insist that it be regarded as a loan to be repaid. I may so borrow here as to render it unnecessary for me to avail myself of you generous proposal. Will write again of that, as also the place for Abby to meet me. – You see I now write as if I were resolved to go. My efforts to collect are simply useless – but I shall still make an effort while I can.

Tomorrow I shall go to N. Y. and will get such information as shall enable me to decide where Abbie had better meet me. The fare to Cleveland from N. Y. is the same via Albany & Central R. R. as by Erie R. R. so it is to me a matter of indifference which route we take. I shall prefer not to go before Tuesday, <and may possibly find [....] a later day advisable – Will inform you in [.....]> – (N. B. For matured plan see other sheet)

Keep pretty well up with the mails this week. I will not propose to go before Tuesday however. I shall not need to write you again till Abbie & I meet in Albany. Expect a letter next Wed. eve from us.

Received a letter from Gertie also this morning. She arrived at Canton last Tuesday having made a two week's' visit at Austinburg She and Will are very well. Will is in high favor with his grandparents. Gertie had seen brother & sister who, she says, are not changed apparently. Boyd only of the children is at home just now. [Audsen?] Day arrived home on the day of Gertie's arrival – very fortunately it worked well. She does not say what called him home - nor how long he will stay.

Little Katie Van [Waganen?] (whom you remember) died suddenly last Friday P. M. about the time of my last to you. Was nearly 4 years old – and a lately happy home is made very desolate and sad.
She was the only child and a very bright promising one.

<Will write so that you shall get it as early as Sat. perhaps Friday>

With reference to Mother's affliction, I wish to know whether is has assumed a marked malignant character – and whether there is a rapid change.

With love to all – and especial gratitude to you and brother Daniel for your offer. I am your ever aff. brother

Jno Grant.

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[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
Bills of Abbie's Expenses to Ohio
Austinburg. Aug. 12, '62.
Dear Sister,

Abbie has written you of our safe arrival and has, I doubt not, told you of our journey, visit to Niagara, etc.

We find all well <t>here. Mary Grant is still here and proposes to visit in this part of the state for some time yet to come.

I intend to leave for Canton tomorrow – probably stopping in Cleveland to see Edward & Nelson Griswold.

Abbie enjoyed the visit to Niagara very much. It cost us about $3.00, or including Extra R. R. fare, about $4 more than to have come direct by Buffalo. I took care to have Abbie see everything about the Falls.

We left Niagara Falls at 6&1/2 P. M. of Wed. and Buffalo at 10 same evening, expecting to stop at Kingsville - to breakfast, but found our train did not stop at K. We had therefore to stay in Ashtabula for friends to come for us longer than was pleasant. <Oth> Otherwise our journey was very pleasant indeed.

Abbie seems very contented and happy here – and is already much loved.

Perhaps I ought to give statement of Abbie's Expenses and of our joint expedition on the way. It is somewhat as follows – from Albany hither.

Abbie's fare from Albany to Buffalo, via Niagara	$6.60.	Buff. to Ashtabula	$3.65
	or -	Total fare	$10.25
At Niagara for both Admission to see Whirlpool	.50		
Toll across Susp. Bridge	.50		
Carriage thence to Table Rock	.25		
Musuem	.50		
Crossing to American Side	.50		
To Goat Island	.50		
Baggage Expense	.25		
Total at Falls			$3.00
Abbie for Book & views			.35

$3.35

Refreshments in all	1.18		
ount.	Call my share		2.00
		Bal.	$12.78.

I have the $10 sent by Abbie as a part of the means of getting back East – and of which I will render such acct. as is right in due time.

We have had pretty hot weather most of the time since we came.

Perhaps Abbie will write to you a little in this. All send love to you all.

Your aff. brother

J. G.

Wed. morn. Aug. 13 –

This morning is cool and beautiful. We are all well. I leave this morning. Expect to spend a few hours at Painesville.

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] July 20, 1863.

Dear Brother & Sister,

Brother Daniel's letter & the papers enclosed were received Tues. last I notified Mr. Russell Wed. Fri. he came up & brought the money, but when he found I was going to send the money to you, & wanted a draft, he kindly offer'd to get it for me in [Johit?] & sent it up. So it came Sat, but that day I had not time to write, but think to day is soon enough Mr. R said he preferred to pay up now, & borrowed some at six per ct, for that purpose -- The exchange was $3 wh. he deducted. I hope it is all right, & that the Draft for $809. will reach you safely.

Was glad to hear about all our home family. I often think we do not know half enough of each other. But we are all so busy each in his or her own way.

I know nothing of Phelp's family of late on of Elizabeth. I wrote to sister E. & to Abby. Last winter, but have heard nothing since.

I hear occasionally from John. Have a photograph of Gertie & baby, which is beautiful. Wish I had yours both & your children, also Marcus' --

It is 10 days since I heard from my husband, he was then well as usual, was at Memphis on Business -- The mail will be in soon, & may be I shall have a letter today.

John is still in the P.O. as clerk, will remain not much longer for he needs some rest before going to school -- He finds it quite confusing, but is able to meet it: is looking quite pale, in part perhaps because not much in the sun --

I am drying cherries just now, we have a good many, and nothing eatable, is better than stewed dried cherries. It is a great deal of work to pit them but how good they will taste to Mr. G. next winter! I have picked some for him too by the [rule?], to 7 lbs pitted cherries 3 ½ of sugar, 1 pint vinegar, tablespoonfull of each ground cloves, & cinnamon, (they are delicious:) sealed together slowly for an hour --

It has been very dry here, for weeks, so as to injure gardens & all vegetation, but last night it rained hard, with prospect of more -- Love to all the family, & accept much for yourselves, from your aff. sister Abby.

Willy has fits as usual -- he suffers a great deal, tho not consciously always --

Our country seems to be blest with successes just now.

What a disgrace the N.Y. visit is! It is not the last one that will come of drafting, we expect trouble in this state & in this vicinity, unless there is military force present in every town I hope Lincoln will be firm. He is too easy, & those about him too politic, or selfish. Let me know if you get this all [...] noon. John brings in a letter from his father, written last Tues. he was then well --

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Chicago Sunday April 17, 1864

Dear Wife

I write just to let you know that I am here and well.

I have engaged to sell the land for $2400,00 I did not see as I could do better & come to look again I could not conclude to go on to it.

I think you better send to Mr. Holmes to <*colect*> collect the interest on the 5-20s soon as he can I am of the opinion <*it*> gold is more likely to fall than rise. Let him collect the interest & pay it when it is collected.

Expect to leave here tonight for Ohio.

Rec'd no letters yet shall not now till I get to Austinburg

Love to all

Your aff Husband
Daniel Grant

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Huntsville, Ala. [*Alabama*]

May 4, 1864.

Dear Sister,

Your letter of April 1 with one from Mother and Marcus was rec'd several days since, and I have been trying to answer it, but no favorable opportunity has presented itself -- the present being scarcely <*prer*> more favorable than some that preceded it. The clouds are thickening, however, and no one can tell what a day may bring forth, or how soon the thunderbolts of war may be falling on every side, if indeed they do not strike. A forward movement has been ordered, & it is now expected that we shall go to Chatonooga, perhaps, further Our Reg. with others, left Pulaski last [Frid?] (April 29) and reached this place so as to leave yesterday morning to go towards Chattanooga. By R.R. Huntsville is 63 miles from Pulaski. As I had charge of a Reg. I Library & some other things that could not be carried with the troops on a march I came by R.R. The distance over-land is only 48 miles, & but for the destruction of certain bridges would be some 5 miles less. Decatur, which I passed on the way here -- being about 20 West of this, and 40 South of Pulaski, it is said has been attacked to day* -- with what result is not yet known -- but the trains have not passed here to day, nor have any gone from here <*to it*> there. No considerable danger is apprehended, for Decatur can hardly be taken, & if it should be, as it is South of the river (the Tennepee) the result will not be likely to affect this side. As time rolls on, however, the rebels will probably break up the R.R. at some place, or places, interrupting our

communications with Nashville, and perhaps subjecting us to short rations -- for the country here is so desolate that if cut off from the North we should be puzzled to find food. Still if the country has any thing, we should take it in that case however much it might incommode the inhabitants -- such are the necessities of a state of war. I cannot tell what the army here is to do -- but there is much land to be possessed land that will not be secured by the sacrifice of many lives, I fear.

It is not as easy as I could wish to state what it is best for Daniel to do. I am better and better pleased with the portion of the South which I am permitted to see. The region from Nashville here is lovely -- the land in the valleys and by the streams is very fertile, while the hills -- of which there are many -- are clothed with timber, or covered with pasturage. The long summer seasons save much labor in gathering fodder for the winter months. The land is much more desirably than in W. Tennessee, and the people (natives) seem quite as healthy as in Illinois -- But the uncertainty of political & military affairs -- the fierceness of the hatred that in some minds exists towards Northern men -- all these make it unwise, at present, for most persons to attempt any thing. Still every thing seems to indicate that Northern people will eventually come here in large numbers -- and that they will be happy and prosperous here. Indeed I think that in a year the question will probably be decided how far settlements may be made with the hope of peace.

May 5 On board the cars for Chattanoga. <*It*> I write with a pencil because pen and ink are out of the question here. We are now far advanced towards Chattanooga -- probably not more than 10 miles off. I left my lodgings at Auntsville last evening at 8 o'clock. The appointed time for trains to leave was 9 o'clock -- but it is one of the annoyances of a state of war that every thing is uncertain -- and in fact no train left till 12 1/2 -- and then only a <*passenger*> freight. We came along pretty well to Stevenson -- 60 miles -- where we arrived at 5 1/2 in the morning. Since that we have had many delays, & now at 4 1/2 P.M. we are still some 10 miles from Chattanooga. The day has been very warm, almost hot. The season here has been very cold & backward. The trees are now leaved out, but are at least three weeks later than usual.

The country from Huntsville [here?] is very mountanous. We struck the Tenn. River at [Bridgeport?] (30 M.W. of C.) where we crossed it. The Road has since, often, passed along its bank with the River to the left and precipitous bluffs to the right. The River is exceedingly beautiful as is the scenery generally.

5 P.M. We have just arrived. I sit now in plain view of Lookout Mountain the scene of a fearful combat and substantial victory, and now the cemetery for soldiers. It lifts its form high into the air. You remember that a part of the battle was fought above the clouds. None but a power divine would seem sufficient to overthrow a force that held its lofty top & giddy precipices.

I find (by report) that our Division, & consequently the 12th left this place this morning -- Contrary to my expectation they were taken up by the cars about 50 m. West of this, & thus arrived much sooner than they otherwise would, and in a rested state. Where they will stop I do not know but I presume I shall be able to join them to-morrow. There is something awfully impressive in such an advance into the country of an enemy so heartless, vindictive, treacherous & cruel. Certain it is that many will never return -- possibly only a small portion.

But I must cease descriptions I was greatly interested in the news you imparted -- also in the intelligence contained in Mother's & Marcus' letter. Give my love to them -- as also to Father, Daniel & your children. Whether any of you will meet me on earth is of course largely uncertain -- while it seems scarcely possible that you all should. Let us all look rather to our gathering in another world.

I am favorably disposed to the idea of Daniel's coming to some part of the country where negro labor can be secured. I suppose it is impossible or at least inexpedient to attempt the removal of such persons North -- and that habits of society there are such that negroes can neither be well used nor happy. If Daniel does not lay out too much work I think he could lease or perhaps purchase land which he could cultivate to advantage with the labor of negroes -- The great thing is superintendence, & good management. The crops that to me would seem advisable would be either cotton, tobacco, or flax -- with corn, & vegetables enough to suply the establishment. If he is to undertake such a thing at all -- since it is too late for this season -- he had better be ready by October to begin to lay his plans, & it occurs to me that he had better not bring you with him at once -- Let me know the result of his visit to Wisconsin -- & other things respecting his plans -- Address as below your aff. brother

Joel Grant
Chaplain 12th Ill. Inf
Chattanooga, Tenn.

*Later the reports were very much exaggerated. Indeed the whole matter seems to have been a kind of trick on our part to hide our movement.

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] May 16 1864

Dear Brother & Sister

Carrie's letter came duly to hand and we were very sorry to hear of the death of Erastus's little boy and of the painful circumstances attending it. Though there is His satisfaction that the dear one is safe from all harm and enjoying that presence & loving kindness that is better than life and they now have certain treasure in heaven which may help to draw their heart where their treasure is --

I enclose you a certified check for the interest on my note for one year and owe you an appology for not attending to it sooner. Will you be kind enough to give me the date of that note as I have neglected to put it down and would like to make out the mortgage from date unless you would be likely to want the money when you have decided what to do -- We have not heard from the Rail Road a decided answer Though I think there is a pretty good chance for me to get the appointment. Will most likely know by the middle June or it may be before as they expect to open the road by the fourth of July -- Have had a very good offer for part of our farm 150 dol. per acre and have some considerable notion of selling it think we could get that price for the larger half of it independent of building lot, on the [front?].

Want to hear from Daniel in regard to his visit westward and hope he will give us a detailed account. I went down to Maryland fore part of April and found that really desirable properties were as high there as here, that is properties near R Road and Baltimore with good buildings & good land in good order -- Like the land North of City very well it was easy to work. Generally well watered buildings in general not desirable -- Found the low priced land similar to that in the State of Deleware, lying in large tracts and comparatively poor -- We have had a very fine rain and the country is now beautiful a feast to the eye to contemplate Grass looks luxuriant, wheat growing finely -- Little Carrie is growing finely and begins to say many words but does not make any sentences as yet is healthy and a great eater -- Gets rather more indulgence than some of the others did at her age probably because she sits at my elbow. Will pack and forward that carpet [warp?] soon --

My feelings are about as they have been for sometime I am not so anxious to lay up a large Estate as to see those about me enjoying life in a sensible way and when I am so situated that I can afford to spend the amt of money necessary for such [end?], and wife & family will make themselves comfortable will be situated to my hearts content. Think with what we now have and situation on R Road can afford to do it or could by selling and change of situation accomplish the same end -- My friends all appear to be wise and I the only fool among them which is bad for them and worse for me But (that which cannot be cured -- Must be endured) I cannot see that it is at all necessary for you to go to Idaho and am not satisfied that your welfare would be better insured by that course than any other -- Still work at the shop most of the time and find that it is just the same hard and to me disagreeable work that it was years ago but perhaps a little worse now on account of my unsettled state of mind.

Shall be glad to hear from you both, and and to see any or all of you at any time -- and to do anything in my power to forward your happiness --

We have Glorious news from the Army and have hopes that we are beginning to se the beginning of the end. We are to have a draft in our Township this week for 38 men to fill up our quota of calls to date, I shall have to run the chances with the others --

Head my life insured in a Mutual Co of Newark, the other day for the sum of 3000 dols in favour of Mary and by the payment of 101 dollars (and interest on that amt in notes for 4 years) for ten years secures the policy without further payment should my life be prolonged beyond that time --

It is very evident that but few of us think enough of the future life and that too many that are considered as christians are as anxious or more so about the good things of this life. It is much easier to have Ideas than to carry out those ideas into actual life -- Too many forget that it is the little graces and kindnesses of heart and action, every day self denials, that make the charm of life. We are too apt to think that our own ends must be accomplished without regard to the happiness or welfare of others -- Christianity is doubtless the cure for most earthly evils but must enter into <u>all actual</u> life to work its cure and bring about its greatest good -- day by day, -- hour by hour -- every where -- constant as the sunlight -- Gentle and refreshing as the falling dew. May it be our portion and of all others --

Affectionately yours
William Hill

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2 Div. 16 A [O?] embracing 12th Ill. Inf
Ackworth Ga. [*Georgia*] June 9, 1864.

