Subject: Child Rearing

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

Waukesha (Prairieville) [*Wisconsin*] Aug. 15 Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve / 47.

My dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters.

I do not recollect the date of your last letter to us. but I remember that we received it soon after Joel [*Joel Grant*] left us. You wished us to write often as consistent — I did not write immediately on the reception of your letter, thinking that Joel seeing you would remove the necessity of it — & I can give no other reason for delaying thus long only that I have been so busily engaged through the week that I have not taken the time.

We have been usually well until last Monday when Daniel had a violent attack of chill fever — he went to work <*at a*> in the morning about half a mile cutting wheat — at noon came home sick I gave him an emetic, soaked his feet put drafts upon them. & he took some cathartic pills — but as the violence of the symptoms did not seem to abate we called a physician Tues. eve of the homopathic order — his medicine seemed to have a very good effect — he has had no chill to day & has set up most of the time — we think if he is careful he will be able to be around in a few days — at work a little —

It has been exceedingly dry here this summer & considerable sickness prevails now, fevers of various kinds, mostly bilious & chill & some ague — I take medicine occasionally <*to prevent sickness*> when I have bad feelings — have felt much better this summer than I did last.

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] is now getting some of her teeth — the eye teeth have just come through — has had bowel complaint some, but not very bad. she grows tall, does not lose flesh — has been quite lonesome since we moved into our new house — wh. [*which*] by the way was two weeks ago — it is still unfinished as you will suppose — Abby sometimes gets her bonnet & says

I must go home. where is home. I want go meeting — want go walk Chandlers (one of our new neighbors before we moved) want to see Anny (Anty).

Mamma call Libby — call Annette — Papa you get pussy — she will sometimes get a little pail & hang on her arm & say I must go milk cow. Papa you eat medicine?

I mention so many of her expressions because some of you wish to know what she says. — she seems passionately fond of a cat & dog — we have neither but are going to get a kitten for her —

Aug. 21. Sat. eve. When I commenced this sheet nearly a week ago I intended it should be on the way to you before this. but I have been partly sick two or three days this week but have taken medicine & am now well. I have <*I have*> also been trying to finish a fine shirt wh. [*which*] I am making for the dentist who filled my teeth I had three cavities filled with gold, six with tin & four teeth extracted for wh. [*which*] the charge is $6.75. I have made two coarse shirts & the most of three fine ones for which I shall charge $3. I expect to sew more still for him —

Daniel's health continues to improve a little — he has gone to Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] to day for a man who has drawn some lumber for us this summer D [*Daniel*]. thinks perhaps he may teach again this winter — we do not expect to have more than one room in our house plastered this winter —

We still have the use of the garden that we planted — wh. [*which*] we find quite a help — Our cow does tolerably well this summer — we had it pastured — Mr. Caufield who has boarded with us this summer expects to go east next week, so that we shall be alone again for the present wh. [*which*] I expect to enjoy — though we have not found it unpleasant to have him with us — he pays us $1.50 per week in flour, store pay & work on the house — I do his washing for 50 cts. [*cents*] doz. — do not know exactly how much his board costs us, but we lose nothing — he does not drink tea or coffee nor eat meat — prefers graham bread. <u>we</u> have got into the habit of eating it & Daniel thinks it is much better for him than fine flour —

The dried apples that I brought from home are are almost gone — they have been of great use to us — we have bought a few berries this summer strawberries & raspberries sold for 5 & 10 cts. [*cents*] qt. blueberries 6 cts. [*cents*] & gooseberries 4 — last spring we set out about 100 currant & smooth gooseberry <*plan*> sprouts — but the season has been so extremely dry that a good many of them will die —

Have had no letter from Mary since June — I do not know where she spent this summers vacation, conclude not at home.

Give my love to sister Nancy & Erastus tell them we should be very happy to have them write to us — I did intend to write to them long before this time but it has not seemed to be consistent — hope they will excuse us. — I was very glad to hear from my friend Sarah Sibly Alling — have rec'd [*received*] & read with great interest the Memorandum Catalogue — also the Annual — [*from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary?*]

Give my love to all relatives & friends — Rec'd [*received*] letter from Mother Grant soon after Joel left us — have heard nothing from any of them since — feel very anxious — expected Joel would write soon after his arrival there — but we shall not wait much longer before writing to them — am anxious to know how the [...] Ma gets along with her work — is the <*old*> house comfortable? — hope Ralph is not at Mr John Shepherd — I do not think a tavern is <*the right*> a good place for him to be. I fear he will acquire bad habits —

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

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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*]

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

My dear mother & sister

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours affectionately

Mary B Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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

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

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

Cheese now retails here at 16 cts per lb – and not very plenty at that – How do potatoes sell with you – here they are worth 237 ½ per bu – We have been getting up a car load of man [*manure*]

100 bu to try on potatoe crop and a little to top dress land (grass) – Cost about 15 cts. per bushel, about the same as lime, Do not know whether it will do as much good in small quantities as lime but want to give it a trial

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

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

William Hill

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

Mr. I. Mills.

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

My dear brother Ralph,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yesterday a little girl of our minister died — she was three or fours years old. believe all the other children of the family are sick — Joseph who is 13. Ashur 11 — Sarah 5 or 6 & a babe — but they are very good children, have given their hearts to their Savior & endeavor to spend their youthful days to please him. Will you not do thus my dear little brother, then when sickness & death come you will not fear. Christ will be with you — Jesus loves you now — then fly to his arms — & dear brother Erastus too — I want he should take this as written to him & also the whole letter — I will try to write him a little — I have seen a good many flowers up <*in*> with in a short distance from our house — We hear Whip-poor-wills almost every summer evening — they have been singing for two or three weeks — owls hoot evening & morning — partridge's drum day & night. have not seen any wood chucks about — your little dog does bravely — I can think how you look playing with your kittens — I am afraid that your furious animal that knocked Erastus down will yet kill one or both of you. or some others — do be careful. I suppose Ethan & Levi & Russell look & act pretty much as they used to — Our ministers boys help their mother a great deal — wash dishes &c —

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

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[*First page(s) missing:*]
The boats only go as far as Boston from here. Starting about three o'clock in the afternoon and reaching Boston about five next morning. Fare two dollars. Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] and some of her little friends had great fun hanging May baskets last evening. The most important thing to do is to open the door very quickly and catch the person before there is time for one to get away. So when the bell rang last night Harry [*Harold William Burr*] & I rushed to the door and found several May baskets, I brought them in and then saying "how I'm going to catch somebody" rushed out of the door full speed and nearly ran over a young gentleman who was coming to see Cousin Almon [*Almon Burr*]. I didn't stop to investigate matters but disappeared very suddenly around the corner of the house.

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] told Cousin Almon about it and he seems very much tickled over it. I suppose you imagine [petty?] baskets of moss and sweet flowers when I speak of May baskets, and I hate to dispel the dillusion but the ones that we received last night were nothing but paper cornicopias, some of them trimmed with all the colors of the rainbow and nothing in them. I say nothing & believe there was a little pop corn and candy in one or two of them. Please give a great deal of love to Mrs Earl & Miss Bethel, Wish I could hear Mrs Earl play on the piano sometimes, and play croquet with Miss Bethel. They have a place up at the Building where they play croquet, I should think that the ground would almost go in our sitting room
Excuse me Mama I mean back parlor. Please give love to the people up town
Do Aunts Hetty & Kate keep well? I don't ever hear a word from Sam [*Samuel B. Hill*]. Couldn't you send me one of his letters sometime. If you have any. Remember me to Vesta tell her I hope she is "Very good & very ill." It is nice that Abbie has some of the volumes of the Ency. [*Encyclopedia*] (Don't dare go any farther)
Think I will bring this letter to a close now.
With lots of love to my darling Mama [*Mary Burr Hill*] and the rest of the family.

Your affectionate daughter
Carrie R. Hill. [*Caroline R. Hill*]

[*Lightly written in pencil*:] I thought it w'd [*would*] be pleasant for you to read this & yr. [*your*] Aunt M. sent it to me – she seldom does – you can return it or part at a time – <*Don't answer*> Answer this by letter – D [*Daniel Grant*] will send some stamps sometime

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

Penn. [*Pennsylvania*]

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

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

My dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

I found my dear husband pale & think – I need not tell you the rejoicing each felt at meeting – Although he expected when he sent for me to return this fall that we should be in different circumstances then we are yet he is glad I am here – he had a good many crying spells in our absence especially when he was sick & could not bear the thought of being alone through the winter & you know that I could not be happy when thinking of him sick or suffering so <*for the*> I think we shall live very comfortable indeed this winter certainly if he gets a school. believe his sickness has now cost him not far from $15. Dr. [Van Wleck?] took the $10 note against those Irishmen who owed for the ox they billed, suppose it is not certain that he can collect it but he thinks he shall be able to – Daniel thinks by his being sick he has lost the opportunity of selling at least $40 worth of sand – he was expecting to put up a small frame house on Joe's lot – The

man who lives in the house in Milwaukie is lathing & plastering it for the [rent?] <*the*> expect there is still some degree of doubt whether we shall be able to get a deed of that place, but if we do not, shall not be obliged to deed away ours.

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

Sister Caroline

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

M. Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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

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

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

Prairieville. Jan. 8. 1847 –

My dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wankesha. Prairieville, Sept. 11, 1847 –

My dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 Mon. A.M. I am in the midst of washing but <*but*> Abby has a chill coming on & wants Mama to rock her, so I improve the time in writing – Abby does not like to be bathed in cold water, she frequently says on [waking?] in the morning & during the day, "Mama, need Abby be washed? Abby don't want to be washed" – Willis Tickenor brought her a pretty Maltese kitten the other day which is a great comfort to her – many remark on hearing her talk, that she speaks very plain for one of her age, but she is not constantly jabbering like some children –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] September 26th 1852

Dear Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*],

As I thought the commissions in Williams [*William Hill*] letter were more in my line than his, I undertook them, and have to report, that Miss Allen will be perfectly satisfied with your mothers coloring of the article in question, tho' she is sorry to trouble your mother with it, and aunt Maria prefers to have her yarn of the color of the sample you enclosed

Whenever I have time to think about it, I feel quite lonely, as cousin Mary left on Tuesday last taking Kate and father with her. The latter individual returned on Wednesday evening but Kate will remain some time yet. Her health had improved considerably before she went away and I hope rest will make her still better.