Dear Sister,

As a part of the army invading Ga. I have been very busy for the past six weeks. We have been at one place but a little while at a time -- often only a part of a day -- often have changed places during the night, sometimes of necessity and sometimes for [sceresy?], and all along we have been operating with an army so large, and as an insignificant part of the whole, know next to nothing of the purposes of any four movements. The work done we ascertain first, in many cases, by papers received from the North a week or ten days after. This campaign has been different from any in which I have ever had a part in several particulars. It is longer -- most of the important movements in which our Reg. has acted did not last more than two or three weeks.* Here we have had long marches -- have been in the field six weeks and would be glad to have the assurance that in six weeks more our work would be done.

What we have accomplished you have learned from the papers, though details of it you can never know fully. We have advanced about 100 miles into Georgia -- a state that hitherto has been less affected by the war than any other in the South -- we have dislodged that Southern army from Dalton -- a very strong position -- [Resacea.?] Calhoun, Kingston, Dallas, & various other places of which if you have not a recent, and a good map you can have no idea, for nearly all of them are new. We are expecting to make another move to-morrow the object of which will be to dislodge the enemy from all his positions this side of Atlanta at least. In what direction we shall move, or where we shall be placed, I have not the least idea -- nor has a single officer or man in our Reg., much less what dangers we shall encounter, or who shall live to tell of them.

I have stood the campaign very well or rather, I am standing it well. I believe I wrote you that I was sick at Pulaski. We left Pulaski <*read*> May 1 (about) -- May 10 we were near [Resacea?] -- 15 m. S of Dalton, in the wilderness -- in a country not quite as rocky, but more hilly than Litchfield Co. We were in a position confronting the enemy, & during the day had made an advance of about a mile. At 8 o'clock in the evening there came on a most terrific thundershower -- at the same time we were ordered to retreat -- back to the works occupied in the morning. We saw no foe -- heard none -- but such was the order -- and in the rain & darkness & mud we obeyed getting wet to the skin, & when at about 2 o'clock we found a place to stop -- bed clothes were wet -- ground was wet -- everything soaked & the rain still continuing. I was attacked next day with chills &c. but with proper care have escaped their influence since.

June 13. We moved from Ackworth the day after I wrote the above. We moved but four miles however -- to a placed called Big Shanty -- a Depot on the R.R. [Kenesand?] Mt. is before us about 3 m. occupied by the [rbs.?] & it is (we hope) the last position they will take before retreating to Atlanta. We have been here three days -- two of wh. (yesterday & to-day) have been very rainy -- pouring -- pouring -- pouring -- until every thing is full of water. Nothing has been <*do*> done of a marked character -- All we have done is to wait & suffer.

June 14. Your letter, with that of Daniel dated May 29 came yesterday P.M. I was very glad to hear from you & all the people at home -- & to know that so many favors are continued to most of them -- I am sorry my leisure does not admit of my writing you in reply as much as Id wish, but I must omit much I would gladly say. I do not pretend to be able to judge, but I have a

feeling (not worth much) that it is well for you not to go to that place in Wisconsin. What Daniel ought to do I cannot now tell at all -- May God keep him and us all from any steps that shall involve those we love in trouble -- or prove otherwise than for the present & eternal good -- My love to Father & Mother -- to Daniel & Marcus -- to all your children -- from any of whom I shall be glad to receive a letter -- Direct as you find my name below

Your aff. brother
Rev. J. Grant
Chaplain 12th Ill. Inf.
Ackworth
Ga.

* We moved from [Padueah?], Ky. Feb 5, 1862 -- took Ft. Henry Feb. 6 -- Ft Donelson Feb. 16, after three days fighting -- the dreadful battle of Shiloh lasted but two days (April 6 & 7 1862) and that of Corinth 2 (October 3 & 4, 1862) Our advance on Corinth lasted a month, but in all that time we moved only 20 miles (May 1862)

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Austinburg, Sept. 6th, 864.

My dear Aunt,

Some time ago I took a letter from the office directed to mother, which as she had gone to Iowa I forwarded to her there. I took the liberty to open the letter, thinking it might contain something for me, and can testify that the draft came safely.

Today I had another good full letter, containing also one <*another*> from Eddie to mother. I will certainly write to Abbie before long, but today I feel like writing to you.

Mother started west the 11th of Aug. with a large part of our goods & had a prosperous journey, and arrived in Grinnell in pretty good health. The boys had rented a small house near the farm, and she expected to keep house there for them, but became so homesick, and so discouraged at the prospect of building at the present high prices, that she made herself almost sick by worrying and seemed so changed from her former self, that the boys were alarmed for her health, and almost feared she would become insane. Under the circumstances they concluded it was best for her to come back with her goods, and for them to sell out their stock and abandon the project of improving their farm any further at present. On the sheep they took out in July, they have cleared $700 profit, and they expect to sell their other stock to good advantages. They have also a fine crop of corn and a $100 worth of hay, so that they feel well paid for their summer's work -- But mother is so distressed in view of her discouraging circumstances and reproaches herself so much for having made such a mistake, that it does seem as if she never could be contented and happy again. --

We have [...] home here, and it is a question pressing heavily upon my mind just now, what we would better do. Thedie came with mother, and we three would constitute quite a family, and besides one or more of the older boys would be likely to be with us occasionally. But I have made all my plans to go to Painesville after this term, and it is not certain we shall any of us want to be here long. We can not now rent any very desirable house, and would it be best for us to buy under the circumstances? Both my brothers-in law offer mother a home with them for the present, or indeed as long as she chooses to stay, and Thedie could board at the Institution and go to school. But would mother be contented long with such an arrangement? I confess that I am much concerned for her. I fear that unless affairs take quite a favorable turn, she will never get over the breaking up of our family and her own unfortunate move to the west. We all try to take as cheerful a view of it as possible, and to make her feel that no one will blame her, but she can not seem to see any thing but poverty and ruin before her and the family.

I think that $500 would fully cover the loss, in expense of moving and sacrifice upon sale of furniture, and the estate has suffered several greater losses within the last ten years, which none of us though of, worrying about, but this mother thinks is the greatest mistake any body ever made.

I wish that something could be done to divert her mind from dwelling upon this subject, and have thought that if it would be convenient and pleasant for her to visit her friends in

Colibrook, especially if she could be made to feel that it would be a satisfaction to them to see her, and that she could do any good by going -- it would be the best thing in the world for her. She is now with my sister Jones -- I spent the day with her yesterday (she got into Ashtabula Saturday night), but she seems not to have any plan for the future, or any more idea that I have what is best.

Do not let what I have written alarm you. I trust mother will seem more like herself, when she gets rested. Meantime I may not hear from you, or if you choose will not write to mother? I have though that if Abbie was gone mother might relieve you of some of your cares if she should go to grand [...] awhile. Please remember me affectionately to each and all of your dear family.

With much love

Mary E Banister

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Little Rock, Ark. [*Arkansas*]
March 15, 1865

Dear Brother Daniel [*Daniel Grant*],

Your letter of the 27th ult came to me yesterday, having been forwarded from Memphis on the 7th of this month. It was long since I had heard from you, except a vague report that you had gone to the coal regions, but in what part of the country I had no idea. Even now (as I have no map at hand) my views of the position of Titusville are very indefinite, but in due time I shall find out.

The <*coal*> oil interest is not yet in a growing state here. We hear nothing of it, and know nothing about it. As, however, the whole country seems to be underlaid with it (i.e. wherever there is coal) I presume it will yet be found here. At present there is too much of a struggle going on, and besides the cotton interest is so strong that it leaves no room for any other to grow. This is one of the best cotton regions away from the Mississippi and though there is but little land that is safe for tillage, yet there is a great rush for such as is open for that purpose.

I do not therefore see that I am likely to be able to help you in the oil matter. For your sake, however, I will give the matter attention though I know nothing about it more than the babe untravelled. I would like a good oil lamp because I could save $2 or $3 a month by its use but I have not yet developed a taste for oil speculations.

I hardly know what to write about such matters for I have not thought enough of them to form any opinion. I hope you may do well, though I suppose you are aware (your letter indicates it) that for some of us speculation is a dangerous road to travel. It is full of risks to any one, though a good judgment in business is doubtless a great help. If you can get $5000 you may feel that you have done a good thing even if $1000 would not come amiss.

I am engaged at present looking to the interests of colored schools in this state—a business that [Mr. Pastington] would say was more disturbing to the oilfactories (olfactories) than any other. However we do not hear so much of the “stinking negroes” as we once did, and as they get more used to freedom, probably we shall cease to hear of them. I inclose a slip of newspaper that will let you know something of the extent of my field. There are really but four points yet open in the state, and they are a great way apart. This point, Pine Bluff 50 miles below on the Arkansas river, DuVall’s Bluff 45 miles east on the White River, and Helena on the Mississippi. At these points we have now schools with <*1300*> 1267 pupils. Probably the number will be tripled before another year.

I have had a severe and dangerous attack of Pneumonia this winter. It came upon me Jan 24, and when I escaped the crisis left me with a very bad cough, from which I have scarcely recovered yet, though I am much better. The weather is pleasant now, except the frequent rains. Peach trees are in blossom and garden vegetables will soon be in season. The worst of it is, that where soldiers are, none of these can be safely raised.

Every thing here would remind you of California prices. Butter 90c & $1 a pound, eggs $1 a doz., flour $25 to $35 a bbl. &c.

Abby is at Cairo in Soldiers’ Home; John, our son, is at Beloit, and at last news was well; Willie (poor boy) is at Lockport, and thus, as a family, we are scattered and broken. It seems best

at present, but I hope a more desirable state of things will be developed ere long. While the war lasts I want to be a part of it, if in reason I can.

My Reg. is with Sherman, I cannot tell where. I left it just as they started from Atlanta on the grand move to Savannah. Wondrous things have been done since then.

Remember me to Caroline when you write, as I presume you often do, and write me often even though but briefly, especially when you change your P.O. or meet with any good or bad luck. If you make a thousand dollars let me know, if you lose all, or a part, of what you risk, let me know. Direct as below,

Your aff. brother
Chaplain J. Grant
care of Major W. G. Sargent
Little Rock, Ark.

P.S. Did you know that the pop of Titusville in 1850 was only 243. I have just seen it in the Census. I presume it has more than that of oil hunters and speculators now. Happening to lay my hands on the Compendium of the Census for 1860, I find a few items respecting Titusville, Oil City, &c. the former of which is stated to be on Oil Creek. It says that Mssrs. Bowditch and Drake of New Haven commenced operations there in 1857, and in Aug. 1859 , a fountain was reached at 71 feet that yielded 400 gallons daily. Before the close of 1860, these were about 2000 wells and borings yielding daily 1165 bbls. of crude oil &c.

Mrs. Caroline Grant

Dear Sister,

I did not notice until I had written the above, hastily, that Daniel requested me to write through you at Flemington [*New Jersey*]. <*I hope*> It is not too late to make the correction. I received one week since a very pleasant letter from Marcus, telling me of the state of affairs at home, of Father's and Mother's condition &c. I shall answer it soon.

I have just made out the full returns from our scattered colored schools in Ark. for the month of January. They number 11 with 22 teachers and 1267 pupils who paid during that month about $650 for tuition. After meeting all expenses for rent, fuel, school furniture &c. there remains net income $440. This is the day of small things but it is a good beginning and highly encouraging. Remember me to Mr. Hill and Mary, and let me have another of your valued letters.

Your aff. brother
Joel Grant.

[*Newspaper article from Arkansas Journal, March 8, 1865, clipped to letter: "Colored Schools in Arkansas." It closes: "The above facts are gathered from Chaplain J. Grant, who is appointed Superintendent of these schools, but whose plans have been much interrupted by a serious illness that came upon him while visiting the schools at Pine Bluff."*]

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[*Envelope return address*]
Soldier's Letter
J. Grant
Chaplain 12th Ill Inf.

[*Addressed to*]
Mr. Daniel Grant
Charleston
Kanawah Co
W. Virginia

Little Rock, Ark.
May 29, 1865

Dear Brother,

Your letters of April 4th (Flemington) and May 20th (Parkersburg) are in my hands – the last recd to day. Thank you for the information they contain. The last seems to imply that you are about to buy a farm at the rate of $5 an acre. Of course I can form no opinion as to its value, though I would prefer a country not so hilly and rough as you represent that to be. But even this decides nothing – land may be smooth and worth nothing and so the other way.

I must confess my inability to give advice even to this hour. There is no excitement about oil in this state as yet, and there could not be because war has been the business until quite recently and it has not been safe to travel out of military protection. Agriculture has languished. Now, however, it is beginning to revive and no doubt there will be a great stir in due time. I can only say at present that there are projects for colonies on foot, and as the state is large, and probably about a third fit good land, and room enough on that to accommodate several times the population the state ever had, there will be a great movement beyond all doubt. Two reasons (among several more) keep me from acting. First I have no money to render it possible. My expenses are great personally, for since I have been in Ark. [*Arkansas*], living has been higher than in any place I have ever before occupied – the cost of my two children is enormous for a man of little means, and I have mostly made up my mind that God does not intend I should ever have much if anything. He gives me a great deal – sums that are astonishing, but like a snow storm borne on the North wind to-day, and melted by the South wind to-morrow, it all vanishes in a little time, or melts as it falls. So I cannot do much if I would, Then I find it impossible to know the facts of a case in season to act. There have been sales in this place within the past month of some $800,000 worth of property – wh. in all scarce brought $50,000 – part of it under the act of Confiscation Act, and part of it under the Act for collecting taxes – in which had I had money in hand I could have put myself by the use of $2000 in probable possession of $10,000. But I have bought nothing, for the reasons already stated.

If you have not already purchased (and I know not whether to hope you have or not) perhaps you had better come to Ark. and see what can be done – or let me know what amount you would like to expend here, and I can select an agent who will expend it wisely – or not foolishly. For myself I shall leave the country after three or four weeks for a time at least.

If I were to determine to take any steps to make money I think I would take advantage of the Homestead Act, and take one of Uncle Sam's farms, go into the wilderness, and start anew. But I cannot make up my mind to do such a thing and deem it better (probably) to stick to my profession, to whose ills I am accustomed, and which has hitherto given me bread (not the best) to eat, and clothes (not the finest) to wear than fly to <*all?*> untried ills. I am not in all things a coward, but in this I am, I confess.

I am glad to know that Dr. Patterson has traced the genealogy of our family & will send $10 to help him through. I am willing to do this in the hope that in some way we can find some way to link our family to the hero of the age. Lieut. Gen. Grant, though if the examination should prove there is no such connection, I still would like to promote the investigation & will send another $10 if necessary. I will send $10 to Marcus in a few days.

You will regret that I can do no more to promote your wishes -- but not more than I do.

We are doing a great work for the Freedman of Ark. I inclose a slip of a paper (*Christian Times* a Baptist paper of Chicago, May 11) containing one certificate of this. Others appear in the correspondence of visitors to this country, but I cannot now lay my hand upon them, and if I could you would not care to read them.