Mrs Evans infant died on Wednesday night at eleven oclock, was buried on Friday. It was the purest specimen of humanity I even saw, Its tiny hands were actually as white as the dress it had on.

Your Marquis de Boulla has had a number of lovely roses on since you left. Will is so good as to let them all come over here, and they perfume the room with their delightful fragrance.

I was glad to hear that Sammy [*Samuel B. Hill*] had conducted himself so well away from home. We all anticipate seeing him able to walk alone by the time he returns. How I would love to see him just at this moment.

We had a refreshing rain last night, that has improved the appearance of our streets very much, cleaning the [trees?] and washing the pavements nicely.

I will leave the rest for Will to tell. With love from all to all I remain as ever, Yours truly

Henrietta Hill

Mrs. William Hill

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[*Addressed to unknown*]
[*Pages missing*]

....very long. Will is just at the cute age and is bright and quick as a flash

He carrys the chairs just where he wants them and climbs on to the table if there is anything he wants on it One day he was alone in dining room and when I went in was on the floor eating something
"What are you eating Will" "Medecin" [*medicine*] he answered, "Where did you get it" "In there" and he pointed to the sugar bowl and laughed. He was told he must not do that again

He has had a bad cold and has been obliged to take medecin and really seems to like it, asks for more, but he knows what sugar is

Grandma Hulsiger bought some ginger crackers to the children One night just before tea Will asked for one "Mama can I have a "ginger cacker" " No Will not until we have tea. Mama can I have it after Mr Warren Lords"?

Mr Warren always asks the Blessing and Will had caught one word of it Sophie said "He means after Mr Warren prays to the Lord."

They both know they get nothing to eat until after Mr W. has "prayed to the Lord" as S. [*Sophie*] says

Sophie has learned to wait very patiently to be helped and never thinks of having desert until after all the others are helped It is amusing to see Will try to keep his hands folded while he waits for his pudding

Sophie puts on her shoes and stockings and her skirts but cannot button her dress yet She is learning to work cross stitch on canvas but finds it a little hard to do much at any one time.

She and Will play church and both sing or pretend to from one book Sophie behaves remarkably well in Church better than anywhere else we think She never has been naughty in church and she goes very often But it will be a long time before Will can go He is such a restless mortal He talks very distinctly unusually so for his age, two years <in> Sept. 25th, and

talks a great deal He does not seem quite so robust as Sophie takes cold easier but after all is a sturdy stout little fellow and is growing out of all his dresses Sophie will be four in January is very tall for her age. Both children are out doors whenever the weather is at all suitable They go to bed right after supper and their romp with “Papa and Grandpa”

This letter will be all....[*pages missing*]

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[*fragment to Caroline Burr Grant*]
a young man might not shrink from being so understood for himself & a woman to whom his feelings go forth, she would be more likely to have a shrinking from a manifestation of a love, which she knows she should keep at bay, only as she allows it to be turned towards a man, to whom she sees the way open to give her self as her earthly companion for life. -- Feelings like hers are in thousands of cases. Laid open before our heavenly Father, with the longing, heart felt prayer “Lord, what then have me to do?” And he hears & helps. In the felt presence of Jehovah, & a sense of his perfect knowledge of us & of his parental feelings towards us, our self will is subdued. We choose that God should be glorified in us & by us, & by all with whom we have to do. Choosing him for our portion, we choose to do his will, & are by grace enabled to say, Not any will, but thine be done.

How has A. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr?*] manifested her faith & love & new obedience? Has she, on the whole shown that it was her unwavering purpose to obey the precepts of our Savior? Has she accepted the eternal life that God has given us? That life is in his Son, as tho [Fountains?] & in us only as we are united to him by a living faith. I hope the dear child goes to him, & accepts salvation as a free gift: & look to him to guide her step by step. In every thing, by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving we are directed to make known our requests unto God. No other one earthly thing is of more importance to our well being, than that connected with what we do in reference to that first institution inaugurated in paradise by the Father of all, & making Adam & Eve one duality.

It is not always easy for children to see, that their parents desire & seek the highest good of their children: & that for their future well-being in this life, & the life to come, they are disposed, often, to make every effort & proper sacrifice. In opposing matrimonial alliances, that they regard injudicious or untimely, it is the good of the child, that they have in view. When I was a pupil of Rev. Joseph Emerson in 1820, I remember asking him whether in matters of love & marriage, persons should be influenced by the opinions of their friends? Whether this was not rather a matter of their own? He replied, A person that will not be influenced by friends ought not to have friends; or is not worthy of friends. And surely on this the most important subject next to securing their own salvation, that ever comes before a human being, the counsel of friends, is as important as it possibly can be. They care for the good of their friend, who by the making up of a tender emotion on the exercise of a strong passion, which they call love, is liable to be led contrary to sound judgment & discretion. Love will not be pure & lasting, unless it has good judgment for its basis -- The principles of a man are more to be relied on, together with his general character, to make his wife a happy woman, than any strength of a love before marriage. That is more liable to grow cold, than his warmer sense is to vanish.

Let this dear child be constantly held up in faith before God by her parents, & all to whom her well-being is so dear. Remind her when you write of the precept & premise James [1:5?]

[*separate unpaginated sheet, perhaps a different letter*]
after she came & has suffered less since than before, Mrs. P & the children have gained comfort by rest & they think a higher state of health. They all join me in love to you all.

You did well to mention your father & mother so definitely. My love to each of them particularly, & an assurance of my sympathy in their infirmities, & in their looking to Christ alone for deliverance from sin & suffering. A definite remembrance to Daniel, & sympathy in his state of difficulty in deciding what next to attempt. I send to him Prov. 3:6 & James 1:5. The Bible would not be complete without these precepts to be obeyed, & these promises to be believed & pleaded. Tell Marcus he is often present to my thots. [*thoughts*] & that I desire that God may be his inheritance. Truly yrs [*yours*],

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

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

[*Stamped on upper left corner of address leaf*] WILKINS
PA
[*Written in stamped area*] May 19th

East Liberty [*Pennsylvania*] May 17: 1839

Dear Mother,

We received yours of the 5th inst. yesterday. In regard to visiting New England we must be guided, as we ought in everything else, by the indications of providence. Should an eligible opening for a location be presented it would seem duty to embrace it. But should nothing of this kind take place within six, or eight weeks we will if health continues come and see you. The only question in my mind is in regard to duty. Inclination very strongly tends to New England. I have then another dear mother besides yourself whom I have not seen for 16 years and whom I wish to see before she dies, besides brother and a sister. No doubt, however, that our desire to see our friends, like any other natural desire, cannot always consistently with duty be indulged, and needs to be moderated, or restrained according to the circumstances in which providence may place us. We shall I think know in 2 or 3 weeks whether it will be consistent for us to visit you this season and if anything should occur to prevent we will let you know. In the mean time we must endeavor to have our minds prepared for whatever event may be appointed for us.

Your affectionate Son
Wm. [*William*] Burton

Dear Mother,

I have not time to say much. Little M. E. [*Mary Elizabeth Burton Shurtleff]* is less troublesome than when I wrote you, before. M. is nursing her. She says she thinks we must put her in the letter and send her on that our friends may see what a pretty baby she is. M. & L. would write but their father wishes to put the letter in the office, as he goes to school.

M. E. [*Mary Elizabeth*] is almost 5 months old. Her eyes are still a little untrue, but I hope she will outgrow it

I received a letter from brother [P.?] and another from brother J. since within a few days. I am glad to hear from you all, but wish <*more*?> still more to see you. Little E. Grant is better. Sister Susan expects to start for Ct [*Connecticut*] about the first of June.

I expect Martha & Marcus are so much grown that I should hardly know them, but I want to see you all, much.

In haste
E. G. Burton [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

Love to all.

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

[*Stamped on upper left hand corner of address leaf*] WILKINS
PA
[*Written in stamped area*] Oct 19th

East Liberty [*Pennsylvania*] Aug. 8=1839

Dear Father,

Whatever concerns us, I suppose you will be interested to hear. We have finally concluded to go on to a farm. I have accordingly purchased in Pike County Ohio. The farm I have purchased consists of 232 acres, about 100 under improvement with a house nearly finished which will be sufficiently large and convenient. The farm is situated 2 miles from Piketon the county seat, and 4 from the great Erie and Ohio Canal. There is at Piketon a small presbyterian congregation to whom it is the arrangement that I am to preach as my health may permit. That and the surrounding neighbourhood I should think presented a field for usefullness.

But my chief object in writing at this time is to endeavor to persuade you to remove and settle down by us. Upon a general view I have no doubt it would be to your advantage and that of your family to remove to the west if you would sell at a price which property be as in New England. As to the particular part of the country where I have purchased I am not alone in the opinion that it is at present the most favourable point for purchase and emigration at least in the State of Ohio. The land is less than half the price of land <*of*> of the same quality generally in Ohio. <...> Various circumstances, which I would detail if I had room, have contributed to prevent the rise of land in this particular section of the state but circumstances which must now cease to operate. For the farm I purchased I gave a fraction over <...>nine dollars per acre. There are other farms, one immediately joining, to be bought for from ten to twelve dollars. It is the opinion of good judges that the price must in a few years be more than double what it now is. Should you have ant serious thought of removing I would write more particularly and I think could furnish you with additional facts going to justify the opinions I have expressed. I leave the remaining part of the sheet for Elizabeth.

Your affectionate Son
Wm. [*William*] Burton

Oct. 11.

Dear Mother,

Mr. Burton has left me more room than I can occupy. I hope we shall <*if nothing*> make a final remove in the spring. I am pleased with the idea of going to a farm Cannot you go and settle near us? I fear, from what Cousin Parnel says of your health, that you would find journeying difficult, but you could come by water from Albany almost to the place. We are not perhaps, on the whole, more in favor of frequent removals than you, still we think, as I suppose you do, that they prove advantageous sometimes. Mr. Burton thinks he has made the best bargain, but that other good ones may be made still. He pays $2250, — $1000, this fall, the rest in a year.