I am much better in health than at any time before since my illness in January.

I believe all your letters have come safely Hope this will reach you & that you will acknowledge at once. With love to all your household, I am,

Your aff brother
Joel Grant
care of Major W. G. Sargent
Little Rock, Ark.

[*Clipping headed "On the Arkansas River." is a letter from Chas. Hill Roe. It closes: "P.S. Capt. Mallory, at Pine Bluff, Maj. Sargent and the Rev. Joel Grant, at Little Rock are doing a noble work for the freedmen of Arkansas*."]

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Cairo, Ill. Sept. 19, 1865

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook, CT.

Dear Sister,

I have concluded to add a few words suggested by Sister Elizabeth's letter designed especially for you and her and such persons as you may judge advisable to talk with concerning its subject matter. She speaks of a mortgage on Father's place held by H.W. Penney – amount (as she says) $400. It has always been my wish that the place should be free from debt -- a favor it never enjoyed I think during my days – and have had it among my hopes that he day might come when I could move in the matter. But like the rest -- if pecuniary prosperity had been the <*place*> point on which I could rest, I have had it to say "I found no rest for the sole of my feet." The day has never come – nor have I expectation it ever will. Still I have rarely been very poor – though often undesirably so. There have been but few periods of my life when I could not have given something to relieve my dear and honored parents.

As to this claim of Mr. P. I do not infer from Sister's letter that it presents any new phase of difficulty. I believe it is a debt of 20 years' standing – perhaps more. The interest has always been paid I believe, and I do not know that Mr. P. <*is*> has himself expressed any desire for its immediate payment. If the interest is unpaid, or if Mr. P. expressed a desire to have the money, then we ought perhaps to take the matter up. The principal thing as it seems to me now, is to have Father and Mother left in undisturbed possession, and if any thing is taking place that is likely to disturb them, surely I will do something to arrest so great an evil. I hope if this is the case at any time, such of the relatives as are at Mill Brook or its vicinity will rouse a cry of distress and send it to all the states and territories where Father's descendants live, and I will not believe until it has been proved by trial that there is one of them so base as not to respond.

Whether it is best to take the matter up earlier, and relieve the place before such extremes arise I cannot say. My mind approves such a course, & if the amount of indebtedness is only $400 (my impression was that it was much greater) the thing <*ough*> could probably be done. Such an act would be grateful to Father & Mother, and not less so to me. Consider it and speak your mind.

I know of nothing that could be special interest to you or Daniel now. The country is full of opportunities of various kinds, but every thing requires its special attention, and while somebody will do well in connection with it, it is impossible to say that any particular individual would do so.

Your aff. brother
Joel Grant

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[*addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Co. [*Connecticut*]

[*letterhead*] Freight Office New York and New Haven R.R.,
Corner of Elm and Franklin Street
New York, Oct 13th 1865

Mrs. Daniel Grant
Milbrook Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Madam

Yours of the 9th inst reached me yesterday & In reply to your enquiries would say that I called on the Agent of Canal line & also RailRoad line to ascertain facts & they give them as follows –

The Agent of the Western Transportation Co. (Canal Line) informs me that it will be a safe calculation to forward goods by Canal line anytime before the 10th November. He also says "The HouseHold goods you refer to can be shipped anytime before that date, but will have to be forwarded to Milwaukee, Wis as none of our steamers run to Oconomowoc. Price to Milwaukee $1.00 per 100 lbs. which includes all furniture &c. present rate of insurance between – (over) New York & Milwaukee say 2% (this rate – however may increase somewhat as the season advances)"

You may therefore infer from this statement that it will be perfectly safe for you to forward by this Canal line as late as Nov 10th. (I would however advise that you get them forward sooner if possible so as to make it doubly sure), & that you can ship or forward your goods at $1.00 per 100 lbs without being so particular about boxing every article, all however should be well-packed & securely fastened.

Goods shipped by this line should be marked Each package, Via -- Western T Co, Canal & Lake, with the full address of consignee & destination. The agent of the Company will insure and charge the amt premium in with other or transportation charges, all payable upon arrival of goods at destination. You must of course advise him of the value or amount you wish them insured for when they are delivered to him. He will then receive the goods & give you Bill Lading for them & insert insurance & c & c.

The Rail Road Line rate will be (or is now) & may be advanced. –

Via –

All Rail -- $2.15 per 100 lbs

Rail & Steam around Lakes $1.33 per 100 lbs & The insurance the same as by Canal, say 2% -- & All goods must be Boxed & securely Strapped. If you ship by this line "Steam Around Lakes" you must ship on or before Nov 10th also. All Rail of course you can ship at any time.

If you wish to ship All Rail Each package must be so distinctly marked: Via All Rail, & If by Rail & Steam Around Lakes – Mark Each – Via Rail & Steam Around Lakes.

Yours Respectfully
Chas Rockwell
FrtAgt
NY & NH RR
NY

[*attached envelope addressed to*]
Mrs. Daniel Grant
Millbrook
Ct.

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[*from Daniel Grant*]

Ottawa May 23 1866

My Dear Wife

Last Sabbath I wrote to you but as I have a little time to day I choose to improve it altho I have nothing of importance to write. It is rainy weather or I should be as busy as ever. Received yesterday the deed. It has not been as long as I thought since I sent it to you. It went and back in trifle more than three weeks, very quick.

Your statement of Dr Bidwells opinion of the black walnut is not very favorable for me. A medicine I prepared in this, from the butternut with rheubarb mixed in was a better medicine apparently than rheubarb root and if it was true that black walnut would work as well I was anxious to prepare some of it but if it is astringent it will not do. I have now however a medicine

that works like a charm but suppose it will wear out pretty soon. It is gin and black cherry bark. Where the laxative qualities lie I cannot say. I have tried rheubarb for a good while but it takes a good deal to have the desired effect.
May 24. It does not rain this morn. but rained a good deal during the night. Is to muddy to work in brick yard The weather is very unfavorable for brick making. Hope it will be better.

I am sure there are plenty of better places for farming and stock rasing than this but this is pretty good especially stock raising but farther south is better for both. The summers are probably more endurable here than farther south as according to report there is almost universally a breze wh. tempers the heat but report is very uncertain and the weather is frequently such as was never known before.

Brick making may be as good here as any where or it may not but I know it can be good here but He who holds our destiny in his hands can make the best directed efforts a failure. I have written to Joel two or three times particularly requesting him to state the price of land in Ark. but all I can get from him is "it is very cheap" an answer so indeffinite I cannot tell whether it is 25 cts. or $25, per acre. There are objections to going to Ark. it seems the same as you made to going to N.C. The state of society is objectionable. Mo. is in the same predicament. I have been of the opinion that these troubles would get quieted but it does not seem to be any nearer if as near now as it did at the close of the war. Altho it is but few out of the whole number who suffer yet cases of murder are frequent especially in Mo. A few days ago a man was enticed away from this town and hung. There are conflicting reports about it and until I can give a more definite version I will not try to give particulars Some say he was a quiet citisen others that he was a horse thief. He did not reside in town but on a farm a few miles out. He was in town on business when he was enticed away. Horse stealing is of almost nightly occurance somewhere in the country. It seems that rebels are generally bold and defiant whereever they are. It is perhaps as quiet here as any where. Robberies are common and murder not very unfrequent all over the country.
May 26. I have just taken up the pen to record that it is still raining. This is indeed dry Kansas. We worked some yesterday but perhaps it will not amount to much Rained a good deal last night and some today. Kansas is not a mudy state like Ill. but where it rains so much it must of course be muddy Vegetation looks fine and crops are apparently doing well but we cannot judge so well of crops now as a month later.
An effort is being made to build a Presbyterian church here with how much success I am unable to state but think it will be built.
A church is organized and an appointment made for a meeting tomorrow. The Baptists are to give way and the Presbyterians occupy their place of worship The sacrament is to be administered
May 27 There seems to be a failure in the fulfilment of the appointment by the prebyterians today A Mr. Chapin of Lawrance was expected but has not arrived. I have not exactly identified myself with them but they claim me as one of their number. Without any consent of mine and entirely without my knowledge they have appointed me one of their trustees. I told them when I heard of it that I thought they might have found a better man but I suppose I shall become one of them. Dr. Sawyer the baptist preacher gave us a very practical sermon this morn. He talks so plain to professors that it would seem that there are but few real Christians and I believe he tells us no more than the truth There are getting to be the usual number of denominations in this town. The baptist are of course much in the ascendency. A respectable presbyterean society can be found here as soon as a place of worship can be obtained. The protestant methodists and Cumberland presbyterians have places where they hold meetings. The Episcopal and Wesleyian methodists are represented here and there is a right smart chance of United brethren. Some of these sects are little known in the east

[*written across first page*] I am yet unable to give anything like a true statement of the murder case mentioned within.

Several men are arrested & bound over for trial for the murder. I say bound over. I should say committed. They are in jail

[*in pencil*] June 5 And still it rains. Wet wetter wetest

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Boston, Dec, 9th /66 (Sun Eve ng)

My Dear Niece,

Mary, Husband Child, arrived home in safety the evening of the same day they left you Mary was very tired indeed & I took care of the child till 12 oclock that night & then was obliged to let her go to her mother They are both refreshed & are feeling quite natural again Mary thinks Baby behaves much better at home than she did when visiting She commenced walking the day after she got home the day she was 15 months old & now she walks almost constantly all her waking hours sits down in the middle of the floor & raises her self up alone & seems very happy to be able to walk. I take care of the dear little one nights now to try & get her warned nights again. I had got her about waned before she went away, but she had to be indulged while absent to keep her as quiet as possible. How much labor & care there is in bringing up children! No end to thought & care for them <*to the*> so long as we life, -- they enjoyed their visit all around very much (& at a cost of only about $30.) I know <it> thier visit must have inconvenienced you just at the time you were fixing off Edward in addition to your many other cares & labors but you are just the one to bear <*the*> an interruption I am sorry it so happen[*e*]d. I fear you over exerted your self on thier account, I hope it has not made you sick. Mary said their was doubt in your mind whether to have Ed,rd go to Flem. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] or <*some or*> to another place she thought you had concluded to let him go to F. she said you asked her opinion & wondered what I would think best for him & you. Her mentioning this shows me you still retain that earnest desire to know & <u>do</u> what is for the best

It may be pleasant to you to know that I <*approve*> think I should let him go to F. & go to school this winter It may be his last opportunity to be in school & I think you & he do well to avail yourselves of it, Probably Mary would not have sent for him if she did not want him. Let him have this winter for study & the rest of life is enough to devote to the more arduous duties of life Should his future lot be hard it might give him comfort to think of his early opportunities & perhaps it will be pleasanter to him to think that this winter he could attend school rather than to have worked out for a trifling remuneration (11th) I wrote thus far last Sabbath evening when I commenced I thought I would write a little & send it next mail but I found I could not write just what I wanted to say How I wish I could see you & have a good talk with you but that is a vain wish more than likely as not we shall never speak together again It is a sad thought to me. Mary said you spoke as though you might go away out West in the spring I hate to have you go but perhaps it is best for you & your family I can see no very strong inducement for you to stay in New England as you have no settled home here to cling to, & <*cannot be very near your friends*> when your Father Grant passes away as he soon must then you will be comparatively free from New-England if you choose. As your children are not as yet settled for themselves you can take them & go where you think best. I feel it would be much more difficult for us to move now Mary is married than it was before as we should not want to leave her & family & it might not be convenient for them to go with us, Dear Carrie How much I want to see you, I wonder if you could not come here once more if you should conclude to go West I wish you could, You will certainly go & visit Mary one more I wish you could be with her more

I think you have never told me how Daniel came out with his coal oil investment. Wen I was there to see you he had invested a $100. in a coal oil company, & afterwards I suppose he went in more extinsively else where Did he get out of it without loosing his investment I hope he did, but we read that there was great fraud practiced by some oil company's I thought of your husband & wondered if he were a victim.

Received a letter from you when Sister E. was here last June & I meant to have answere[*d*] it long ago but could not. It is certainly a mystery to myself that I have so little time for reading & writing <*I cannot*> of late, I feel that there is something that needs to be done or else I am so sleepy evenings that I neither rea[*d*] or write I wish I could live an eseir [*easier*] life & I wish you & Mary could but I suppose we shall always have enough to do. I think we are all too prudent &

economical to ever get along easily & get through with work I wish we could let things go & not try to save all so much as we do but that is one of our peculiarities which is not the worst trait a person might have You asked in your letter how we are getting along with farming. I have nothing very encouraging to say about it Husband & I are heartily sick of farming & we both wish we were out of it but still we stay on We may sell & may not & that is about all I can say about it, I suppose you are about willing to settle down on a farm again, Well if a person has got to work all the time I dont know as it is any worse to work at farming than at a great many other things I would as lief make butter & cheese, as to take boaders. What I want is to get so situated that I need not feel that I must work every minute or something will go behind or be wasted After working so many years as I have I should be glad to have only husband & self to do for & have some time to rest but I fear I never shall get so arranged that there will be any rest for me so long as I am able to work

I must try & get this into the office to night We are having quite a snow storm this evening which I think is the second one of the season I enjoyed the cake you sent very much

Amory & May enjoyed thier visit with you very much & send love The carpet sweeper is just fixed & we expect it will render good service & consider it quite an acquisition particularly at this time as I took the opportunity of putting down an old carpet in our West room in thier absence which I feared might not last till spring in credit Perhaps by using the carpet it will last, Baby is very happy in walking & sometimes almost runs, She has slept by my bed ever since she came home till tonight her mother is going to see if she can get through the night with her withou[*t*] nursing her. I shall miss the little darling tonight, Husband joins with me in love to you. Remember me to Deacon Grant & Marcus. Cannot you write soon. I suppose you cannot, you have a good many to write to, & you must have a great deal to do & ma[*n*]y cares

Affectionately

We are all well S.J.W. [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

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[Attached envelope addressed to]
Mrs. Daniel Grant
Mill Brook <*Colebrook*>
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

So. Hadley Mass. [*South Hadley, Massachusetts*]
Nov. 23. 1867

Dear Friend,

We are writing to the Graduates of the Seminary, and others who have enjoyed its benefits, upon a subject in which we are confident you will all be interested. For a long time we have felt that it would greatly promote both the health and comfort of our family to have our <*family*> halls warmed in some way. –

Physicians have said that it was perhaps the greatest disadvantage of our residence here that we are obliged so often to pass from warm rooms through the cold halls. –

We have realized the evil of it and hoped it might be remedied, but have at last concluded we must move in the matter ourselves, and interest our friends and the friends of education generally to aid us in the accomplishment of our wishes. As the seminary was built by contributions we think now that it has so many friends we may confidently expect that for any such needed improvement they will gladly render us assistance.

Our desire is to have the halls and public rooms heated by steam. –

We have had the building carefully examined by those who have practical knowledge in the matter, and they say the plan is entirely feasible and can be carried into effect immediately, if the necessary means are procured, so that we may enjoy warm halls this winter. On introducing steam into the halls care would be taken to have the pipes large, and so arranged that branch pipes may be added to heat all the rooms when we shall have sufficient means to do this, but as it will cost $10,000 to have the whole building heated in this way, we can only hope for a part of it this winter.