I was <u>very very glad</u> to see cousins William and Parnel. I hope they will arrive safely at home, tomorrow as they expected.

We are all well. Little Mary is still well, and I have not weaned her yet. I must as soon as my girl returns. I suppose she will come tomorrow

I do not much expect ever to visit New England, though I may. It appears a married lady never knows what she can do, or what she cannot. It is all right or it would not be so. It is easier to say “it is right” than to feel so sometimes. This is indeed a world of wonders

If friends can meet, can enjoy each other society in a world of bliss, beyond the grave it matters little where they sojourn here. O my dear mother, shall we meet in that better world, fathers and mothers, brothers, and sisters sons, and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, and all our relatives, how numerous they are, but I ought not to say a word upon this subject, I am so ready to make a [portion?] of this world. Next Sabbath is sacrament here. Mr. B. [*Burton*] goes to his preaching place tomorrow.

I could say much more but M. E. [*Mary Elizabeth Burton Shurtleff*] is waking, & it is bed time. I only add do not show this. I have neither attended to grammar, <*or*> chirography or composition in writing it.

How is brother John, how are you, how are the rest. I was so glad to hear from you by cousins.

E. G. Burton [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

The more I think of it the more I want you to be neighbors to us. The society needs to be improved, though our farm joins Gov. Lucas's I think, and there is already some good Yankee society I am glad of that The Yankees are the best after all

The little girls are in good spirits and send love. M. [*Mary*] is improving and I doubt not would look very inquisitive upon her grandmother if she could see her. She cannot walk yet

E.

We had little M. E. baptized the last time Mr B. preached at [Mc. Keesport?]. How little can be said on a little piece of paper, besides it is becoming more and more difficult, I fear, for me to find time to write. You must not look for a letter from me often. Maybe you will come to Ohio yet. I should so rejoice to have you, though I know it is very expensive as well as troublesome moving. By no means move or have any anxiety on my account. I only ask you to pray for me and mine

I think sister Martha is a very <*fine*> good girl from what cousin P. says. She says she does a great deal of work and keeps the house as neat as a pin.

Love to all.

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

Canton [*Ohio*] 1st Nov 1840

Dear Parents,

I have been thinking for some time that I ought to write you once more, though no particular good or ill fortune has befallen me to give any special interest to my letter. We have all enjoyed uninterrupted good health since mother left us, though I ought to qualify this a little, and say that my own health has not been perfectly good for about two months past. I suppose my complaint to be dyspepsia, brought on by too close confinement to the duties of the office while Mr. Griswold was making stump speeches for the Whigs. I am better now, and have never been so bad as to give up business even for a day.

Our little girl, Elizabeth [*Mary Elizabeth Burton Shurtleff*], is the very picture of health. For activity either of body or mind I have seldom seen her equal at her years. She will outrun all her play-mates with the utmost ease, although some of them are twice as old. She knows all her letters, large and small, though she has not fully learned to distinguish between the small 'b' and 'd'. We think too, that she behaves remarkably well.

Daniel returned here from Penfield about a week since, and is one of the applicants for a common-school in this town of Canton [*Ohio*]. The town (borough) constitutes a single district, and the practice is to have four different schools in it during the winter. The Board of Directors of the District (corresponding to your District Committee, but consisting of three instead of one) meet to-morrow evening to determine whom they will employ.

Mr. & Mrs. Whiting and Mr. & Mrs. Griswold are all well — indeed, I know of no person in the place who is sick, except Mr. Harley's little boy, whom mother may remember. He has had a bowel complaint for two months or more, and now is believed to be afflicted with worms — the two together make the poor fellow quite sick, perhaps dangerously so.

Daniel found a letter here when he last came from sister Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*]: the letter arrived about a week before his return. It bore date June 10, 1840, at which time she and Mr. Burgess were well. We have not heard from Mr. Burton or any of his family since mother's visit there. — Col. W. Griswold has made a tour into Indiana and Michigan this fall, I scarcely know with what object — he returned about two weeks since and I have not seen him since his return, but understand that he and his family are well. Daniel staid at Mr. Frederic Brown's a week ago last night; they were then as well as usual.

We receive occasionally a newspaper from home, though I think less frequently than formerly. It is quite likely that some of them miscarry. For a considerable time past I have sent to Colebrook [*Connecticut*] the Ohio Repository published at this place — I think I have sent every number. I directed them to John until lately — the two or three last I have directed to father, not

knowing but John might be at New Haven [*Connecticut*]. I presume it makes no difference to whom they are directed.

The elections for this State [*Ohio*] are now over for this year, and such a tremendous political struggle I presume was never witnessed before in this country or elsewhere. The excitement has been intense and absorbing — the vote polled immense — and the victory of the Whigs decisive. I say decisive however without knowing anything of consequence about the Presidential Election which took place Oct 30 — no doubt however is entertained by either party as to the result. The Whig majority at the election of Oct 13 was about 16,500; though you will hear it from 18,000 to 20,000. At the late election the Whigs, in this and four adjacent counties (all we have heard from) have gained 960. If they gain in the whole state at the same rat[*i*]o, Harrison's majority will fall but little short of 30,000. We do not look however with any confidence for more than 25,000. The Whigs are rejoicing at the brightness of their prospects, and the Locos are apparently frightened. I am glad the elections are over; indeed I think both parties rejoice that they are now able to enjoy a season of political repose.

Susan wishes to be remembered, and little Libby sends love to Grandpa, Grandma and her Uncles and Aunts in Colebrook & Clifton [*Connecticut*]

Yours as ever E.P. Grant [*Elizabeth Phelps Grant*]

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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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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Dec 18 1846.

My dear Mother & Sister,

I have been forcibly reminded of home to night, and if you wonder how, it was by getting tea alone, which I have done but once before since leaving home. Mrs. Blackstone is absent for a few days, and the girl, poor thing, had a terrible ague shake this afternoon. Just before tea time, I went out and made some nice cookies (tho' [*though*] not so good as if I had had my favorite receipt,) also some toast -- & tea all of which Joel & the children pronounced excellent. It is a treat indeed to have things to one's liking. Mrs. B. [*Blackstone*] always has them good

enough, and most of the time better than we could afford, were we keeping house, but you know people sometimes enjoy having things their own way.

The girl is suffering dreadfully from the fever which follows the chill. If it was any thing but ague, I should be alarmed about her. But in this country, people may be deadly sick as they think one day, and stirring about the next, gathering strength for a renewed attack.

Joel has again been sick with billions fever. Last week Wed. & Friday night he had a fever, Sat morn a chill, and severe fever followed which lasted 24 hours. He did not go out on Sunday, but at evening the fever came on with great violence, & continued till Monday night. As soon as he began to cool down & perspire, Dr. gave four large pills of such a nature, that the fever has not since appeared. Dr. says quinine alone will not affect his system properly. He is now giving him peruvian bark, mixed with magnesia & carbonate of iron also orders him to take a glass of <*small*> strong beer, the same as ale. four times a day. The ale is made at Detroit, & we get it here for 371/2 cts [*cents*] per gallon. Joel is of course very much reduced in flesh and strength. One of our ladies who has been absent for a few months called yesterday; she said if she had met him elsewhere, she should not have known him. He has not lain down to day, but is unable to prepare for next Sabbath; Any exertion mental or bodily brings on a fever. How long it must be so we cannot tell, but I fear it will be no better this winter. In spite of all our endeavors to the contrary, we are almost discouraged sometimes. It is a time when a great deal needs to be done, but Joel has no strength, and consequently cannot do it.

The audience on the Sabbath is increasing but of course, if they come & find no minister nothing but reading meeting, they will not be so anxious to come again. To be sure, we hope every shake, or fever is the last, and on that live till the dread reality appears again. Joel is not the only sufferer in this place. Almost all who had the fever severely in summer, have attacks of it, on ague, now. At One of our neighbors where there are 10 in family, three or four will have it one day, & another four or five the next. They break it with quinine, but in two weeks it reappears. Some families do not have it at all. In a letter recently received from one of Joel's friends up in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] we were told that persons in that territory, suffer, as well as here. And so they do, more or less, throughout this great valley. No tongue can tell the suffering that has been endured along the [line?] of the canal. They are better now, but the money is gone for medicine, they are weak, their hovels unthatched, their children naked, and all discouraged. Persons bred in New England can have no possible idea of poverty. Within two miles of us there 50 hovels not half as good as old Isaac's. Children are abundant, but alas; for the means of clothing, feeding, & sending them to school. The parents are making a great effort to get them to school, as the school is a free one to them this winter. We have been making some clothes in our Sewing Soc. [*society*] for some of the children, and oh that we had a few hundred yards to make up. I have often wished I could get to some of your old flannel petticoats, that you could no longer use. They will cut over four small girls & are so much warmer than cotton.

It must be acknowledged that some of this poverty arises from drinking, but that is not always the case by any means. Our temperance Soc. [*Society*] is very inefficient, and must remain so as long as so many of its members are unwilling to have any measures taken to prevent the licensing of graperies.

We have commenced a Tract distribution they are refused by but few, those mostly Catholics. We have a priest in town, also one at Joliet [*Illinois*], four miles below.

While Joel is unable to write, some of the time, he spends in singing. His harp is a great help. There have been 24 singing schools here, but I have attended but part of one evening. The three children attend, & have improved very much. I hope Mary sings often with her father. Has Dwight forgotten his favorite "Holiday song"? Does Willy sing & If he does not, I would beg of his mother to try to teach him. It seems to me more important even, than when I used to sing so much. Your children may go West, or East, or to some place where the ability to sustain that part of public worship will be to them almost invaluable. Oh, train them in that and every other respect, as if you knew they were to be models often which a whole people should pattern; you cannot now determine what shall be their position in Society. I trust it will be a high one for I know their natural talents and I hope they will early be consecrated to God. I think of them very often, and hope they are improving all these precious days and evenings.

Thus you can see a kind Providence has supplied us with cotton and linen for the coming year. I have knit one stocking from that fine yarn and commenced another. My health is good as usual, rather better.

If one of Mrs. Stuart's calls she left a bundle saying she did not like to have me get out of work. It contained 18 yds [*yards*] of five bleach'd sheeting two yds [*yards*], five linen, 4 doz [*dozen*] buttons 2 spools thread & a pair of gloves.

In Oct. I filled my feather bed & pillows. The feathers had been in a box at the barn, but were unharmed and good as when first [brought?]

The sack will make a good crib tick. If it I keep it seventy years, it may come in use. A few weeks since, I made a petticoat quilt, my old one having long since been given to our pony for a blanket. The outside of my quilt is the small figured dress wh. [*which*] was once Parney's. The lining is -- what once lined my cashmere dress, leaving enough on it for the facing.

If you have not quilted my old blue black silk, you need not it will do me more good in aprons. My alapacca dress will be for a quilt next winter. If you have quilted it, no matter.

I hope we shall soon hear from you.

With much love to all, I am your aff. [*affectionate*]
Abby.
Joel sends love to all of you.

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

Dear Mother,

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

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

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

*I am sorry to hear that Daniel & Marcus are still unsuccessful, though their past history gave us too much reason to expect it. Should their health be continued there is no reason, I think, to expect they will starve, but they may be made to suffer somewhat. A great many people have gone from this place to California, a large number have returned, & are now with us, but quite a number are now there. The greater part of those who have returned did very well there, & their success has added an important element of prosperity to the place. Those who have friends there do not seem to be anxious about them now, any more than if they had removed the same distance to any other part of the world

There is no marked change in our religious affairs since I last wrote. <*Things*> I have ventured to preach against the Spiritual Manifestations [*Spiritualism*] & I think with good effect. A

few in this place are determined to trust to them, & I doubt whether there is any care for them, but others now let them entirely alone, & others still are beginning to be satisfied that the whole is untrustworthy. I took for a text Is. [*Isaiah*] 44:25. "That frustrateth the tokens affairs, & marketh <u>diviners</u> mad," & my <*general*> design, briefly described, was to show that God had pledged himself to render vain & profitless all such things, & to infatuate (make mad) all who trust in them. The week previous to my preaching two men had become insane in Chicago through this delusion, & others were imprisoned for crimes to wh. [*which*] it had led them, & this gave power to what I said, with the daily increasing infatuation of those who still practice it here, is a running commentary on the same point. I think the authority of the Spirits as teachers of theology, & disclosers of the secret of the present or future is at an end here, though it is astonishing what numbers have been disposed to trust in them.

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

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

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[*On back*] Written Aug. 1. 1859 by Abigail Cowles Grant announcing the death of her little daughter --

Lockport Ill. [*Illinois*] Mond. Aug. 1. 185[...]

My dear Mother

I have sat me down to tell you that God has taken our dear little Mary Hannah to himself. She breathed her last this morn at 10 minutes before eleven. She had been sick a week this P.M. she was taken violently with the worst form of dysentery, and no skill could save her --

All has been done that skill or kindness could prompt -- Physicians & friends have been unwearied in their attentions -- It is a great trial that Mr. Grant is gone, but I do feel that God has so permitted all these things for some wise reason & I am to be still because He has done it --

I washed & drest her beautiful form, & Flora arranged her curling hair -- She is drest in that delicate pink muslin that Mary will remember Johnny used to wear -- It was her own, & she looks as if she must speak to us -- She has a white rose beside her; not so pure as herself

She is laid out in her own cradle, her dear resting place -- [...] that you all my dear friends could come & look upon her & let my crushed heart find sympathy with kindred -- Calls are innumerable, & sympathy abundant but, oh, how my heart yearns for my husband, my parents, my sister & you all -- Perhaps I ought not so to write, for God has mingled so many mercies in this bitter cup, that I feel deep gratitude, & submission as well as sorrow -- Mary [*Hannah*] died so peacefully, so calmly, Mr. G. [*Grant*] will tell you some more about her, & I will write ere long -- The funeral is to be tomorrow Tuesday at 9 o'clock P.M. With love to you all. I am

Your afflicted daughter
Abby

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

there is for others

Your affectionate Son
Daniel Grant

Dear little Abby

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

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

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

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

Your aff [*affectionate*] Father
Daniel Grant

Dear Wife

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

Your affec. [*affectionate*] husband
Daniel Grant

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

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

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[*Note — in pencil. to Caroline Burr Grant from Elizabeth Grant*]

New Haven Ct [*Connecticut*]
Feb 28th '83

Dear cousin Carrie

Yours of Feb 11 was received & we were very glad to hear from you — thank you for your sympathy in our sorrow [yet?] — we feel as though Marion had gained a heavenly home and is now and forever at rest. She died of Pneumonia — had been with me since about the first of Nov. when she first came I was quite feeble — had taken cold & had a good deal of malaria — so that under the circumstances there was a great many things she could do to assist me, soon my girl left, & Marion thought that together we could manage the work, for a time, at least my health was improving so that I could do a little more than take care of baby — We got along very well together she only doing the lightest of the work — but she became very tired and thought best to stop & rest awhile. I engaged a girl to come & help me so that she could go rest — she came the 29th of Jan. that being the time M [*Marion*] proposed to go — was going to Davids from here to make a visit & probably would have visited with all — She was getting ready packing her satchel & arranging her things to leave in her room — when she was taken with a chill & her head ached dreadfully — she went to bed, and began spitting blood right away — this was about ten o'clock, before one, we sent for the Dr; when he came he said it was Pneumonia — but thought until Friday that she would get through it – she died Sat. morn at half past eight — she had a cold for some time & coughed some — & the day before she was taken down she [*in pencil* — went out to church a slippery, rainy day &] took a little more —

Mother was here all through and took most of the care of her. Cornelia came and <*spent*> helped what she could — was with her Friday night she passed away very peacefully — without a struggle — she said several times while sick, she was "so tired" "but she should soon have rest" she realized that she could not live and was prepared to go — The funeral was from here — on Monday — Cornelia took cold the day of the funeral and was sick in bed three or four days — was threatened with catching fever is better, and gaining slowly — David & [Eunice?] had both been about sick with colds — but are better now Grace's husband has been sick with chills — but is as well as usual now — Alonzo's two children have been afflicted with Whooping cough — had it pretty hard; think they are over the worst of it. Mills has had a very bad cold, is better but gains slowly — we are all pretty well here — baby is quite good now — but I feel as though I had a great work before me, if they all live — Mother is with me yet & is a great help in many ways. That cousin left me last Aug.

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

Milbrook [*Mill Brook, Connecticut*], Nov 9, 1845.

My dear brother,

I promised Martha [*Martha Grant*] when I left her at Lebanon a few weeks since, that I would see that all of the brothers and sisters were written to, and if no one else could write, I would. It seems almost impossible to get Marcus to write, and Mother has always more on her hands than she can, well attend to. Phelps is busy writing letters, so that the only alternative is, that you do not hear from home at present or that I write myself, a thing which I have had it on my mind to do ever since the introduction of the new postage law.

Your letter to Joel [*Joel Grant*] was recieved sometime after he left us. We were glad to hear from you that you are getting along so comfortably. I regret never having an oppertunity to see and become acquainted with sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]; give my love to her and to the little Abby, who is I presume a source of much enjoyment to you already. May her life be spared for many years! You have probably heard ere this of Joels arrival in Ill. [*Illinois*] and though you may not be able to see him for many months, it will be a gratification to you to feel that he is so near you. John is engaged in a school at Richmond Va. [*Virginia*] with what prospects I cannot state, as I have not seen his last letters and have heard nothing said about it. Martha's at Lebanon Springs at a hydropathic establishment. She, as well as the rest of us had become satisfied that medicine could do her no good and we hoped that the application of cold water as practiced by the hydropathists, might stimulate her nervous system, and restore a

healthy action throughout her system generally. She has been there a little more than three weeks, and as yet there is no perceptible change though some symptoms are more favorable. For two years she has been obliged to take cathartics daily or suffer severly. When she wrote last she had been able to dispense with them for 5 days. Dr. Graham considers her case a very critical one, but gives encouragement that she may recover. We have much confidence in the application of cold water, but it cannot cure all diseases and hers may be one of the incurable. You may feel some desire to know something of the operations to which she is subjected. I can not state it accurately, but she is plunged into a bath of cold water, then rubbed briskly, then walks as much as she is able to do probably after an interval of rest. after this she sits in a tub of cold water 1/2 an hour is rubbed again then walks. In the PM she has wet napkins applied to the spine & abdomen and is bandaged with dry blankets for 2 hours. This process seems at first a hard one but it seems in many cases to be very effectual in removing diseases often of a long standing, and is said to be much less unpleasant than one would suppose. Mother and Marcus intend visiting her next week if the weather should be favorable.

I saw Mrs. Burr a few weeks since, she was then well. I do not know any thing of general interest to communicate. It seems to be a season of general health here. Uncle Sam is very feeble but seems to continue far beyond the expectation of his friends. L Griswold is to teach the school in this district this winter.