The present members of the school are deeply interested in the project, and are writing letters to different friends whom they think they can influence. Some have been quite successful already in their appeals, others feel confident of success in presenting the subject during vacation.

If you feel inclined to aid us in this good cause, we should be very happy to receive a contribution from you, and if you know others <*to be*> interested in the Seminary who might assist us we should be very grateful to you for speaking or writing to them on the subject. – Even small contributions will be gladly received.

We are aware the sum to be raised is a large one, but if all our friends will respond to our invitation, we think we shall receive it.

We wish to have the money if possible by the beginning of next term Dec. 12th in order that the work may be accomplished at once. –

Any contributions may be sent to me at the Seminary. –

Yours Very Truly
Hannah Noble

By Ida Derby

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[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Flemington
New Jersey

Rec'd. Apr. 23 '68

Gives the route & fare etc. to Ottawa

Ottawa Apr 17 1868

My Dear Wife

As it is possible that E. will come here this spring perhaps I ought to write something about the rout to be taken. I have but a few moments to write as I must try to get it in the P.O early to be as sure as I can of getting it mailed as we have a very inefficient P. M. and do not know what to expect of him.

I have seen a hand bill today advertising the fare from here or at least from Lawrence to N. Y. $37.25/100. It is probably about the same from here. This is as I understand it from N. York to Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, Quincy, St. Joe, Lavenworth Lawrence to this place. Perhaps other routs to Chicago will carry at the same price Baggage checked through. The first place I believe where it is necessary to take a carriage is Chicago. Dont know how it is in Quincy. Change cars at St. Jo. but in same depot I believe Change again at Weston to a Steamer unless there has been a change since last summer wh I think there has not. No carriage wanted Steamer runs 7 miles to Lavenworth. Usual fare on steamer $1.50/100 but suppose a throu tick pays it but that needs to be seen to. At Lavenworth if E. has nothing heavy to carry he can run down the river little more than ¼ mile to depot. I he cannot take it on foot must take a carriage. At Lawrence must take a carriage. At Ottawa his trunk must be taken over in baggage wagon wh. will cost 25 cts, but it is not necessary for him to take the bus he can cross the bridge wh. costs 5 cts. keep <straight> strait on till he has crossed 1st & 2nd streets & come to 3d street then turn east or to the left. Keep strait down this street till he comes to a little log cabin without any window the first log cabin he comes to, and if I am not there take care of himself as well as he can till I come. He can go to the house right north of mine or to the one a very little west of south or to a large white house south west where is a barn and haystacks. The little black fellow who drives the baggage wagon knows me well and where I live. The places where I know it is necessary to change depots in changing cars are Chicago Lavenworth and Lawrence. I think there are no other on this line. At Albany I am not sure how it is one rout is to cross the river there another goes on to Troy and crosses on a bridge. The two routs come together at Schenectady. No carriage is required in either case. It is possible you can get a ticket in Flemington. <I> [...?] the purpose of ma preparation for some stock next winter it is important that E. comes now and also to help in selecting a place but you must do as you think best about sending him. I might have had a little more money paid on the lot I sold and paid E's fare but it makes no difference as it comes out of yours anyhow.

Ever yours,
D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

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[Addressed to] Mr. Daniel Grant
West Winsted
Conn.
Austinburg Ohio
Apr. 18th 1869.

My dear Father,

Auntie and I received your letter some time ago, and I intended to have answered it long before this, but my time has been so much occupied that I have not been able to do so.

This is a beautiful evening, and I wish our family could spend it together, it is a long time now since we have all been together. I have been here a little more than eight months but it does not seem as though it could have been so long, the time has passed so rapidly.

I enjoy the society here more than I ever have any where before. That is the society of the young people. They seem to be more warm hearted than any whom I have known before.

This is a very pleasant term of school, more so I think than previous one which I have attended.

I am studying Latin and Botany, shall finish the Latin Reader this term, so as to be able to take up Sallust.

I am rejoiced that Buckingham is again elected. I found the prevailing opinion here, to be that Seymour would be elected, but I did not give up to that for a moment. I thought it would be Buckingham, and it was.

Now is about the time when I want some more money, and if you could please send me some I should be very glad. I think I shall need about $30, for I am owing $10, school bill - $5 for last term and five for this – and am owing Auntie five dollars which I have borrowed of her. If you could please send it quite soon I should be very thankful.

When do you intend to leave Winsted? or do you intend to leave at all? I thank you very much for sending the Winsted Herald to me so regularly, it is very pleasant to have it, for then I can know what is going on at home.

How is Grandma now I have not heard wheather she <was> is better or not.

I have a little Sabbath School Class, it made me feel rather strange at first, to be teacher, instead of the one to be taught, but now I enjoy it very much.

Please my dear father accept very much love from

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

Cousin Willie Burton is now in Memphis Tenn. and Cousin Phil is a paroled prisoner in Columbus Ohio.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Flemington
New Jersey

Mr. A.O. Pinney
Apr. '69. Sends Pay't Wagon

MillBrook Tuesday Morng Apl. 20./69

Cousin Caroline

We have many thanks to give for your kind letter which came direct – of the enclosed draft Marcus furnishes Twelve Doll. in pay't of indebtedness –

The remainder ($20) is for the wagons, which has been transferred to the Pinney farm – Should it appear that this is not enough, more will be added when you come to Colebrook – But

this may be better than at Auction in Winsted – The Axles are iron and appear strong – as does the box also – tire and rims of wheels somewhat worn – and a little behind the times as you know -

Items of news are not plenty or of special interest – The papers will have given you the result of our State Election if in that you felt an interest – Democracy has come out second best to say the least –

But in our little town of Colebrook it was otherwise – Here money and whiskey prevailed by a very small majority –

The Sugar Season did not commence till the first of the month (April) and has just closed, with rather an abundant yield. Wish you and your Jersey friends could have been here to test the quality while warm from the boilers – our folks have made 450 lbs. while Martin & Susan say they have made 800.

The spring season as you know has been cold and late – Snow has been visible in all directions – and is not all gone yet though wasting somewhat rapidly of late in the few warm days.

We find our new partners in business very pleasant as yet – think we shall like them – at any rate we mean to if possible

Elizabeth promises to write you ere long – I hope she will – But if she fails to you will not be disappointed, since as you know she does not wield the pen of a ready writer – or is slow to fulfill promises – Please remember us kindly to Mr & Mrs Hill and family – not forgetting that for yourself good wishes are ever in store at this end of the line – Respectfully

A.O. Pinney

Please acknowledge the rec't of this

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Care of Mr. Hill Esq.
Flemington N.J.

Cambridge Ill. Feb. 22, 1872.

Dear Sister,

I am much obliged for your letters of Jan. 3. and Feb. 13, with their inclosures Was glad to see Daniel's letter of Jan. 29 (herewith returned) which so fully discloses his view of his present condition. I know nothing respecting the prospect that Congress may legalize the occupation of the Indian Territory or any part of it; but cannot think it is likely to do so. Am sorry that Daniel will adhere to a plan that at best has so doubtful a basis; but as he has good health there, and may do something as profitable as he would elsewhere, it is not best to try to disturb him. Of course no one of the friends or family should feel bound to follow him. Of course also it is wildness itself for D. to suppose that Mr. Hill will go there.

I think it possible that D. may yet be glad to take any place offered him. Of course the contest cannot now be long. A man 54 years old cannot long carry on a life such as he follows. The matter must end. We can only commit his case (as we do our own) to him who knows our frame and remembers we are dust.

I have been very busy this winter. We held meetings every evening for about five weeks. The results were not very marked; and yet cheering. I was nearly used up. Of course I had no time to write or answer letters as I wished.

The S.W. corner of my land is (I believe) exactly two miles from the nearest point in Plymouth. Two and a half miles will probably be the proper statement of distance.

Your aff. brother

Joel Grant

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Silver Dale Sp. Cowley Co. Kan
Jan. 17, 1874

My Dear Wife

The above heading I found on this sheet and concluded to let it remain. It is the name of the Tp. Township in which I live and I suppose I wrote it sometime. There is a post office called Silver Dale between two and three miles from me but they have a mail but once a week, and it is a point I seldom visit so it is not as convenient as Ark. City altho the latter is 10 miles distant.

It is a rather unpleasant day today and I have concluded to sit in the house and write a while. We have had a very pleasant winter thus far. Now it is threatening a storm and I fear our pleasant weather is at an end but hope not.

When I last wrote fore part Dec. it was stormy. That storm lasted 10 day gradually growing warmer every day till it cleared off and we have had fine weather ever since.

Your letter dated Dec. 8 came in due time, I perceived by it that I must direct Clayton instead East Sheffield. Quite an improvement. Glad you enjoyed thanksgiving day. I enjoyed it same as other days. Nothing but health to be thankful for.

I can give no idea when I shall conclude best to go east. Uncle must lay his plans and make his arrangements same as tho he did not expect me. I have several irons in the fire and cannot now tell when it is likely I will be ready to go. It may be a year or perhaps two of them.

I am at a loss at present what I will do with my claim. My time for entry is up on the 14th of April and if I do not enter then unless Government gives an extention of time I will have to run my risk of getting it at a land sale to come off when Gov, advertises it. There is now a probability that the time will be extended. If I can find a chance to get money at 15 per ct. I will enter but I think if I must pay 25 per ct. I better run the risk. The mistake made in the [Po.?] of one of the 40s is not yet rectified. If that is not done before my time expires I shall not enter the rest at present. I <*can*> claim three 40s or 120 acres. This is the principal cause of delay and I can't tell how long it will take to get it out of the way. There are two parties who want the place but money is scarce and the mistake is in the way. I am in a way now of getting a little start and if I was located, there seems to be good reason to think I might go slowly ahead but I suppose something unforeseen will thwart me yet. The worst drawback that is visible is I am alone I cannot go away from home without a good deal of trouble and if I should be sick there would be trouble indeed. I have six head of cattle two of them are last years calves.

The man Mr. Hager who I expected would be a help is not quite the man I expected I expect you will say "I thought as much" He is honest clever and a right good fellow but lacks energy. He don't take care of what is his own I promised in my last to send newspapers but they got left. I will send them.

Rec'd, three Winsted Heralds. Glad to get them but they make me feel bad.

They have news I would get in no other way. It seems C.B. Phelps is dead also Beng. Welch and others I know. Wm Phelps could not live without a wife. "So [mote?] it be"

You see my half sheet is full. Some time or other I will get this to the P.O.

Remember me aff. to Uncle an aunt and all inquiring friends

Ever Thine
D. Grant

I enclose a little slip paper wh. gives my idea of what a man should be rather better than I can tell it myself. The man who has no ambition and will sit down contented with poverty ought not to live even when like me every move has been a failure

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Ark. City, April 4, 1875.

My Dear Wife,

Yours of March 24 is just recd. Ought to have written before in answer to your letter of Mar. 7 but I am slow in getting around and have not done it. My evenings have been occupied most of the time so that if I got a spare evening I wanted it for rest.

The check you sent me saved me from suffering. I got along with it better than I expected.

Was able to get four dollars advanced upon it Expected I would not get anything till it would be sent back and collected. The remaining six dollars probably will be able to get in course of another week. Your last contains P.O. Order for $38, wh. I presume is right and will be cashed

on presentation tho it looks to me somewhat deficient but I am not acquainted with P.O. Orders and believe it is right. You do not state by what means this is raised. I would like to know for the sake of gratifying my curiosity. You have done right in sending money. Goods cannot now be sent to individuals or localities without paying freight.

I do not wonder that people east think they have sent enough to supply us for they don't consider how much it takes. Ascertain for once how many car loads it takes to supply the little town of Flemington and its surroundings for one week then compare it with the great state of Kan. and you will have a better idea then consider that Kan. is not half of the famine stricken district and you will see at once the enormous amount it takes. I am unable to state whether the relief sent is all distributed as it should be or not. I fear it is not. There are so many false report about the relief Committees that I don't believe anything I hear. I have as a member of this TP. committee been assailed by many and it does beat everything how much ingenuity is used in fabricating falshoods. It is fairly astonishing. I pay but little attention to them and a majority still stand by me. I am not aware of making but one mortal enemy and I don't fear him. The committee sent in their resignations last week but mine was not accepted. The other two members have got out of it two others appointed in their places. We get so little to divide that it gives great dissatisfaction each needy one thinks he ought to have it all.

I am glad of your suggestions for it shows you think how it might possibly be improved but you will have to think of something else to think of something I have not tried. I would not advise you or any body east of Indiana to send goods of any kind for I fear they are not distributed as they should be. Send money to some one who can be trusted or to someone who is ascertained to be in destitute circumstances so that if the individual receiving uses it all himself it will be well appropriated then it will not be lost. I hardly know just how to use what you have now send me. I sadly want it myself and I feel more like appropriating it than I should <*but*> for the time I have spent and the trouble I have been at for these needy ones. I have earnt it and not only need it but think I deserve it but if I can have instructions from the donors I will use it accordingly. I have had almost nothing of what has been received for I could not bear to take it when others needed it. Nearly everything is for sale in the markets here at reasonable prices if people had money to buy. All kinds provisions probably cheaper than in the east.

Apr. 7 I will now try and finish this letter I think I have written enough on relief or will have done so when I state that you better not attempt to send any kind of goods unless you can pay the fright at the starting point. Then they need not be sent as relief goods and probably will reach the individual or locality to wh. they are sent. R.R. now refuse to freight goods to individuals or townships free of charges and all goods sent in that way <*or*> go into the general relief fund or are appropriated by the R.R. the amount of relief wh. has been received by this Tp. averages about 300 lbs. of corn meal per week. a little clothing has been sent here. Government however sent much the largest share viz. 12 overcoats badly moth eaten and 13 pairs shoes.

Now a little about a certain legacy If aunt B. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has bestowed upon me $300, certainly I have reason to be thankful. It seems tho that you do not know that such is the case. now what is the use of working our minds up upon a supposition of that kind till we know something about it. I don't want to make my calculations upon receiving money to be disappointed. When I am sure of it then is soon enough to decide what to do with it. you have a good deal to say about how it better be invested wh. is all very natural and perfectly proper but you don't consider atall my wants. You know I have written several times that I wanted money to enter my land and you have consented to help me to the amount of $100, but now that there appears to be a chance to get all I need for that purpose you are not willing I should have it. I know you have a claim on the money and I am willing it shall be yours but why do you wish to prevent me from entering my land? or if I do enter to oblige me to loan money at 10 per ct. and then pay from 25 to 36 per ct. for it? I am not certain that I shall enter my land but I want to put in a bid for it and if the bid is accepted of course I want to pay for it and if there is a chance to do so without drawing from your private means why not let me have the chance? besides the idea that it is better to loan it there at 10 per ct. than to loan it here at 20 per ct. or more. I don't so much wonder at that idea in you for several reasons I might mention but wh. I think not worth while to mention here as I other wise should. It is no strange that people in the east who have money to

loan should prefer to keep it near them <*th*> at 10 or even at six per ct. than to sent it west but the case is different with you at present at least but I know you have reason to think otherwise

If the legacy from aunt B. comes into my hands I am determined to look out for it and save it for you but don't let us worry ourselves about it till we know something about it.

You inquire how I am getting along? I have occupied so much room with a lot of nonsense that I have not room to tell you, with the help you have sent me I shall do very well. My health is better than in winter. I will try and write more upon this point in my next.

Ever yours
D Grant.

[*text upside down*] Turn bottom up.

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[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant,
Clayton,
Mass.

Hallowell Maine
Wedns. Morn. Sept. 29th/75.

My dear Mother,

Your letter to Almon was received last eve he has been very busy ever since so tells me to write. He says that taking everything into consideration, he would think you would probably better sell if cash can be got. Though Mr. Abbott seems to him a perfectly responsable man, if anything should happen to him (Mr. A.) it might be very hard having the deed in his name. The money that you would get by its sale now would pay a large share of your debt to Aunt Mary and you would be more comfortable at present if it was sold. A doesnt have time to attend to it on his own account, he thanks you very much for your offer, but thinks you would better sell if both the others want to <*you must*> I dont know as I can tell all the reasons pro & con, he <*What*> doesnt think it best for you to buy it, better keep your money.

I think it strange that you have not heard from Edward. When he sent the money to us in Andover he told us that he was expecting to be in Unionville at present. We have written since we came here directing to [Wimmonville?] but have not heard from him though I dont know as we could expect -- to quite yet for he doesnt write very often.

What do you hear from Father now. is he getting on well with his land. Almon is getting along nicely with the school. I am beginning to gather a few plants in my rooms that it looks a little smaller and more home like. I suppose that you must be very tired with so much company there. Hope they will all go soon and that you will not have to much to do. How are Uncle and Aunt now?

Pettie and Harry are very happy here and are very good little children too. they seem to be in very good health thus far. Pettis first teeth are beginning to fall out. I took out one yesterday and am going to take out another to-day.

I hope that we shall hear from Edward before long and know surely where he is.

I cant write longer this morn because tis time for the mail to be taken down town.

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

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Silver Dale Dec. 9 1875

My Dear Wife

Your last was recd. yesterday A thousand thanks. From the indifference you manifested when I applied for money some time ago I was afraid you would do nothing for me now but you have acted nobly. You most always do well when you act on your own judgement.

Tell Erastus I will give him 10 per ct. I want to divide the profits with him. Thanks, thanks to you both.

I have not opportunity to write all I want to now. If my bid is accepted shall send at once for the money. If rejected shall not need it, but would not Erastus like to invest some here at 20 or 24 per ct. If he would let him sent it on I will see that it is invested safely. Must close.

Yours
Daniel [*Daniel Grant*]

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[*Attached envelope addressed to*:]
Mrs. Caroline Grant
Clayton
Berkshire Co.
Mass.

Hallowell, Maine
Jan. 1st 1876

I wish you a Happy New Year my dear brother. I hope that this may be a jubilee year to us all. We are all well. The children keep remarkably well this winter and seem to be enjoying themselves very much. They had a fine time on Christmas, we had a Christmas tree for them, thank you for the little things that you sent. Their Aunt Alia sent them some picture books. Their Uncle Austin some stockings and his photograph, and Miss Drummond gave Pettie a nice story book and Halley some blocks. Ive got Pettie a good doll and a little set of dishes, and Halley a toy watch and a little – well I cant think what else they had, some candy in little bits of pink bags, and they looked very pretty, they were very much delighted when they saw it in the morning. Almon [*Almon Burr*] gave me a writing desk which I like very much. I made him a little letter rack of spatter work.

Most of my plants are beginning to grow nicely now, and my room looks quite pleasant – and cheerful</>. We have been having quite warm weather lately it seems like an Ohio winter, but no doubt it will soon be cold again.

If you subscribe for cousin Semantha please let me know and I will send you the dollar.

I think about Edward [*Edward Burr*] very often. I do hope that he will find something to do, there are so very many out of work. It does seem hard but I cant help hoping that times will brighten soon.

Almon thinks that he can pay Uncle Collars note about the first of Feb. He intended to have paid it the first of this month, but Father [Burr] was disappointed about getting some elsewhere, and so Almon paid the money to him, as he was needing it very much.

We shall not get our debts all paid this year for which I am very sorry.

I suppose that Minnie Hill has been home for some time and that they must be enjoying themselves very much all together. I do hope that Uncle William wont be thrown out of work it will be very hard if he is? What is Sam doing now? do they have any more boarders than they did? How are you getting along this winter? Is your work very hard? and how do you feel? Are Uncle and Aunt in their usual health? Is Mr. Bell there yet? Remember me to them all and to cousin Alberts people when you see them.

I have received quite a number of calls and try to return them seasonably, have made some very pleasant acquaintances.

With much love
your aff daugh
Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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[*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*]

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[*Attached envelope with printed return address*: “Return to Hallowell Classical and Scientific Academy, Hallowell, Me. If not delivered within 10 days” addressed to:]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]

Hallowell Maine
Apr. 2nd 1876

My dear Mother,

I certainly intended to have written you last week, but I am trying to do all the sewing that I can and keep putting off my letters. I dont know as I explained to you sufficiently about our money affairs. I would help Minnie this year if I could, but do the best that we can it is going to cost us about fourteen hundred dollars to live this year, and I dont see how it can be much less any year while we are here. Our board at home will amount to about $800. Then we have to dress better than we have been obliged to before, the children especially, and the furniture and the books that we have had to have &c. I cant enumerate everything, but as I said before we shall need about $1,400. There is premium on Insurance Policy and giving to benevolent objects. When we came here we owed over $700. We have paid $300 of it, and that is all that we can pay

this year. I dont mean to complain but I want you to understand a little better, that is all, everything costs so much here dress goods dont cost any more than in other places, but it costs so much more to have them made than I have been accustomed to<*o*>. I do all the sewing that I can myself, but I dont suppose that I get so much time as you think. I have three rooms to take care of you know, and I have to keep closer watch of the children, and spend more time in amusing them than if I were in my own house, and I suffer very frequently from nervous headaches which unfit me for anything, <*The princip*> for one or two days at a time. We cant find out what brings them on so often. I am as careful in diet as I can be here. Almon [*Almon Burr*] has about made up his mind that it is something about the air of the house.

Pettie had a very nice letter from Uncle William not long ago. It delighted her very much, he sent a pretty little picture too. The children are having very bad colds, but are some better than they were. Will soon be entirely over them, I hope.

The snow is going, and the river shows some spots of water. I hope that the ice will go out before long, for I do like to see the river.

Dr. J. P. Warren editor of the *Christian Mirror* of this state, spent a sabbath here not long since, he was a college classmate of Uncle Joels, and also knew Uncle John well. He is a Conn. [*Connecticut*] man when he found that I was from Conn, He asked who I was and where I came from, and said "Why I know the Colebrook Grants". It did seem pleasant.

I received the *Congregationalists* that you sent. I read the article and thought that it couldn't be Charlie, and when Almon read it he said that he knew it wasn't Charlie. It doesnt sound like him at all.

Aunt Beach of Lawrence died last week.

Austin has salary of $1200, and parsonage. They are boarding now and rent the parsonage, but expect to go to housekeeping in a month or two I believe. Almon sent them a silver butter dish for a wedding present. Mother Burr sent them a silver cake basket and a [Brouge] clock. [Fannies] Mother and Aunt gave her spoons. I am very glad that Edward [*Edward Burr*] has obtained a situation. Hope that he will like it. I received a letter from him a few days ago. It was a very nice one. When Almon read it he said "How much Edward has improved in letter writing lately." What do you hear from Father now? Are Uncle and Aunt well? Give my love to them and also Cousin Semantha [Binlors] when you see her. how are all her little boys?

With much love

Your aff daughter

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 27 1876

Dear Sister

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They go out riding once every day & sometimes twice.

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

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

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

With love to all I am yours truly,

William Hill

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Hathorne House
Cushing Me [*Maine*] Aug 27th

Dear Mother

The day after tomorrow we expect to leave here for Hallowell [*Maine*] again. School commences on Tuesday the 4th of Sept. I received the package and letter that you sent, and also the postal on Saturday. Thank you very much. I am glad if Aunt Mary was at all benefited by her journey and hope that she will continue to improve. I am very sorry for Uncle John. I wish that he could sell his property well and get out of his troubles.

We are all well, the children have enjoyed their stay here very much. I am afraid they will be homesick when they go back to H.

Almon [*Almon Burr*] has gained ten pounds and says he feels all ready for work again. I weigh 155 lbs. and have not been troubled one bit by neuralgia or rheumatism since I have been here. Edward [*Edward Grant*] did not come, had gone to work again I suppose. We were very sorry for I know that he would have enjoyed it very much and we should have been so glad of a visit with him. They just said that they were going to town so I am hurrying to write this. I am so thankful for this pleasant summer.

<*Over*> We have paid off three hundred dollars this year, the hundred that we borrowed to go to Phila. [*Philadelphia*] and the hundred that we owed Alia with the int. which was $21.00 and one hundred that we owe Mother B. I hope that you are all usually well with much love to all.

Your aff. daugh

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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[*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*]

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Return Hallowell addressed to:
Mrs. Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass. . [*Massachusetts*]
Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
Dec 1st 1876

Dear Mother,

For the last five or six days I have been in a very great rush. Our fall term closed last Monday night and then I was obliged to start the next morning to find a new teacher. Did not get back until right before dark, and I was completely tired out. Yesterday I gave up to rest. We had a very pleasant time here in the house. Felt much more at home than we did last year. Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] and the children have been very well all the fall. My health has also been very good.

I was not in haste to write about Mr. [Marsland?] for I know but little about him. He was in my classes for some time in the [P….] Department Oberlin Coll. He was then a young man of very good ability, active, energetic, and very pleasant in manner. What the last few years have done for him, I know not, but if he has worked hard since I knew him in O. I should think he might be considerable of a man. He was then a very earnest young man. If he has improved as he ought I should prefer him to Mr. H_____. But, remember, I cannot tell much about <*it*>Mr. [Marsland] because I do not know what he is <u>now</u>.

I did not write to Uncle Erastus because <*th*> Mr. Page the man, to whom I should go for money here was away at the Centennial at the time. He was expected back in a day or two, and so I waited before writing to Uncle Erastus, but Mr. Page did not come as expected but was coming soon. Thus it went on for about ten days and then from your letter I judged that there would be no use it was so late. Nor did I have much hope of getting money at that rate for one so far away. I have no property upon which to give security. Nor would I give it <*under*>, if I had. A man of my profession has no business to undersign for any one. I think I will send a line to Uncle Erastus explaining the circumstances of the delay.

Please give my regards to uncle Collar and Aunt Emeline.

Your loving son Almon [*Almon Burr*]

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.

9 Dwight St <*Clayton*>.
New Haven Conn <*Mass*>.
<*Collar*?>

[*Note on envelope:*]
Apr. 1878
Speaks of debt
of their School &c.

Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
Apr. 9th 1878.

My dear Mother,

I am surprised that you did not receive the papers. I sent them at the same time that I sent the letter. They must have been lost. If you wish to send for another *Congregationalist* of that date, I will pay for it – if you will let me know how much. Harold does not wear pants yet, and am not sure whether he will for another year. He wears kilt-skirts with breton jackets now.

Almon [*Almon Burr*] has endured pretty well until now. But he is getting pretty well worn out now, and sees no time for rest. The extra labor and anxiety<*y*> on account of the financial condition of things wears upon him much. You are not very much behind others in learning of it. I have only just begun to tell any one. Edward was the first one to whom I said any thing about it, and I only told father Burr's people in my last letter. I hardly think that the school will be allowed to die, but we cannot tell yet. We have a good number of students and the school stands in the front [yard?]. But no</> school of this grade can be kept<*p*> up on tuition fees, and at the same time carry a debt of $20,000 or more. It seems that the school began burdened with a heavy debt, which has been increasing by the interest & other means. But I would try to explain it to you in this letter. Almon has been writing a circular which the Graduates have signed, as soon as it is printed I will send you a copy. I <u>will</u> also send some "Christian Mirrors<...>" in which are some articles by Graduates & friends of the school. The *Christian Mirror* is the state paper of the Congregationalists "edited by the <*Mr*> Dr. Warren who was a class mate of Uncle [Burrs?]. One article by Dr. [Glasston?] I do not find, but he is to write another, and I will try to send that. [Flag?] money may not be raised, or they may reduce Salarys or teaching force so that we shall not wish to stay. We have no idea yet how things will turn out.

Rev. Mr. Parsons is not coming here, it was to our church that he was called, but it seemed best for him to withdraw.

I had a letter from Mary Shurtleff not long since. She reported herself as much better this year than she was last, says that Mr Shurtleff has gone to New York on the financial agency again. She said that Auntie was with Lavinia found, and that Lavinia would not let her [do?] any work about the house, [since?] so she says "Mother had become a great letter writer" I am glad that Auntie is having some rest. She speaks of William as being in California with the intention of the china [...]

I am glad that Uncle John is unfavorably. With much love to you all

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

[*Faded writing along margins*]

I know nothing about [Christmas...,] children going Ct [...] daughter Betsy is [...] Sister & [...] so <...> [next to nothing?] to him about it, because I think he now wishes he had said that he in [...] much of a [...] [*end of faded writing on salutation side of letter*]
I will send this [...] all [...]. I would like this letter returned sometime. This [...]. Send Congregationalist containing [...] and [...] with [...] both [...] and the missing [of Congregationalists?] Herald who [...] holy [...] just [...] about [...] she stayed [...] but I will send [...] those [Christmas?...] please let me know. [*end of faded writing on other side of letter*]

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

[*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.

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

Flemington N.J. [*New Jersey*]

Jan. 21st 1881

Dear Auntie

I have been sitting here for five minutes trying to think of some way to commence this letter so at last I grew desperate and put down anything. I thank you very very much for the money. It will be a great help if I go back to Hallowell [*Maine*] and I hope I will improve my opportunities and learn something to pay up for all that has been spent on me. I am afraid that I never will know enough to teach but perhaps shall if I try hard enough. It has been storming and blowing very hard all day The trees are all covered with ice and some of the branches are bent down to the ground. They look very beautiful. Lizzie Anderson has been very sick with billious fever but is better now so that she sits up a little while each day. I went in to see her yesterday afternoon. She looks very sick and her hand & arms are so thin and white.

The girls are up in Sophie's room talking away for dear life. Sophie has been here for some time and we shall miss her when she goes away. Allie expects to go with her when she goes home to Phila. [*Philadelphia*]

I expect that Mamma has told you everything that I am telling so it will be rather stale.

It was so slippery and story that I did not go to school this morning. I go for an hour from eleven to twelve every morning. Am taking Cicero & Algegra. I don't like Mr Bahler's teaching very much it is not nearly as thorough as at Hallowell. Don't think I will take more than this term. I wonder if you have heard about my Christmas presents. Papa gave me two dollars and Mama gave me one. Then I had a glove box and some candy and when Allie does to the city she is going to get me two picture to put in some frames that we have. Miss Gast gave me two pretty collars and <*some*> a set of Chinese tangrams made of carved sandal wood. They are beautiful little things. Aunt Hetty gave each of us girls two nice towels and Lizzie gave me a white tie. Think I fared very well don't you? I had such a nice little letter from Carrie Burr [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] several weeks ago. She writes very plainly for such a little girl. I expect to write to Cousin Abbie as soon as I finish this. O I forgot one Christmas present. Uncle Tom Hill sent me an oil painting. one that he painted himself. We went for a walk one morning over to Cape Elizabeth and he made a little sketch of the C. E. lighthouse

[*written across first page*] which we could see was across the water and was'nt I surprised when he sent me the painting from that sketch. Give my love to Ed. I have been all over the house hunting for Mama to see if she has any message to send to you but I can't find her. Give my love to Aunt Emeline and keep a great deal for yourself from your aff. niece

Carrie R. Hill

[*written upside down across top of last page*] Abbie is not going to Phila. because the smallpox is so bad there.