I am sorry that you do not feel satisfied with your prospects where you now are, but I hope you will be able to fall upon some expedient for making enough out of your farm to induce you to remain where you are. I never thought it well to change if one can possibly avoid it, and I feel more the folly of it and I have had some experience. I am sorry that you have to work so hard as to impair your health this ought always to be avoided if possible. I think you will find frequent ablutions in cold water strengthening and invigorating. Take a towel wet with cold water and rub yourself over every morning and see if you do not feel the better for it. The more water you use the better. I have written in great haste. I hardly know what, but Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] will be able to sympathise with my confusion when her little one is 2 or 3 years old and she attempts to write with her at her elbow chattering the whole time, and keeping the table in constant motion I will leave the rest of the sheet for some one to fill up I shall ever be very happy to hear from you, where we shall go next we have not decided but Phelps has some idea of returning his profession in Canton. Elizabeth cherishes an affectionate remembrance of "Uncle Daniel." Your affectionate sister

S B Grant. [*Susan Boyd J. Grant*]

Dear Brother

As I have never writen to you I now take the oportunity to write a few words, to you would like to hear about our crops and such things I supose. Our potatoes are <*lite*> light about <*half*> two thirds of a crop they did not rot in the field but have some in the cellar our hay crop is about half as much as we had last year our oats were pretty good the straw was very light but well filled our hogs to are pretty fat but not very large if these few lines will at all interest you I may at some future day write some more your aff [*affectionate*] Brother Marcus [*Marcus Grant*]

My Dear Children

I was glad to hear from you by Joels or the one you wrote to Joel and I will here mention that has taken quite a rise I cannot state definility how much but think I will send you a paper before long that will give you more information than I can give you I am glad that you think of keeping more stock I think keeping cows and sheep in your situation will be a good course not that I would advise you to go largely into the business at first a small stock will soon make a large one and I fear that you feel a desire to be rich but if it is so I hope you will remember the Bible injunction be not in haste to be rich also that riches bring a snare
I want you should be come[...] I want you should keep a horse and waggon that that you may go to church and wherever you want to go with less futigue I am glad that you call your little daughter Abby I wish her name to be Abigail Caroline. I hope you will give her to the Lord in baptism and consider the Lords and may you pray the Lord to sanctify her wholly body soul and spirit and preserve her blamely unto the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [live?] near to God my dear children

I want to have you bathe the dear little one from the crown of her head to the soul of her feet in tepid water daily I think it will prevent her crying so much I would not have it [creuelly into?] I must stop for want of room may God bless you is the prayer of your Mother [*Mrs. (E.) Grant*]

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

Rochester [*New York*] Dec 21st 1846

My dear Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

You perceive that I have disregarded all the rules of letter writing by commencing at the very topmost line in order that I may have room to say a great deal, You may be some what surprised at the receipt of a letter from R. -- NY [*Rochester, New York*] -- but in the name of Sarah Anna Sibley -- you will recognize an old and familiar acquaintance, no other than an old roommate & school companion -- , Do not think Dear Caroline! I have ever forgotten the kind & affectionate letter I received from you, I do not now remember whether I ever answered it, if not please accept my apology and receive this as an answer, although long in coming yet the friendship it breathes is never the less fine or lasting -- , but I am so anxious to learn what has been your destiny, that I can consume no longer time upon preliminaries, and you will not think me inquisitive, if I make many inquiries with regard to you, for I intend to give you the particulars relating to myself as minutely as you can wish to hear them. I believe you were long since numbered one of Mt Holyoke's [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] graduates. Are you still living with your parents in Norfolk or has some successful swain possessed himself of Caroline, to adorn, & beautify his home, in a neighboring village? -- remember me to your sister Mary [*Mary Burr*] & write me the particulars respecting her also. Any thing relating to Mt Mt Hol [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] -- will be received with pleasure, the fate or destiny of any we used to know there would be interesting. Elizabeth Smith, my roommate is married to a young Physician here, named Dean, she has one child, they are in moderate though comfortable circumstances, you perhaps remember that she had a sister here, whose husband is wealthy, they are Baptists and it was through their persuasion that she married him, although she was formerly a presbyterian but it makes very little difference what his profession is if his is a Christian, we are not quite as intimate as formerly but are upon good terms, call & visit -- &c --

Rochester [*New York*] March 30th 1847

As you will perceive by my last date a long time has passed since I first commenced this sheet, my only apology must be that I commenced six long sheets to different correspondents at the same time, & have finished all but yours, but you will excuse it I know when I give you an account of my family matters, as I intend to do very minutely -- After I left you at So [*South*] Hadley [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] I spent the time until september very pleasantly with my aunts in Hartford [*Connecticut*], then my Brother came down to New York, and came for me on his way home, We went immediately to So [*South*] Hadley [*Massachusetts*] and arranged my affairs paid my bills, and left for Rochester [*New York*], I need not assure you I was overjoyed, once more to set my foot in the hall of my Fathers house, I met many happy faces, who all gave me cordial greeting, I recovered rapidly from my lameness, and have never been troubled since, The next september, one year from that time my only Brother, (of whom you often heard me speak) was married to a Miss Hastings of Clinton, near Utica [*New York*], of course I was there, quite a party of mine and my brothers acquaintances went down together, and we had as you may suppose a very agreeable time, there is a small host of their own family, fifteen children all living, an extensive circle of acquaintances & friends made a very large wedding I remained at the Dr,s while my Brother and his bride, took their wedding tour to N. York [*New York*] Hartford, Springfield &c., & designed to return with them, but the family would not consent to that at all, the Dr said he had lost one child, and it was but fair, he should gain another, so with much persuasion I spent eight months in their family, now you will say Sarah married some one there but do not be too hasty, and I shall tell you all about it, I returned home in May after my long visit, and my husband that is now, commenced paying his attentions immediately after, (we had corresponded by the

way before I left Clinton), and we were married the folowing September, just two years from the time I left So. Hadley, what changes take place in the few short years of our lives?, with what rapidity we hasten from the cradle, to the grave?, so that we might so live as to be ready when the summons comes for us?, But I hasten to give you a description of my Husband and children, and to commence you will permit a wife to speak in her husband,s praise, God has indeed blessed me in giving me him in whom the virtues are all united, he is a devoted Christian, and to a perfectly amiable disposition, unites agreeable manner and a comely pleasant look, and although always pleasant he does not lack energy, he is enterprising in business, and although a new beginner as it were we are already possesed of a competence, have a fine house & garden of our own, we have nice fruit, grapes &c which we prize very much in a city, you will not think me egotistical if I proceed & give you a description of my children, for if I do not, I know not who will, --

I have two children my eldest Mary Alida, (named, for my brothers wife) was four years old in January, quite a girl you will say?, she makes me feel quite matronly sometimes, when I look at so large a girl & think she is mine, would you like a minute description? she is quite tall of her age rather light hair, but it is growing dark, blue eyes and a fair complexion she has never been to school, but "says she goes to school to her mother", I teach her evy day, she has known her letters since she was two & a half years old, and can spell in words of one sylable, she answers a great many -- questions in Geography can count &c, I do not mean to insinuate she is a prodigy or any thing of the kind, only that I have taken pains with her, and have taught her carefully, she goes to sabbath school every Sabbath, in the Infant School, where I am a teacher, and can take care of her, she goes to church with us in the morning, & from there right into the school at noon, she has learned several little hymns which they sing, also bible stories, and learns a verse <*a verse*> of Scripture to recite, It is quite a task to learn a little child to sew, by perseverance I have taught Alida to sew very neatly, and when she was three years and nine months old, I had finished quilting a good sized quilt which she had pieced intirely by herself, and the past three months she pieced another which, is not yet quilted, I get all new cloth for her, and design to keep them for her untill she is a young lady that I may show her what she did when she was a little girl -- I mean to do the same by the youngest when she is old enough, for I use no partiality, they are very happy together and are just near enough of an the right age to be good company for each other, they play, the livelong days and never see[m] tired of each others society --

But I did not design to occupy so large [a] share of this sheet with my own matters, but you will as you ever was willing to overlook a fault in me, do not fail to write me everything of interest relating to yourself, <*yours*>, and I know of nothing in regard to you which would not interest me, where is your good sister Mary [*Mary Burr*] now? remember me affectionately to her, Do you hear from So [*South*] Hadley often? I suppose you do, write me all about it, I occassionally hear something by way of my friend Elizabeth, but not very much, I suppose they have stricken me off the books of the Memorandum Society [*of Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], for I receive nothing from them, The Secretary wrote me two or three times with regard to it I replied to it and sent all the particulars of my life &c. -- untill I became tired & wrote that if they were not satisfied now I would not try any more to make them so, -- Do you ever hear from Miss [Erving?] or Miss [Jones?], or any of our old companions. I have nothing of my old complaint now and think the attack I had while there was owing to the climate, we all enjoy excellent health, I must addres you by your old name as I know no other, please wite me as minutely of your matters as I have of mine & belive me as ever your affectionate,

Sarah [Aprin?] Alling. –

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Prairieville
Milwalky [*Milwaukee*] County
Wisconsin Ter.-y. [*Territory*]

Piketon [*Ohio*], Feb. 22, 1846.

Dear Brother Daniel,

I once was informed of your P.O. address, but lost & forgot it, & this must be my excuse for not writing sooner. Is it possible it is almost six years since we last parted? & that we have not exchanged letters since? I can hardly believe it. Since that time, great changes have taken place in our father's family; you have assumed the responsibilities of husband & father; the bodies of our dear sister Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*] & her little son [*Edwin Burgess*], have been committed to the silent tomb, & our beloved Martha [*Martha Grant*] is still in the furnace of affliction, where she has remained for more than two years. Sister Susan [*Susan Boyd J. Grant*] gave me a pretty full account of her situation but I do not seem to understand much about her symptoms, nor can I, without seeing her, & I do not know when <u>that</u> will be. I believe brother Phelps is about to connect himself with an association at W. Roxbury Mass [*West Roxbury, Massachusetts*], if he has not already done it. I know almost as little of Joel, John & Marcus, as of yourself.

I am anxious to know more of your situation & prospects, both as it respects this world & a future. Horatio Burton a nephew of ours, spent six weeks with us last summer He had spent the preceding winter in Poelloit Wisconsin, with which country he was much pleased. -- he had not heard of you. What is the character of your society? (I trust superior to ours) & your religious privileges? & may I be permitted to ask, <*what*> something of the improvement, you have been enabled to make?

We have had a cold winter for Ohio. thus far & I fear in your climate, you would almost suffer, but I suppose wood is plenty.

Our "barn of a house" was finished, neat & comfortable, in Sept. after you left us, since which time, our family, then three daughters, has been increased by three sons, Ohilander, Edward, & William, who will be 20 months old, March 9th.