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

Flemington N.J. [*New Jersey*]
July 27, 81

My dear sister,

I think we will take the encyclopedia as first offered & make no change.

I dont understand about the mails. Did you not always have a daily mail to Clayton? & does the N York mail pass your house & does the stage hand it out to you?

No doubt those cashmere dresses will be nice for some one. Perhaps the whole suit of which that sack is a part will be nice for you sometime. Last winter the sacks here were worn quite close fitting.

There does not now seem to be any time to talk with the girls about the dresses (have not shown them that part of the letter) & you need not send any with the flannel which you may send by mail. Send nothing else now. Am glad if you can have the Brocha. I don't see what you can say to Daniel more than you have said -- Say what you will to him -- & he must be his own judge after all. If he can get cured at Eureka Springs I would advise him to stay & be cured.

I forgot to say in the other letter that I think the cans are washed & scalded at the factory. I would ascertain & not do them yourself if unnecessary. Am glad the work is easier & that you

hire. I forgot also to say that aunt Jane gave Abbie $5.00 for her marriage gift. You need not send what she said of visit in New Haven. She told me something of it on Postal & Cornelia wrote about it too. Only the Van Syckels are here just now -- We expect one or two others soon. We are getting along very well. Mary improves & Carrie too I think & Alletta remains about the same. Warren thinks she seems better than 3 years ago.

Two or three weeks ago we recd, a postal from cos. W. Benton who was at Georgetown that if convenient for us he would like to stop & see us a few days -- Should leave his family there. So he came & staid one week -- & left to day for Bordentown to join his wife & daughter whom he expected to also arrive there to day.

We hope & rather expect them all to call here on their way North. Cousin Mary's "Aunt Pierson" lives in Bordentown & <*she had*> cousin Mary had arranged to stay there a few weeks -- but Warren fears it may be too malarious.

Warren is so changed that I would not have known him. About middle of May (I think) he went out to Michagan to his brother John to learn about Western investments. He intended to go much farther West -- but found that he could not be sure of escaping Malaria -- so he staid two weeks with John & then came to Georgetown there to await his wife & daughter who went on after the close of Maries school at Saratoga. I think he was at Georgetown 6 weeks <*before*> in advance of his family.

Fanny Brayley was a little mistaken in regard to the subject of cos. Waren's curiosity. John had written to Warren telling all about Western investments, securities &c. which was what Warren was anxious to know & had made inquiries about -- & he was curious to know if John had heard of that desire & how. But Warren found that John was entirely ignorant of W.'s wishes & had only happened to write the letter at that time.

John is worth about $30,000. He did well at farming which he has now given up & makes money by shrewd investments. John has one son by the first wife & two daughters by the present wife. Son & eldest daughter married. Neither the Son nor son in law is good at getting along. Bertha the daughter at home is 18 or 19 I think & has more taste for painting than for literature. Warren advises "Erastus & Carrie" not to invest in Western Securities through those agents in Norfolk & Winsted especially at those high rates -- says you will lose -- though he says you are safer to have small bonds than large. Says he will not invest without examining securities himself -- But every body cant do that. W. says he expects to find it very hard to get 6 pr. cent in good securities here at the East. Will probably have to take 5% & perhaps 4%. Thinks perhaps he will go West again this winter & invest. The low interest curtails his income too much. He says that although the lawful interest here is 6% yet there

[*Written across third page:*] is so much money to let that it can often be borrowed at 5 pct. by giving good security. He says there never was a better time to borrow money.

Love to Uncle Ed. &c.
Your aff, sister
M.B. Hill

[*Written across first page:*] Cap. Warren says that ten years ago uncle Collar told him that he had $7000.00 (seven thousand dollars) at interest. He cannot be poor.

Your aff sister
M.B. Hill

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[Addressed to] Mr. Daniel Grant
<Mill Brook> Canaan
Litchfield Co. Conn. [*Connecticut*]
E. Law On back of envelope [Care of Edward Grant]

Arkansas City Kansas
August 30th. 1884
Mr. Grant

I seat my self to rite you a few lines to let you know of our situation I am hardly able to go and Charlie has the typhoid intermitent fever and the doctor is tending on him I had to loose My dear husband he died on the 12 of this month and I am left to get a long as best I can with my little Children I cant tell when I can pay you any thing for it Will take ever thing I can make to pay the doctors with I get a dollar a day for my team when it works but we have to live and that costs a rite Smart Mr Law is in the territory and he is going to move down there and he cant see to enything for me and I have to trust to most enybody to get things tended to I would like to hear from you so I may know how long you Will Wait for your pay this from Mrs

Ellen Law

to Daniel Grant

Recd by Mr. B		$215
Grant		487
Grants surplus		272
Payed by Grant Slandleys bill	262	
		10

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[*Addressed to*:] Daniel Grant Esqr
New Marlboro
Mass *[Massachusetts]*

Hartsville Mass
Feb 3d 1891

Daniel Grant --
Dear Sir
I received your letter some time since & in my negligence have neglected to reply until this late date.
As regards prices of shingle, you can sell you deliverd to your place any time before the 1st of Apil as follows
A. No 1 c 18 inch pine shingle for
3.30 per on good ones warranted to be
western 7 inch clear butt from notit sap
A No 2 18 inch sound butt some
western nots for $3.00 per M
A. no 1 domestic shingle, for
$2. 75 some sap on them
If you should conclude to have any of these let me know & I can have them up while we have sleighing before mud time

Yours with Respect
Charles Adsit

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

New Marlboro', Mass. *[Massachusetts]*
Apr. 23, '91

Mr. Plumb Brown
Dear cousin,
Will you be so good as to give your opinion about the prospect of wood land improving in price within say 10 yrs. We would be glad to hear soon as consistent & feel greatly obliged.
Yours truly,
Caroline Grant.
You may if you have a chance speak with Erastus about it. please --
[*In other pen and/ handwriting*:] over

Norfolk, April 28th 1891

My Dear Cousin

I do not see any prospect of improvement in price of woodland in 10 years as <*our*> on the Furnace Co's -- which have been our principal market in the part -- are at present supplied with cheap coal by rail and have thousands of acres of wood growing in the mountains now getting ready to cut The Line Co's are makin an increased demand which seems to be readily supplied at a low price The fact is our Farms are all growing up to bushes and wood which the farmers are selling at about the price of cutting and hauling to market.

Yours Truly Plumb Brown

over

[*On other half first side*] Your letter happened in an unusually busy time for me on the saw mill. I have not had opportunity to see Erastus and my opinion may be very wide of the mark as I am out of business almost -- <*such as it is.*>

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

[*Addressed to*]

Mrs. Caroline Grant,
New Marlborough,
Mass.

[*Printed return address*]

Return to HOLMES & GAY,
WEST WINSTED, Conn.,
If not delivered within 5 days.

RUFUS E. HOLMES. HENRY GAY.
OFFICE OF HOLMES & GAY, AT HURLBUT NATIONAL BANK.

West Winsted, Conn.,
Jan'y. 7th, 1892.

Mrs. Caroline Grant,
New Marlborough, Mass.

Dear Madam:-

We have your letter of the 6th inst., and replying would say that there is in the Bank $100.70 to the credit of Daniel Grant, and $10.60 to your credit.

We are sorry to learn of the death of your husband. The influenza is very prevalent here, and we think that there are three or four persons who have died within twenty-four hours, and two or three others not expected to live.

Yours truly,

[*Signature*] Holmes & Gay

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

[*Addressed to*]

Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Southfield
Berkshire Co.
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*

[*Note on envelope*]

from Abigail E. Grant Burr
Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*
May 29th 1892

My dear Mother,

We were so glad to get a letter from you again It was such a very long time since we had heard, & were glad of all the particulars that you gave, for I have wondered so much how things were going with you & Edward. Will attend to matters of which you spoke, [spoon?], bible &c. I know I shall be glad to have some of the things of which you spoke, [bidding?] &c. Mr. Burr is sick to-day but is keeping quiet, & hopes to be around tomorrow. The children are all as usual, are at church this morning. This is a most beautiful day.

Tuesday we.

Mrs. Emerson came down yesterday to return all her furniture from the house. She could not have come at a more inconvenient time for me, as we are expecting company this week –

Almons classmate – Florence Kellogg & her husband. And the Academy reception comes in two weeks. Commencement company &c. It looks like absolute meanness, because she knows that [theres?] no time to replace things now.
You ask why we cannot pay more rent? Because we cannot afford what she asks. We now pay $20.00 a month & she reserves some rooms We do not feel that we can afford more than $25.00 a month. We have offered that but they want $40.00 a month so that we cannot pay Neither is the house worth it. Every one says that they cannot get it. About Mr. Emerson, no one knows what he thinks she wont let him peep & manages everything herself. I presume if they put the place in decent repair that we would pay $29.00 <*or*> - $35.00 pr year rather than more, but I think from the way Mrs. E. talks that they, would rather let the house be vacant. <*than wait*>
Your second letter enclosing check to be signed came yesterday, have signed as you see & will try not to forget to put it in.
Was glad to see Mary Shurtleffs letter it told me quite a bit of news, as you surmised different from what the girls write.
Adelie Emerson is still here though visiting elsewhere for a few <...> days, will be back with us the last of the week. I think she is improving quite fast now. It has been our intention to have you come back with me when I come home from my visit, & we hope that nothing will happen to prevent it. We expect to have room for you whenever we have to move. I would like to stay here for your sake if we could have the whole house, but as it is now, we could have no room here, for Mrs E will not let me have the large front rooms upstairs, unless we pay $40.00 a month, so we have to move. We feel very much that we must have you with us this winter. The children want it as well as we older ones. About our coming, we shall not all come as we at first planned. I think that plan was given up when Father died. I doubt if Almon comes, & which of the children or whether either I dont yet know.
When would you prefer to have me come? As soon as I can after Commencement? or later? I dont yet know when I <u>can</u> come, but will try to come at at your convenience if possible.
Do not worry about your dresses. We can get dresses [after?] at the house here & it will be much easier to attend to your wardrobe than there.

I was glad to hear a few words about the children, in whom I am always interested.
Arthur & I are looking forward to much pleasure in driving there by & by.
With love to you all

Your aff daughter
Abby

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

[*Addressed to*] Dan'l Grant Esq.

New Marlborough
Mass.

Mrs. S. tells of rec'g money & about investments – also what she does for <u>rheumatism</u>

Oberlin, O. *[Ohio]* Jan. 9th 1890.

Dear Uncle and Aunt,

As Mr. Shurtleff is quite busy – it being just at the opening of the winter term – he wishes me to write you that your letters have reached us, enclosing the draft of $200.90. He wishes me to say that if you would be able to add something to this sum, say within six months, he would find it easier to get a good investment, for a larger sum, and would pay 6% for the money already received, until it would be convenient to add to it. If it is <u>not</u> convenient to send more, he will no doubt be able to place this, in time.

He also says that he would be better satisfied with a farm mortgage as security, at 7%, than city property at 8%, unless the investment were made with great care.

We are very glad to hear that Edward's family are, on the whole, a good deal better, and hope the sad experiences of a year and more past, will not be repeated. You refer to the few things I sent them. I have been wondering if a few things I am have, too small for my own girls, would not be useful. May had a "tam o'shanter" (a sort of turban for head) knit last winter of white

angora yarn. I have washed it and it seems to be about as good as new. We have also white, all wool wrappers and drawers. Would they like any or all of these things?

May does grow stronger as she grows older; is much interested in her studies, and bids fair to be a good scholar. She has been taking music lessons, this year, outside of her work in the Union School, practicing one hour a day. Laura seems to be as well as ever. She joined the Freshman class in the Philosophical course, last fall, and has carried the regular work of the class without difficulty. Her father too, seems to be a great deal better than he was a year ago, so that we feel that we have a great deal to be thankful for.

Mrs. Nichols went home to Grand Island, for a two months visit, last fall, and the baby improved greatly, during her absence, so that he is now a very pretty, promising child. The call him Grant Hurford.

She seems herself to be quite well and happy. I have not seen her or Minnie Hill, since you wrote, but will remember your message to them.

It is getting late in the evening, and I am too tired to write respectably, but I must not forgot to answer your question in regard to my rheumatism. I suspect the medicine I took helped me. It was a mixture of iodide of potassium and silicate of sodium. But the diet I adhered to, and still keep up, probably did more than the medicine. I aim, as much as possible, to take no sugar or starch in my food. Of course I let potatoes alone, and expel the starch from bread by toasting it. Laura sends love, and so would the rest of the family, if present.

Your affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff

Please remember me to Mrs. Pinney, if she is with you.

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

[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
West Norfolk
Conn
Dec 15th 90

Dear Sister & Brother

In regard mineral in the pasture. I live here to get rid of care and work dont think best for me to trouble myself with it. I dont think there is more than 30 acres in the wood lot. Mr Humphrey was apt to set his Compass and look then guess.

Mr Henry Parton of Goshen <of> was very correct every time. I think Mr Cressey has desided it would be best to piece the lot up.

I have decided it would be well for me to have a little wood lot to go for wood as I expect to kep a Horse, if so would like part of yours.

Am very glad you have decided to have Ralph Cressey sell the lot.

Will see R. C. and find out what Mr Grant will do. perhaps I can make some arrangement with Ralph in regard to a piece or what Grant dont take. If you have no objection.

Truly yours
E. Burr

In regarde to the pitch I think Father tride to get hold of it found it to cost more than it was worth I think John Shepard has tried the same thing.

Yours
E. B.

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

[*Crossed out stationary*] *<If not called for in five days, return to*
A.T. HEMINGWAY
Room 57, 204 Dearborn Street,
CHICAGO, ILL.>

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
New Marlboro
Mass

Beloit College
Beloit, Wis. *[Wisconsin],* Feb. 13 1889.

Dear Mother,

I read your letter this Morning. Abby brought it up and opened it, leaving it on my table. I did not look at it as she had opened it and so it has been overlooked for a couple of days.

Enclosed you will find an order on the Express Company for the amt $37.50. I am very glad that we can help Edward out in this way. I wish that we could do more. Our pay comes slowly and it costs us with our sickness &c a good deal to live. I think that Abby has been slowly going. Carrie will be home before long, I think. We are having interesting meetings in the college now. Several have already begun the Christian life and we expect many more will do so.

Austin's health far broken down and he has resigned at Peterboro. I feel somewhat anxious about him.

Harry seems to be taking hold of study this winter better than usual. He is studying Latin. I am very anxious that he should begin the Christian life, He seems afraid to go near the meetings.

I think of Edward very often. We always remember him at our morning prayers and you & father also. I will try to write Edward. With much love

Your [affectionate?] son
Almon

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

[*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

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[*Stationary in upper right-hand corner*] Return to
G.W. SHURTLEFF,
Treasurer of Oberlin College,
OBERLIN, OHIO
If not delivered in Five Days.