Mr. B. [*Burton*] is now wishing to get rid of his farm. He tried hiring for a time & though he had little difficulty with his hands, he wished to try renting. Having built a comfortable hewed log house, he has tried renting his farm to two men heads of families, first, for five years, secondly for three years, but in each case, before one year had half expired, such was the state of feeling between <*the*> us, that it took no small effort to settle it. In the last case wh. [*which*] was last fall, we lost considerable in the settlement. Indeed the older I become, the more I think of the importance of acquiring absolute control over our passions, while young. My little boys are hard to govern. I fear for them, but O for more faith. Every good gift is from above, & with God all things are possible. We have enjoyed more peace in our family for about a year, than I once expected to enjoy in this life. Doubtless all we endure in this life is designed to wean us from the world, & bring us home to God. Strange how slow I have been to learn, for I have had many lessons. I have been a great backslider when shall I return? Never? I cannot think so. O that by the grace of God the time might not be far distant when I shall experience that joy & peace in believing wh. [*which*] the [world?] can neither give nor take away.

Feb. 28. This day is very cold. A heavy snow has fallen wh. [*which*] might be of some advantage to us, if we had sleighs as the ground was hard frozen upon which it fell.

Though Mr. B. [*Burton*] is about <*but*> he has not preached for sometime, he is somewhat indisposed, & so much afraid he shall be sick, as to avoid almost all exposure.

Mary sends her love to her Uncle Daniel & Aunt Caroline.

Your affectionate. sister, Elizabeth Burton. [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

Dear sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

Though I suppose I have never seen you I have almost become acquainted, by means of fiends. I know, at least, that your education would make you just such a sister & friend as I should most desire. though I know nothing of your religious sentiments. In my mind cold as my heart is there is nothing that so cements friends hearts together, as true religion. Indeed I am alarmed about myself & my children, (two of whom are quite ill,) my heart is so hard, & my love so cold. Do, sister, write me soon, sister Martha [*Martha Grant*] is sick & cannot write, mother is almost worn out with nursing so that I seldom get much that is calculated to revive my spirits from the east. I seldom attend public worship & never private religious meeting, & can <u>very</u> <u>very</u> <u>seldom</u> meet a christian, with whom I can hold sweet converse. My streams seem almost dry. I have forsaken "the Fountain of living waters, & hewn to my self cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water" Forgive dear sister, this strain into wh. [*which*] I have almost unconsiously broken

Kiss the babe for me, tell me all about her when you write, and believe me
Your affectionate sister
Elizabeth Burton

[*written across side*] Any thing about your New England friend would be very acceptable, If you ever know me, please tell me when & where.

I hope both will [write?] soon. Adieu E.B.

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

[*From*] Mother Grant
Sept 1848
Millbrook Ct
Sept 13

Colebrook [*Connecticut*] Sept 11th ...48

My dear children [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

I believe you think the letter I promised you when I sent the goods I have been so long about to send has been very tardy in its movements indeed it has been very different from what I intended it will be of no use to enumerate the many obstacles that have come in my way but after all last monday a week to day I went with the barrel well stocked with good to the Depot and I there found John Watson son of Jacob Watson who said he would see it started in the P M I have felt somewhat uneasy since that I did not see the Agent myself but he promised that he would be faithful and I thought he would so I left it with him to do the business and if he does the business as he promised I hope you will receive it ere long when I went with the barrel I carried your sister Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] she and Mr Burton have after so many years made us a visit and it was a great pleasure to me she looks oh altered a good deal since you saw her my son she and I went in our waggon and Mr B in the stage she enquired about you and your family thought she should write to you but she has her hands and her heart full Lavinia is married and Margaret has poor health her children she left well they returned the northern route and had it in contemplation to call on Phelps at Canton I will have mention that the barrel was directed to the care of Mc Clune & Williams Millwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Mr. Allen was buried last monday I wanted to attend the funeral but felt more that I wanted to go with Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] as far as I could he has been in a suffering condition for a long time I shall mix my letter up in such a way that you will think strange perhaps <*that I am more than usual light minded*> I want to say to you that I fear you will never get your pay for the improvements you make on your Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Wall people always say that improvements never fetch what they cost and people have such different views upon the subject that one man will want to undo all another does I would like to have you sell it and pay your debts if you should have a good opportunity I would like to know about your concerns as much as you think best I should, I went with E [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] to see your father B's [*Mr. Burr?*] family found them all well Mary [*Mary Burr?*] sent you <*her*> a number of articles she will probably write you what Joel sent & a pair of books John a pair of pantaloons and a suit up a pair that I suppose <*give*> was John's and some shirts and one of Marcus' bosoms and a collar he was absent he left Collinsville after his father told him that he disapproved of his grinding axes and engaged in a [coal?] job in New Hartford he came home and staid four days when I was at home [&?] was pretty well but said he worked hard I put up as many apples as I could with the other things I put mine into some cloth that I thought would make you a pair of pillow cases sweet into one and sour into the other but the mice ate one and you can do what you please with them we have no apples this year and last year they were very knotty friends all well your Uncle Luther lives and

may a good while yet he may not be the first to die in our family there is a good deal of sickness and a good many deaths in Winter Phinny Root's wife is dangerously sick Abigail [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] is better and has been home and made a visit She does not nurse her babe at all I sent some new calico for [it &] a dress also two breadths of a dress that I thought might make her one but as I understand you may have more family make use of it as may be most for the comfort of your family two pair of morocco shoes of <*m*> Martha's one indiarubber Mary sent a pair of indiarubber I did not send the dress patterns but sent a dress almost new which Martha said she thought you might wear with very little alteration she thought by letting down the [ep?] [...] each of you a pair of mittens and [also] two of the sheepskin mittens Susan [*Susan Boyd J. Grant?*] made for your father she made a pair for Marcus and they suited your father better and so they have both worn them and these have [lain?] by they were too large you will need I guess to cut out a little more than the seam I guess Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] and sew them over but you can contrive that part I shall put a little into this letter and when you receive this write me soon and I shall want to hear from the barrel if you ever receive it I have not mentioned but a part of what it contains much love to dear Abby and from [your?] mother thank her for what she did to write her I was very tired when I commenced and I have written with my paper on a map lying in my lap and you and you will find it somewhat difficult to read may you enjoy the blessing of God and strive to live near to him don't neglect your bible and under all circumstances spread out your wants before the Lord and store that tender mind that is commited to your care with that which is good not burden it be careful that her clothes are not tight [worm?] holes and all that there be no compression may the Lord be your guide & [grant?] help in time of trouble is the prayer of your aff [*affectionate*] Mother Grant

West Avon [*Connecticut*], Oct. 18, '48.

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

While at home last week Marcus handed me a letter from John to you in wh. [*which*] he had designed to enclose a half sheet. But Mother's sickness & his other duties prevented his doing it soon. & he thought I had better bring it home. I have long wished to feel able and have the time to write you, and that fully but know not that I shall ever do it with greater ease than now, tho' [*though*] my space must be limited.

It is 7 o'clock in the morning. My baby taking his morning nap in the cradle, husband in the study, girl washing dishes in the back room & I have one hand on the cradle, the other [grasping?] the pen. We have a pleasant house & convenient, th'o [*though*] some of the rooms are too small. If I ever have sufficient strength shall like housekeeping very much. We had been here but six weeks when Johnny was home. & those were weeks of great care in arranging and getting things comfortably [settled?]. Billah was with me five weeks after the birth of my babe and could she have stayed five more. I might have been spared a great deal of suffering. But as I can not have room to write every thing will only say that thro' [*though*] the mercy of God I was spared, even after resting for some time [from] the [verge?] of the grave, and am now in tolerable health, tho' [*though*] far from being strong, am able to endure. Our boy's name is John Cowles, is near six months old, weight 21 lbs. is perfectly pleasant, seldom crying if not sick. He takes all his food from a bottle. I was obliged to wean him when two months old, on account of a sore mouth, which is not yet well. We have bought milk & butter all summer, but expect a cow today. Our expenses must greatly exceed our salary this year. There is no end to demands upon the purse in sickness, and little economy in the kitchen, when hired help manages. Our people have been very kind & thoughtful for us, thus adding greatly to our comfort.

We found Mother Grant very sick with Typhus fever, and seen how it may result, tho' [*though*] there is hope in her case. Sister [Parney?] had been dangerously ill with dysintery, but when we were there, was able to sit up an hour in a day. Her beautiful babe 7 months old died two weeks since with the same disease. Ann Elisa Knapp was buried last week Tues. her disease consumption. There have been a great many deaths in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] the past season. I wanted to see your sister M [*Mary Burr*], but there no time to go there, as we were gone from home but two nights. I hope she will spend some time with us this winter. The impression in N. [*Norfolk, Connecticut*] is that she is to be married I did not see her gentleman

when we were out. Johnny is in my lap and joggles my pen. I think he wd. [*would*] like to send his love to his Uncle & Aunt and cousin Abby. Do let us hear from you soon, and all the particulars. Joel sends love to you all. I was sorry to send you nothing but that little [neck?] ribon, but did not know that the box still opens- Those little dresses were out out <*from*> by one of my baby's slips. I like them very much. If you name a babe tell us all about it, will you not. I doubt not you had a comfortable time. You got along so well before. I was sick but three hours. Dr. Philo Rockwell is our physician. We had others in council.

Aff. [*affectionate*] your
sister Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

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

Newark [*New Jersey*], <Jan.>
Feb. 1, 1851.

My Dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother

Jno. Grant [*John Grant*]

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Care of Wm. Hill [*William Hill*] Esq.
Flemington
N. J. [*New Jersey*]

Newburyport [*Massachusetts*] Jan 11th 1851

Dear Daughter. We received your communications this morning was glad to hear from you and my dear absent Children. Joel and John had informed us, that letters had been received with comforting inteligence. It was like cold water to a thirsty soul, my mind had become exceedingly anxious about D. [*Daniel Grant*] & M [*Marcus Grant*], and in looking at my contemplated visit, I felt that I must leave home with a heavy heart. But monday P. M a letter was handed in containing information that gave me great relief. We are here at Newburyport [*Massachusetts*] in good health I have for a long time wanted to write to you <*to you*> but my body and mind have ben taxed to the utmost. My health has been good I have had but very little suffering. Abby has been uniformly well and happy. She has not complained of being unwell at all. She often speaks of you and her little brother in most affectionate manner. She will say I suppose they think they have not stayed long enough, but I think they have, I hope when they do come <*I hope*> they will stay five months and two years. One time some one gave her two walnuts I said to her grandma will crack them for you. Oh no I will keep them for Ma and little Eddy, so with many little things she will [say?] I will keep them for Ma and my little brother. When we first talked or when we first began to plan our business we thought of shutting up our house, and I proposed to Mrs Orville Pinney to take her into her family and she and her adopted daughter appeared very much pleased with the plan. Since that your Aunt N. and her daughters concluded they would come & keep our house, and they rather wished that Abby would stay them. So I them as they both wanted her they must divide the time. She might go and stay with Mrs Pinney a while and then she might come and stay with her Aunt. She appears pleased with her prospect. Mrs Pinney came after her and carried her home hours before I left home. I do not feel free from anxiety respecting her although I feel confident, that she will be taken just as good care of as she would if I was with her yet if she should be sick or any accident should befall her, I should wish to be with her, but I hope & <*hope*> I commit her to his care, who only can protect her. You speak of <*her*> your return. I hope it will be so that you can leave your sister in time to spend weeks with us before it will be necessary for you to commence your summer's work. I want <*have*> you to have a good long visit with your only sister, and do not wish to hasten your return, but I very much want a visit too before summer work comes on. I do not think of any news but what you will hear from the other sources except I had a letter from Susan [*Susan Boyd Grant*] she sent much love to you and expressed a pleasure in my having Abbie with me for company. She also stated that one of their neighbors were at Mr Barton's a little time previous, but did not see Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] she was near being confined so that in some measure accounts for not writing us in so long a time. I intended writing to her soon when you left, but I have not done it but hope to while here. Give Edward many kisses for grandma may the Lord bless you and keep you is the prayer of your affectionate Mother E G
[*Elizabeth Grant*]

My dear Neice,

I thank you for your note, received today. Will you dwell on the character of the only living & true God, seek daily to learn more & more of what he is, by studying his word, observing his providences, & receiving his spirit. Think what the Redeemer has done to save our race, & receive his testimony respecting what he desires to do for you. Believe what he says to you, as you would have your children believe what you say to them. In true love, y'rs [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Give my love to Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] and her husband hope she will be blessed John was at home a few days left the last day of Dec may God's blessings attend you my dear child

E G [*Elizabeth Grant*]

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[A*ddressed to*] Mrs. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Present

Will you dear Carrie please accept this collar from Hetty and myself

Yours affectionately

Kate Hill

March 14th, 1854.

[*On reverse*] from Mother Grant Apr. '54

Millbrook [*Connecticut*] April 27 1854

My Dear Dear Daughter [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I have long been expecting to see or hear from you but as I don't I take my pen to enquire why it is so—I am about as well as usual and I have no news to write only that Edward commenced going to school yesterday he is in perfect health and has been since you left other friends well for ought I know. I think about you and Abbie a great deal I will say to you that if A feels unwilling to be left I would wish you not to leave her at present you know that my time is short and that I shall not be able to do anything for her very long and then if she would spend some time with her Aunt I should enjoy the anticipation very much I cannot bear the thought of having her left feeling as she did when you left her to go to Flemington [*New Jersey*] the first time yet I would not wish anything but what would be for her good and in reference to that I would wish you to decide Eddie often speaks of mother and Abbie wonders they donot come I have feared that some accident or sickness had befallen you but hope not let me know soon much love to Abbie may she remember her Creator in the days of her youth may you forbid that we should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for our dear friends may the Lord bbless us and keep us is the prayer of your affectionate

Mother E Grant [*Elizabeth Grant*]
Much love to Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] June 29th, 1854

My dear Mrs. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

Knowing the anxiety you must feel concerning your sister & as William [*William Hill*] is very much engaged through the day & too tired at night to write, I have offered to send you a few lines in his stead.

Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] is certainly improving tho. [*though*] very slowly, she is now able to walk about a little & can use her hands sufficiently to feed her self. Last Monday afternoon William [*William Hill*] brought Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] round to our house in the carriage, as we thought it would be much easier for us to take care of her here than at her own house, and as the house cleaning is not yet entirely finished, we intend to have it completed while she is with us. Abby & the two children stay here too, Abby & Sammie sleep together in the cotbed in our room and Laura in her little crib by the side of our bed, She has been very fretful for a day or two, (perhaps because of the heat) but is very good at night. She can stand alone for a few moments, & is quite active in getting about by the chairs, indeed I think will soon walk. You must not feel badly when I tell you that she seems to possess almost as strong an affection for her aunt Kate

as she did for aunt Carrie in the winter. Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] put on her short dresses the day after you left & she never took any cold from the change.

Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] had a colored woman for three weeks, who nursed her very nicely she felt obliged to leave last Sunday & as we can get no one to take her place, suppose M. [*Mary Burr Hill*] will have to remain some time yet with us. Her appetite is much improved, but the Dr. will not allow her any stimulating food. She enjoys bread & milk, Farina, Raspberries, and some kinds of vegetables.

Today Hetty went to help Ann clean Mary's bedroom & the front entry & there is yet one day's cleaning to be done, for which we have engaged a colored women next week.

Mother was quite sick for a day or two, about a fortnight since, & though better now, is not right strong, the warm weather debilitates her. Father is as well as usual, not very stout & has to work rather too hard now that our people are haying.

Yesterday morning Hetty & I attended the wedding of Mary Capner She was married at eight o'clock in the morning, Christiana & Mr. Nevins, were bridesmaid & groomsman. Soon after the ceremony the bridal party changed their dresses & started for Washington. The wedding was not large, only the brothers & sisters, with ourselves and aunt Capner's family were invited.

William expects a pretty tiresone fourth of July, the band is going to attend a celebration at Somerville on that day.

Will bid you good night, as it is bedtime, if I have time will add a little in the morning, if not I hope you will excuse all blunders, as I have written in haste. I hope you will write as soon as you can.

Friday morning) Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] passed a comfortable night & is about the same as yesterday. The soreness, & stiffness is now confined chiefly to her neck & shoulders.

Abbie is well, went to church & Sunday School with me last Sabbath. You will be surprised to hear that we have had her hair cut, the barber came up last week & cut it, the long locks were saved for you. She now looks very nice with it fastened back with her comb, after her aunt was taken sick there was no one there to take care of it, & she could not keep it in order herself, so we had it cut. With kind regards to your parents & love for yourself, I remain yours Sincerely Kate Hill

[*written up the side of the page*] Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] sends love to all & thought she could write a few words, but it is mail time & if the letter remains until tomorrow you will not get it this week.

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

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Sept 16th1856

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

We have been looking for a letter for several days and hope that you will not be so situated that you cannot write us a few lines once in a while, and that while not too long for Brotherly patience. Our little Mary is much improved in health and we get along with her pretty well except that she demands as much attention now as she did when sick, and is provoked to tears if she does not receive it

Her teeth have not shown themselves as yet only by the looks of the gums. Last week, I went to Newark [*New Jersey*] to the state fair. Went by the way of New Brunswick and made that my staying place as Newark was very full of people and I had an Invitation from Uncle John to come that way. The fair was not as good as it ought to have been and in many respects did not do justice to our State. The show of grains was very meagre -- & so it was in many of the manufactures for which Newark is celebrated. They had some fine sheep and Short Horned cattle, and some bery good horses The turn out of people was very large on wednesday and thursday, how it was on firday I cannot say as I was so tired in two days that I came home Uncle

J., Capner & Aunt went with me—or I went with them. We have this year for the first a County Agricultural fair and have purchased and filled up twenty seven acres of ground as a permanent fair ground. it has a permanent fence round it and a good sized building in which to exhibit articles that meed protection from the weather. Tomorrow the fair is to be opened and continue three days. The people of Flem[tn] have been making great preparations to reap an abundant harvest of the ready from those that come up to see them on the occasion, and all things eatable will be quite abundant but the sleeping accomadations will not equal the demand if there is a good turn out

Several car loads of machinery came to day for the fair and the ladies are going to have flowers in abundance, so utility and beauty will be well represented. It is creating quite an excitement among a good many people. The ground belongs to a stock company, of 400 shares 25 dols per share—and it is very well arranged with a fine half mile tract to trot horses upon. I shall take over some drain tile and perhaps some seed wheat. Your letter has just arrived and Mary sits by reading while I am writing this, and is most through reading now so that I will take my turn now.

We had a good burn of tile in our new kiln last time. Two days ago recd an order for 5,000 lead pots—so you see that we have plenty of work on hand yet. finished sowing our wheat last saturday week. Sowed about 15 acres of wheat and 4 1/2 of rye. had a fine time for sowing and several nice rains to bring it up after it was sown. We have not had any large rain since the drought and the streams are still low.

We lost one of our cows while I was at Newark by turning into clover that was pretty good and young The cow was almost dead before any one saw her and could not be saved. We never had one affected before and I did not know that they were liable to be injured at this season.

I am not certain that it is best for you to reamain where you are though Daniel thinks that I do – but I will say that wherever you go you will find it necessary to do some thing to keep things in order. On my farm we expend between 2 & 3 hundred dols per year in guano, phosphate of lime, under draining &c. and expect to for years to come in order to keep up and improve its fertility and even on good western land something ought to be done to keep it from going down hill and leaving it for future generations to make up that which others have taken from the soil, as many of our fathers have done in this part of the country. I have not said anything about your coming to this part of the country for land here is very high near the villages and most of it needs a good share of expenditure before it is first rate farm land though the majority of our farmers live about as comfortably as they do in other places – land here sells from or to 100 dols per acre – according to quality of land and buildings and the size of the farm. We both think it better not to divide the farm as it would be a difficult thing to suit all parties and we should want to sell our share if it were divided. My advice is the same as Marys as to buying or setting upon new land. You have means enough to buy a farm in the west with comfortable improvements and that will give you returns enough to pay you as much as you would make by clearing up new land and that would increase in worth nearly as much as the new land, beside the greater amount of comfort.