Mrs. Caroline Grant
New Marlborough
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*

Oberlin. O. *[Ohio]* Aug. 16th '89

Dear Aunt Caroline,

It is some time since we exchanged letters, and I hardly remember which wrote last, but you are often in my thoughts and I would very much like to know how cousin Edward and family are getting along.

As for ourselves, Laura continues quite well, and her father has been able to do his usual work, except during a week's time, when he was laid aside with serious bowel trouble. His health, however, is poor, and I greatly fear that he is overworking, and will find himself obliged to give up so responsible a position.

I inquired the other day in regard to that investment of yours, and Mr. S. tells me that he has one now, paying 7 1/2% interest, which he can make over to you, but he has hopes of doing better, of getting 8%, and perfectly good security. The time has been so long since you sent the money, that I thought I would write you how the matter stood. You will get 7% on the money from the time Mr. S. received it till the bond is made out to you. If you prefer to have the investment Mr. S. already has on hand, please write, and he will have it made over to you immediately.

You will be glad to hear that my brother Edward's children Grace and Mary, have been with us a month past, and will stay a week longer. Grace, as I presume you know, is somewhat lame, as a result of inflammatory rheumatism when a child. But she is a fine scholar, good performer on the piano, and of so happy a disposition that life seems a great boon to her not

withstanding her infirmity. Mary is also a bright and happy child. I can well believe that Edward is very happy in his family.

Please remember me with love and sympathy to your Edward and his wife. My love also to Uncle Daniel.

Your affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff

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[*Stationary in upper right-hand corner*] G.W. SHURTLEFF & CO.
MORTGAGE INVESTMENTS.

Oberlin, O., *[Ohio]* Dec. 26, 1889.

Dear Uncle,

The papers in the Bolles loan are received, also your letter of the 10th. You may if you choose, send the $200, you refer to, and I will invest it as soon as I can do so, safely, allowing you, meantime, 6% interest. I shall doubtless be able to invest it for one year, at 8%, very soon. I have a loan of $143, running two years, on which I could allow you 8%. Should I fail to secure a good $200 loan, I will assign this one to you, and give you my note for the balance. I would not let the money lie idle.

With regard to Mr. [C.?] Knox, I would say, he is regarded as a very shrewd business man, but not a safe and conservative investor. You ask why I do not go further west. I have investigated that subject very carefully, having traversed western Kansas, with this in view, and I reached a very clear judgment that investments there are unsafe. Western Nebraska is much safer and yet investments there, must be made with great caution

Yours very sincerely,
G.W. Shurtleff

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[*Addressed to*:] Mrs Daniel Grant
New Marlborough
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*

Flemington NJ *[New Jersey]* Oct 30 1888

Dear Sister

Your last letter made me feel somewhat ashamed of my long silence but I thought you were getting most of the news from the others -- I have been for a little over a month here in McEmery's office looking after the collection of the accounts on the Books amounting to something over 14,000 Dollars. Have sent out last week over 200 statements, and people have been coming in lately to pay, and see about their accounts. It feels like old times to be writing and adding up the accounts --

Have a very pleasant office, and a man they have here looks after the fires. sweep out &c-

I get 35 Dollars a Month for my services and come here at 1/2 past nine, have an hour or a little more for dinner and quit at 1/2 past 4 At first came up evenings for an hour but since selling out the Lumber Yard, only come occasionally when one of the Executors want to see me. My health has been quite good this fall and rheumatism much less than last spring & summer and am feeling the good effect of my long rest last July. How I did enjoy it and would very much liked to have made it two months instead of one --

Allie came home from Phila Monday -- was there about 2 weeks having a good rest and visit. Did not have the children with her as we thought the rest would be better if she had not them to care for --

Chalmers went down Saturday noon taking the two children with him and they returned as stated - Al was also in N York for a week some time ago and Sophie with her --

We get along comfortably with the [Sulphin's?] thus far -- though we cannot find any regular help. we can get good help by the day -- for ironing cleaning sweeping &c -- Have had to churn 3 o 4 times a week lately until this week, this week we have sold 30 or more quarts of cream --

The apple crop has been very good here this fall -- one man near town had about 2000 bushels and Mr [Hulsizer?] went up home and picked apples for us. we get them for 40 c a bushel and his Father gave him 2 o 3 bl for the children --
Politics are the chief excitement here at present and we will all be glad when it is over -- The Democrats in this County are very much divided on County Officer, and, 2 o 3 times lately we have beaten them -- we have some hopes of Harrison & Mortons election but can bear the disappointment if it comes --
Have had a very unusually wet fall and it has been hard work to do anything on the ground, We are almost through with fall cleaning, and Aunt H is looking forward to a visit to Vineland to see the new boy baby there. Will probably be away several weeks --
Am sorry to hear of Edwards long continued sickness. It must be a great trial and loss to him Hope he will have no more fall backs and eventually be able to make up the lost time. was glad to hear that he had some pecuniary help from some source -- When you see any of them give them my love & sympathy -- We are all sorry that we are to lose Mrs Anne Pierce, as a neighbor. She goes to New York with her sister Julia, and there will be more of the family at the old homestead. Of late years she has been a very fine and pleasant woman -- Her knee is still somewhat weak & stiff yet so that it is some trouble to go up & down stairs --
We picked some pretty roses this morning and our Chrysanthemum are just opening nicely
All Mr Emerys children will Miss the old home. They came here every summer to put up their fruit and they are packing now barrel after barrel of canned fruit for the different families They will divide most of the household foods so that there will be but little of it sold at public sale --
Am sorry to hear that you are so weak & miserable and advise you to take life as easily as possible as you have earned the right to rest and should do as much as you can --
Our new Furnace works very nicely and it is very little trouble to take care of the main thing is the ashes -- Do you still keep your cow or have you decided that it was more of a chore than a luxury -- Tell Uncle D, to take care of himself and not to forget to keep the stove warm this winter
Laye Democrat meeting to be here this afternoon & Fred Douglas speaks here tomorrow evening --

[*written at head of first page*] All the folks except myself were at church entertainment to raise Missionary funds -- Gleaners were the active parties and the attendance was good. Have not heard how much they took in --

Affectionately yours
W Hill

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Daniel Grant
New Marlboro
Massachusetts

Norfolk [*Connecticut*] Aug 8, 1887

My dear Cousin

I have been appointed to act as an E in the Scheme for the Endowment at Hadley. and as I know you took a great deal of interest in the place I thought perhaps you would like to act as an F.

You fill find by blank that you are to get 12 persons to give 25 cents and then send the $3.00 to A. (whose address is on the blank) with the blank having your name and address on it. Your 25 cents you send to me and I sent it to A. with the three others that I get. I hope you will take this but if you cant please sent the blank back as I shall have to find some one else.

We are all pretty well Mabel has not been very well but is better now. The men are very busy haying, the weather has been rather discouraging for hay makers. I hope we shall have some good weather now. Yesterday and to day have been just perfect before it has been too hot to breath hardly. I hope you are well and reached home all right. We were so glad you came to see us.

If I have not made it plain or you dont understand it in any way let me know and I will try to explain more fully. hoping to hear soon

I remain yours lovingly
Sadie Brown

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Bittersweet [*New Jersey*]

9 -- 11 -- 87

Dear Aunty,

It is a long time since I have written you The days have been so full with housecleaning, sewing and the thousand and one nameless things that after all must be looked to if the house machinery is to run smoothly.

This has been a rainy day and the house has seemed so very quiet as Allie took Sophie and Will to Bloomsbury on Thursday and yesterday Chalmers joined them

All coming home to-morrow. Aunt H. has been in Phila [*Philadelphia*] and is now in Vineland Returns next week

So you see our family numbers four Father, Carrie, Mr Warren, and myself

I received two "Woman's Journals" from Aunt Jane yesterday I will try to acknowledge them soon

Hope we may soon hear from you Has Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] returned to Beloit [*Wisconsin*]? We are all sorry that she has not come here

There is an item that I have had on my mind to tell you Think I have not mentioned it Aunt Hetty gave me her black silk for my birthday present It has been made over and in a very handsome dress and I think it was very good and kind of her to give it. Before Mrs [Sutphin?] left she insisted on giving Carrie and me Each five dollars with my five I helped to pay for the making of the silk Carrie puts hers into a new blue cashmere which Mr [Cornet?] is to buy this week I am glad to say that I need no new cloth or cashmere dress

We did not really finish cleaning until this last week because we needed sewing done and stopped to do it However we had only left Pantries and back porch, the rest all being finished before Thanksgiving

Chalmer's Father and Mother spent that day with us and after they had gone home we went to an Entertainment in our Chapel given by the Mission Band to which we belong Tuesday Eve of this week the "Hill Memorial" Band (named for Mama) give a supper in the Chapel. We are going to give cream and we are to help Lizzie Anderson Hyde make cocoa nut kisses for them tomorrow A. M. So it is first one thing and then another

I do often wish you could see Sophie and Will but they are noisy and you would not like that children How are Eds little girls? Of course the baby walks and talks now Give my love to them all which means Ed & Lucy also.

What has been done about the acct book What has Mr. Cowles to say for himself? Rather strange for a banker to make so many mistakes Carrie wishes to use a little of her money

But would rather know how much she has in Savings Bank before sending for it So if it is convenient will you write her how matters stand very likely you have not been able to attend to it yet If so you could tell her on a Postal I must go to bed A busy day tomorrow Do write and let us know how you are getting on

With love to Uncle Daniel

Affectionately
Minnie H.

We still milk seven cows sell cream and butter get 30 cts for butter now
You may return this please

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

Mass

Bolton, Nov. 26 1887 (Sat A.M.)

My Dear Niece,

Thanksgiving being over & having a little leisure I will endeavor to answer your last letter to me dated in Oct. answering my Enquiries in regard to treatment of a cancer. Thank you for the information you gave. I immediately called on the neighbor & told her about the copperas application & she tried it but it caused so much pain that she gave up using it. She cannot bear any outward application but takes something to purify the blood. I think she is quite comfortable & does her own work & is very careful not to over Exert herself. I have been hoping to hear from you Even if I did not answer your last. I presume your daughter & child have returned to Wisconsin & I hope were rested & improved in health. I want to hear all about her & family as well as about yourself & family. I know you have many letters to write & many cares & much to do. I am glad for you all that your daughter could come onto visit you & now you must be behind with your work. We are just as busy as Ever. Sam. came home Thanksgiving & we all went up to "Grandpa Haynes" to dinner but did not stay to supper as Amory needed to come home & take care of the cows & hens it would be very dark driving in the Evening. Sam returned to Boston Friday morning. He is well & likes there still. Last evening (Friday) I went over to Berlin with our minister & wife and a neighbor to hear Mrs Mary Livermore Her theme "My Dream of tomorrow"

She was intensely interesting & was intensely clapped. I felt well paid for going 4 or 5 miles in a dark misty night (though not cold) to hear her eloquent addressThe audience listened breathlessly with deepest interest for an hour & half & then she said she had just glanced at the possibilities of the further <*possible ties*> generations as civilization increased & mechanical art & morality & christiainity & humanity &c &c I cannot tell you much about it. It was worth hearing. Now while I think of it I want to know if you have received the Woman's Journal dated Nov. & how many. An offer was made Nov 19 that any subscriber might send in 5 names & they would send the Journal free till 1st of June .88. I sent in 5 names yours among them, Since then I have had several Extra numbers sent me from the W. Journal office, so I dont know but they have sent the papers to me for me to remail them to those I named & to whom I pleased If you have received a paper I should like to know it as soon as may be <*If you have*> & what dates. I hope if you think it advisable you will let your ministers family see the paper Minister you will see can have the paper till 1889 for $1.50 & some others are specified as being favored. I have always paid $2.50 a year & considered the money well spent. I find this Evening that no more Extra members have come to me so I presume those whose name I mentioned will receive the paper mailed from their office the Extra numbers sent me are dated Nov. 5th & 19th If you have not received those numbers I can send them to you I fear you have so much reading on hand so much to do that you can't spend time to read them but perhaps you may know some one that might like to see them & know what is doing. Very likely some of us will go down to the Bazaar commencing <*Nov*.> Dec. 12th & continuing all the week. Last year Mary & Bessie went down & staid all the week I think Hired a room & took their meals out

We are not all quite fitted up for the winter yet, We, Mary & I have new bonnets Mary a felt & I a velvet. Sue & Mollie Each a felt hat Bessie will probably get a hat <*this*> next week. I am to have a new shawl Expected to have it today sent for it but it did not come but will be here Monday. The girls all have to be fitted up anew with out side garments as well as dresses so you may imagine we are quite busy. I have had a sink & pump put in to my room where the old sink was. I find it very convenient to have the water in the house. Cost about $25. Mary prompted me to having it done <*I find it a*>

A double Tablet was placed on our burying lot last week. The inscription on one reads John J Wallis died June 6 1887 aged 76 & 4 months The other part is not lettered.

<*The lot*> It came from Boston. It is a light grey marble & cost $70. We expected it in the early part of October. It came so late that I shall not be able to have the lot wholly fixed up this fall. It will probably cost $25. or 30 to have it nicely prepared. The tablet is satisfactory to us well as the price. Thanksgiving day I thought of you & wondered where you were spending the day as you were at home last year & had something of a family gathering. I presume you were not at home this last Thanksgiving. I shall be glad to hear all about yourself family & friends. Our Minister Mr. Isaac Porter has a brother out in Kansas City who has made a great deal of money

by buying & selling land. He bought some land for the purpose of farming & the grasshoppers ruined his crops so he sold his land at quite an advance for house lots the purchaser sold the same for a still greater advance too & so on. He is one that happens to be fortunate in his speculations I presume he had very little to loose when he went out there but had a head for business. I have heard nothing from New Haven friends since you wrote me so you must inform me of them. I sent to have a paper sent to Cornelia I mean a W. Journal the same as to you & I hope she will get it. If you dont care for the one that is sent to you & no one about there cares to read it you might sent it to Flemington friends They may like to see it. Our desire is to get the good seed scattered as much as possible. I sent in the name of our own minister & Mr Stone & a neighbor, one to [Halyme?] one to New Haven one to South Carolina & should have liked to name others.

Mon. Evening I had four shawls sent me from Clinton which a merchant had sent to Boston for me to select from. They are black cashmere which is not just the kind I sent for. I wanted a later style which they did not send. I may not have liked it any better the price of these is from $6 1/2 to $10. I shall take the $10.00 one It is a large fine heavy shawl.

I hope I shall hear from you soon, & that you are well We are all well. It has rained here all the afternoon & is still raining this I presume it is the same with you. Next week the High School is to give an Entertainment Sue & Mollie as well as the other scholars have been preparing for it some time & will continue their preparation up to the time that its to come off

They have a new upright Piano costing $450. Sue is to be the player but Mollie & two other girls are to play duetts.

S. J. Wallis [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

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Boston Apl 23, 85 Thurs. PM.

Dear Carrie,

Your letter containing the check lay in the office from Sat. night till Tues. morning after the Express had gone <*So I wrote to*> I usually get them in proper time which is next day after being mailed from your place or rather evening but this time it happened not to be handed out. So I wrote immediately to the Charles Town Bank asking if the business could be done by writing & told them I had the check & would send it if I knew it would be right. I also asked if it was necessary for some one to go with it. If I should write underneath the order you gave me Pay to Mrs. Mary Glayrus L.J. Wattis & the answer was I could mail it and by endorsing on the back pay to the order of Ano. Thom Treasurer of the C. Bank & he would send me the Bank book by mail or I could send the Order by my daughter endorsing it. I told him of the delay of the letter in the P. Office & asked if I sent it the 23 if it would not go on in trust as though it were there the day before. His answer was it would not. I will send you the letter. I don't know now whether this Book would be made out in my name or yours. I had supposed that when the first deposit was made the person must be there to sign their name to some article &c but after words could make any additions.

The Franklin Bank is the only Bank in Boston I think that deposits commence drawing interest after the third Wed in April until July. If deposits are made by the first day of May, they will draw interest from that time. Dividend days first day of August & February at four percent. It nearly $4,000 000 on deposit & is considered a <u>sound</u> Bank. There are only two Banks in Boston that those are the Charles Town which has over $2 500 000 on deposit & the Eliot which has over 1,600 000 on deposit, The Provident has over 25,000 000 & Pays but 3 percent. The Suffolk has nearly 18,000 000 & pays 3 ½ per cent. Thre are 168 Savings Banks in Mass & only 20 pay 5 percent the highest they are allowed to pay by law. The amount of Deposits in the [S. Ben] Mass is $262. 720. 147. I see by the Commissioners report on Savings Bank that the Springfield Institution for Savings has over eight million on deposit & pays 2 per cent semiannually was incorporated in 1827, dividends declared in Jan. & July. It does not mention what days.

I write you about the Springfield Insti for Savings thinking you might prefer to have me endorse the check back to you & you send it to the Spring. & have the Book made out to you

direct. Now there is time for you to write & tell what I shall do under the circumstances. We will be sure & send to the office morning & evening.

We have money in the Banks in Boston I have mentioned $ consider them safe. Now if you still wish to have the check sent to the Charles town S.B. & have it go on interest the third Weds in July I will either send it by mail or Mary will go in with it & will give you the four dollars for the loss of interest for the three months. If you wish to have it deposited in the Franklin in just one week from today we will get it there if possible. The Banks that pay the best interest are considered the safest, generally Franklin pays 4 percent. It was quite unexpected to receive a check to be deposited in a Bank. Now I will give the reasons for net getting it in due time. It was delayed in the office so long that we should have to start the next morning as we were not sure that it could be done by writing. I wrote by return mail hoping that one day would make no difference. I was not feeling very well & it seemed to me that I could not go to Boston that particular Wednesday. Amory's father's and mother's Golden Wedding occurred. Mr. W. & myself were invited & all other family & they staid till after 11 Oclock at night. I did not feel like going up there, I felt great langor & lay on the bed a good deal. Mr. W. concluded not to go & so happened that particular night our evng mail was left in Boston. So if the Treasurer had written that we could make the deposit on the 23 instead of the 22 could not have got the letter in time to send it in the morning as the evng mail was left behind & did not arrive till too late to go or send. I am sorry things worked round so. Now I think there will be time for you to write & say what is best to be done. You will recollect that that the last day for depositing in the Franklin B is the first day of May. Now after all I have written invest your money as you think best ,

SJW

[*added sheet*]

I meant to have got this in the afternoon mail but failed. Perhaps I can have time to give you some reasons for my lack of confidence in Western investments from our experience. Edwin came on from the West in the summer of .39 with the purpose of collecting up what was due him in Milford & vicinity & intended to go West the next spring but he found it very slow work to collect & could not & did not collect any considerable. He was not well but was able to attend to business till about two weeks of his death. He left out in Illinois or Indiana with a man he used to be acquainted with & in whom he had confidence $200.0. & over I think I do not now remember just the amount & took the note of two men in partnership doing a large business & living in good style & left $30.0. or more with another in business & in good standing. Mr. W. went on from Mass. To collect it. Sheets & Grover were worth nothing. They were doing business but had no property of their own. He could not get one cent nor even a nights lodging or meal of victuals. I think he made out to get $100. of the $300. Edwin lent $500 & took a mortgage on some property New York State which a Lawyer professing to know all about assured him was perfectly good. We could not get one cent of it.

He lent $2000 or more to a very clever industrious man who had a rich partner & had a right to give a partnership note & beside a well off father & father-in-law. He died but I think he settled up with his partner making provision to have that note paid. That partner went to scheming how he could get out of paying. It was quite expensive to us but he got somebody to go & testify wrongly & he managed around so that he got out of paying of f & that man united with the church at the same time I did. Mr. W. left some [demand] with a man we considered perfectly honest to collect as he had opportunity as he was in a store & would be in the way of seeing people & he was to have the use of the money without interest for doing it. Mr. Went clear up from Maryland to settle up what he could & to get what was collected. That man had money collected but would not pay it over to him without a bonus. I don't remember how much . He was Deacon of the Church to which I belonged. I know you will say it was not on real estate security, but to have real estate securities collected costs & it has to pass through various hands who don't work for nothing. I don't suppose I have given everything exact.

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Boston Apl 29, 1885, Wed. P.M.

Dear Carrie,

I received your letter mailed 28 this morning desiring me to endorse & send the check to Edward & I have done so & directed it just as you said & I showed it to Mary to see that it was all right & she pronounced it rightly done according to your directions. I hope he will received it safely & in due time. I attended to that special business immediately so as to be sure & have it go by return mail. That was all I had time to do after receiving it before dinner. Now I am writing very hurriedly endeavoring to get this to the office in time to go out by the same mail which closes I think by half past two. You need not worry that you gave me any trouble about depositing what you sent for I would gladly have done it, but did any thing ever happen so? If I had received the letter in proper time I should have got the money in the Bank. If I had known certainly that the Bank would not have yielded one day, I would have gone and if I had known that it could have been done by writing I should have sent it. Perhaps it is just as well as it is. I don't see why you cannot send money to the Charlestown bank or any other & have it put to your account & have the Book sent you by mail. When ever I have taken out a Bank Book I have had to sigh something so I supposed the person must be there to do it. I don't know any thing about the Western Bonds you speak of I hope they are all safe. With my present opinion I prefer to have what little I have in the good safe Banks of Boston of long standing if I don't get but 3-3 ½ 4 & the highest 5 <*wh*> I do not deposit in the small Banks around here, they may not be sound.

I should not be afraid of the Springfield Institution which was incorporated in 1827 & has $8 000 000 on deposit in it. After the experience we had had in collecting in the West & elsewhere I felt it to be my duty to caution you about investing way off where it might be very expensive collecting it even if you should eventually succeed in getting some of it, which I consider very doubtful. My advice still is put it into the substantial Savings Banks of this state Provident, Suffolk, Warren, & others. Now I feel that I have done my duty & I expect you to act on your own judgement & perhaps you will have enough to carry you through life. From all I read I have no faith in Western investments. We read yesterday that the Banks had a great amount of money on deposit & they don't choose to go into land speculation or grain speculations & that is one cause of the dull times, I presume Charlestown was not at all anxious to have that deposit made as they probably had all they knew what to do with. Some Banks have said to me "I would rather you would take out rather than put in." This is what keeps interest in them so low. It is so hard to invest it safely. They of course must know about the want of money in the West & elsewhere. I have not time write more not to look over what I have written cannot send photograph this time. Sam went to Boston Monday but don't know how long he will stay. The cousin who thought he should want him concluded not to enlarge his business as he expected to as business continues to dull. Don't worry about me I am feeling pretty well. It is rainy day a week ago was very warm & a faint feeling day for me & I did not feel like making the effort to go to the Golden Wedding besides I do not think very highly of them. It all passed off pleasantly.

With much love & in great haste Write often thank you for the letter you sent from the niece as well as your own.

S.J. Wallis

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[Attached envelope addressed to:] Mrs. Daniel Grant
New Marlboro
Berkshire Co.
Mass.

Boston, May 9, .85 (Sat. morning)

My Dear Carrie, I was very glad to know of the timely receipt of my <*to*> letter & what it contained to Edwd & it was thoughtful in him to desire you to inform me of it, which I presume you would have done had he not have mentioned it. I was rather glad on the whole not to have the responsibility of depositing it. Especially as you could not make up your mind to have less than 5 prct interest. I mentioned the Charlestown Bank among the good ones & I think it is so considered.

Mr. Wallis said before I thought of writing you that he thought Charlestown bank one of the best Banks & he has considerable in it & Mary & I have more than $300. in it. But the very fact

of its giving 5 prct interest & only one other in the city gives as much lessens our confidence in it. Still it may be perfectly sound & we let ours remain it, but add no more to it. A few years ago there was a “run” upon it & it was feared it might not stand it. It did but skipped three dividends & it may now be endeavoring to make up for the losses then sustained to the depositors. Now I have written all this so that if here after you choose to deposit in this Bank on account of the 5 prct you will do it on your own responsibility & not on mine. The Boston Banks are in good standing now. A few years ago there was quite a commotion among some of them especially those that had been paying the highest interest but there never was any fear about the Provident, Suffolk, Warren, Institution for Savings & some others & more of these skipped dividends while quite a number skipped dividends some of them thru which would be a year & a half interest. None failed in those trying times, but interest has not been so high since then I think. I used to get 6 & 7 percent in some of the Banks but now they are not allowed by law to give over 5 prct. But they can declare an extra dividend once in 3 or 5 years I think, & the Provident has which brings the interest considerable in the long run although yearly it pays the least interest of any Bank 1 ½ prct semiannually but it is considered the very safest & has the the greatest amount on Deposit $25,000,000.

In regards to Western investments in order to get higher interest it does seem to me to be running a great risk even with a guarantee. I suppose if there were any delinquency in the payment, it would be necessary for you to attend to it at once & use all legal means to secure it or your guarantee would avail nothing & it would be attended with great expense perhaps. An endorser of a note is sometimes exempted from responsibility because there was lack of promt & leagal means taken to collect the note. I have no doubt but there is something to be made by some in Western investments who understand about it but you have got to do business through others which is expensive. Now it seems to me as there are so many good sound Savings Banks in Mass. It would be the easiest & safest way to deposit in different ones of the soundest & take the little interest they give all free of expense & if that is not enough to supply your wants use some of the Principal why not? You have labored to get it to use why not use it? & not risk it in Western speculations. I should rather have something than nothing & you are not sure of getting anything after it has once got out there. I don’t <*mean to*> advise to put it into the little Banks around the country but where they have several millions on deposit and can stand a loss & not break them. Springfield Institution for Savings with over $8,000000 on deposit Incorporated 1827 John B. Thibbins Pres. Henry S. Lee Treasurer Div. Days Jan. & July. Springfield Five Cent S Bank Incorporated 1854 with less than two millions on deposit. I should not have so much confidence in that as in the one with $8 000 000 & it no more interest. The Hampden S.B. in Springfield Incorporated 1852 has less than $ 2 000 000 on deposit & gives 2 prct sem<*m*>i annually as the others do. Div. Days 15 Feb & August.

Great Barrington S.B. Incorporated 1869 with less than 272,000 ^ rather small Bank on deposit 2 prct semi annually Div. Jan. & July. I have undertaken to write a list of some of the substantial Banks in Boston. I have not mentioned all of them but I guess enough. I didn’t know but Edward took up his Bonds you might be thinking about depositing in some S. Banks so I thought I would do my duty & write this once more & then stop whatever course you take in any of the large S. B. you can get the money any time and without delay of collecting any amount you would be likely to put into one. $1.000 is the largest amount that can be deposited in any one S.B. & it can remain till amounts to $1600. I hope now I shall stop writing about your investments & deposits but I did hate to have your hard earned & savings go in a similar way to much of brother Edwins. There is a place in Boston where loans are offered on real estate in Kansas at 6 prct interest & other investments in railroads & all sorts of things. I should as soon throw my money in the fire as to put it there. If you want to risk it you must remember I don’t advise you to deposit in any of the small S. Banks. It is where they have several millions on deposit.

Perhaps I have said more than I need to in favor of Saving’s Banks but we find it the easiest & safest way for us to do. We may loose but we are afraid to invest in any other way. We rather get along on less & feel easier. I am glad we have not a farm on our hands to labor over.

[List enclosed]

List of Savings B. in Boston

Boston Five Cent Savings Bank, Boston Incorporated in 1854
President Alonso H. Evans
Curtis C. Nichols Treasurer
Deposits $11,742 372.42
Rate & amount of each semiannual dividend for 1884, 2 prcnt 2 prcnt
Dividend days Second Wed. in Apl & Oct. I suppose money deposited 3 months before dividend days will draw interest from that time as is the rule with all the Banks I think

Charlestown Five Cent Savings Bank Boston, Incorporated in 1854 P. G. stone President
Amos Stone Treasurer.
Deposits $2 631,546.68
Rate of each semi annual dividend for 1884 2 ½ 2 ½ pr cent Dividend days 3d weds in Apl & Oct.

Warren Institution for Savings
Boston. Incorporated in 1829
Timothy T. Sawyer Pres.
George F. Tufts, Treasurer
Deposits $5,343 358.73
Rate of semi annual div. For 1884 2 – 2 prct
Times for dividends 3re Wed Apl & Oct.
Eliot Five Cent Savings Bank. Boston
Incorporated Feb 4, 1864
Wm C. Appleton, Pres. George C. Leach Treas.
Deposits $1,638,800.35
Rate each semiannual div. 1884 2 ½ 2 ½
Dividend days second Wed Apl & Oct.
Institution for Savings in Roxbury Boston
Arthur W. Tufts, President
Edward Richards Treas. Incorporated 1825 Deposits $3,311,823.56 Semiannual div 1884, 2. 2. prct Div. Days 3d Wed in Ap & Oct.
Other Banks in Boston
Franklin Incor 1861 Henry Whittimore nearly $4,000 000 on deposit div days <F*i*>Feb 1st & Augst

There 16 S.B. in Boston but I guess I have mentioned enough.

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[printed letterhead] The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co.
Hartford, July 3 18 85

Alfred T. Richards
General Agent

Daniel Grant Esq.
New Marlborough Mass

Dear Sir,
Before your payment in 1886 comes due we will inform you what the company will [d …] relating to your policy.

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[printed letterhead] Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co.,

Hartford, July 15th 18 8[?]

Alfred T. Richards, Genl. Agent
Room 16 Company's Building

Mr. Danl Grant
New Marlboro, Mass.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 13th has just been received. In reply to same beg to say that the Compy. will give you a "Paid up Policy" (which will be a Participating one) for $851. and return your note also for $84. Your payment this year is $38.78, as per card enclosed. Less, somewhat than last year. As to your point about compound interest on your money, that is beside the question altogether. The company undertook to run the risk of your dying at any moment. You did not die bur scores of men who went in at the same time as you have died, long before they had paid in anything like the sum of money their families drew out. Now, if you had been so unfortunate as they, we should have had to have done the same thing by your family. If you had known you were going to live 25 years you would not have insured. But there is just where Insurance comes in. It is to protect somebody against your untimely death. Not to compound your money. The man who insures his buildings every year, if he knew they would not burn, would put his money at compound interest. The Compy. Has kept your life protected for 25 years and now offer you a paid up policy for about the whole money you have paid in, i.e. less the Dividends. My advice would be to hold on to as good and cheap Insurance as any in this world.

Very truly yours
Alfred T. Richards

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