As to your staying where you are. The best thing is for you to decide for yourselves looking at the thing in all its aspects and if you feel that you can never be content to live there, but will continually be desiring to try or go somewhere it would perhaps be better to go but if you would like to make the experiment it seems to me that you could not loose much to take it as M & E offer and try it a year or two to see how you like it though you can judge better the value of land there than I can. If it is sold soon let Caroline & Erastus sell it together or in parts to the best advantage. Our wish in the matter is to see you comfortably settled and content with your choice wherever it may be. Perhaps you could make comfortable living by putting your money out at interest on bond and mortgage and let D [*Daniel Grant*] get a situation at some light work, such as bookkeeper or superintendent in some factory. I wish it were so that we could talk together but at present that is out of the question as you cannot come here I suppose & we cannot very well come your way. I do not feel satisfied with this letter but do not know how to better it. Write again soon for we will be anxious to hear how you are getting on.

W Hill [*William Hill*]

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Lockport Ill. [*Illinois*] Aug. 31, 1857.

Dear Sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I am not in a writing mood this morn, but perhaps shall feel more like it if I try to use a pen. At any rate the hour between this and dinner ought not to be useless, & I never can sew Mond. A.M.

My husband [*Joel Grant*] arrived in the noon omnibus last Tues. I need not say he was heartily welcomed. The five weeks had seemed as many months to me, though in the meantime I had with Johny made a trip to Detroit [*Michigan*], & spent a week with a dear friend there. Mr. Grant enjoyed his trip very much and each visit; he has not yet had time to tell me all the particulars of each one, but does so from time to time as opportunity occurs. The freedom from care, change of air & scene &c, &c, have produced a great change in Mr. Grants health. He went away thin and feeble from the effect of that dreadful typhoid fever, but now is so fleshy & apparently so much stronger, that every one remarks it. It is such a privilege to get away from cares for awhile and rest.

I value very much those things you sent, the paper is always useful, and the socks not less so. One pair fits Mr. G. [*Joel Grant*] the others are just right for John. (he wore them to meeting yesterday) I do most of my woolen knitting, but never get time to knit cotton in any way, and the bought socks last so short a time.

I wish I had something that will do you as much good as they will my husband & Jon. John read with interest his book – he remembers Abby & Eddie.

John is very large of his age, but not at all precocious. “Slow & sure” is part of his nature. He is a good boy, obedient & kind. Poor Willy is having very hard fits today: he suffers none after the convulsions (then during them by prostration & feebleness _ _

He is very sweet tempered as you would know if you could see his face. It is a blessing that he has no distortion of feature, the only change in his so beautiful face being a lack of brightness in the eyes, and that is not more than is observable in many children, who have their senses. From what he says and [sings?], and acts, you would say there is no lack of intellect, but it is deeply shrouded by disease. The trial is great but it might be infinitely greater in a thousand ways. And I do feel that God does not subject us to it in vain. He knows just what we need, and will send no more.

So it seems we have a new sister! I am glad, and hope she will be happy in her new sphere. Mr. Grant [*Joel Grant*] likes her and Susan [*Susan Boyd Grant*] writes that they all love her very much. I want to see her, but shall not soon. It is fitting that John should have a young heart to cheer his, so sorrowed by suffering, and prospects of gloom. She may not realize more of care or anxiety, than any of us whose cares are different. They have my best wishes for happiness and prosperity.

I have just received a copy of Mary [Hubbells?] memoirs.

You must excuse every thing incoherent in this. I have had to get dinner, wait on Willy & entertain three callers but I should not have more time if I waited and am really anxious to send this by the P.M. mail.

I shall always be glad to hear from you, I often think of you all and imagine you living up to North[. . .] but not as particularly as if I had seen you keeping house there. If you ever change yours for a western home, & are [. . .] here I hope you will make us a visit. I want to see brother Daniel & you and the children all together, & feel that I know you as a family. Remember me aff’ly [*affectionately*] to them all. Mr. Grant & John send love. Accept also the love of your aff [*affectionate*] sister

Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Love to any friends who man not have forgotten me in Norfolk [*Connecticut*].

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

Conn. [*Connecticut*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<u>W Hill</u> [*William Hill*]

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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 <u>badly</u> 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 <u>bread</u> when at <u>Conn</u>. [*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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Newark N.J.[*New Jersey*]
Thursday Eve

My Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I intended to have answered your kind letter and expressed my thanks, for the "present" which came with it -- before this, but have been so occupied with my household duties and taking care of "baby" that it is with difficulty I find time for <u>any</u> thing else.

We have a very sweet little babe, with blue eyes, dark hair and pug nose, I almost forgot to tell you that she has a mouth, a very pretty one too -- when she is good natured -- We have named her Gertrude. How I do wish you were all here with us this evening! We are better prepared to entertain our friends now than we were when father Grant was here. I am afraid he fared rather poorly -- but it was the best we could do under the circumstances.

Joel left here last Monday morning for his home in Ill. [*Illinois*] I presume you have heard ere this of the death of his little boy, Robbie. Oh! how I do pity Abbie [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]! What a trial it must have been for her to bear, alone!

We are all very well at present, I think John is rid of the "Ague" for a time at least, can't say how long, he has grown very thin since you saw him last. He is now teaching a small class -- only five including my little brother -- Our house is not yet completed, I believe the masons are preparing the second coat of plaster, which they hope to put on in a few days.

I wish Abbie [*Abigail Grant*] would write to me she has a great deal more time than I have to spare, but I should try to answer a letter from her "between this, and spring." Does she study French? if so how is she progressing?

How is Aunt [Nettleton's?] family? Give our love to them when next you see them.

When last we heard from home, all were well, excepting Libbie's husband, Pa wrote he had been unwell several days, but was getting better, Hope ere this he has entirely recovered.

Mr. Grant [*John Grant*] is making so much noise in trying to keep the baby quiet that I can not collect my though[ts] enough to finish this letter. Just wait until I scold a little and then I will finish. Write as soon as you can conveniently, for all love to hear from you, All send love to all. That you may spend a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year" is the wish of

Your Aff. [*affectionate*] Sister

Gertie D. Grant [*Gertrude D. Grant*]

Our address is Mt Pleasant Newark NJ

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Lockport, Ill. March 25, 1859.

Dear Sister C [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I was very glad to receive a letter from you a few days since. John was delighted with his from Abby & Eddie, and has often asked when I was going to write so he could write to them -- I hope their correspondence will continue, for John longs so to write to some one, & will not do it, unless written to. He has had a great deal of comfort in communicating with his Grandma Grant, and will continue it, also while his Pa has been away from us, he writes to him -- John will be benefited, and Abby & Eddie too, if they will pass up these exchanges of thought as long as they live; they are cousins and would love each other dearly if they were well acquainted, as I hope they will be some day -- J. has one intimate friend here by the name of George Smith, who is like a brother, and they mutually share in every thing pertaining to each other but he often weeps over the loss of their sister Mary, & brother Robie --

Our home has been made very desolate by death, and the reality of the loss, becomes greater & greater day by day: but those children can not come back to us: neither will I have them (if it had not been God's will they would not have been taken) for soon we shall go them. These lessons of bereavement are very hard, but not profitless to the soul -- The <*only*> assurance that God never makes mistakes, He knows when we are sufficiently driven by affliction, and need no more, and does shew the light of his countenance to every humbled and subdued heart, should be sufficient balm for every wound.

You have probably known something of the situation of our family the past winter -- Mr. Grant went directly to Bristol [*Illinois*] in this state, where he is still laboring, with more encouragement than in any other place -- The town village is not as large as this, but spiritual things are valued more. Meetings are better attended, church members more active, indeed every thing more encouraging -- The location is fine, on Fox River -- it is three miles away from the R.R. [*Railroad*] station of the same name, which seems a great way, for now we are only a quarter of a mile from the depot -- I hope Mr. G. [*Joel Grant*] will think it best to remain then -- I spent a week with him recently, leaving my family of seven in the care of a girl, that makes

[Flora's?] place good -- I have the four teachers of the public school, & [Tom?] Hubbell (formerly of E. Avon) in my family -- John, & Isabella (the girl) -- Willy is taken care of near by -- shall leave him for the summer, in the same care -- Mrs. Spenser does more for him than I could -- He grows, but those dreadful fits have taken so much of his reason, that he cannot take any care of himself -- not so much as to go & get a drink -- he asks for it -- but would empty a cup all over himself if let alone -- we think him a little better just now, but I cannot feel much encouraged as long as he has them at all -- The discipline of someone in his care, is more than every other trial --

I expect to break up here the first of May -- and shall go east after a few weeks -- don't now know just when -- The place is rented from that time, with the reserve of one wing of the house in that I shall pack, away my furniture to await my return from the east & Mr. G [*Joel Grant*] will board in B. [*Bristol, Illinois*] as he now does till fall --

Mr. Grant [*Joel Grant*] has not yet decided whether John goes east with me -- I hope he can go -- he is a great deal of company for me -- I cannot realize that the time for leaving this pleasant home is so near -- it will be a trial -- There is a spot in our cemetery where two little graves are, side by side that I dread most to leave -- There will be no one to visit them, & remember the beautiful forms that lie beneath -- no other heart yearns over theirs as does the mothers tho their father's is just as sad and lonely as mine. I shall hope to see you in a few months or weeks -- With love to Daniel & the children as well as yourself. I am your aff. [*affectionate*] sister Abby

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Mt. Pleasant.
Newark [*New Jersey*] Apr. 14, 1859.

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

For some weeks we have been just going to write you, but I believe no letter has yet been dispatched.

But with so many irons in the fire as we both have kept, we are at least excusable. Our house is nearly finished, but the grounds will require much time and labor yet. So to get such rooms furnished as we need will require some time and skill.

We have had applications to board families from New York and we think favorably of devoting our house to that use for this Summer. The principal obstacle is the expense of furnishing so many rooms. Our house is very generally admired and the location is very beautiful. It has cost me a year of anxiety --, but I have enjoyed it. Notwithstanding, and now cannot but rejoice at the result so nearly does it meet my idea of what I wanted it to be.

To-day is very rainy and my work is therefore suspended. This is the reason why I am found with pen in hand.

The spring promised to be very early, but for two weeks we have had it chilly and now almost cold at times, and so far this week it has rained a good deal.

Our family are well. Baby grows finely, and is very fat. We call her a beautiful child -- such she is to me.

If Abby [*Abigail E. Grant*] should visit N. Jersey [*New Jersey*] she must spend some time with Ms. If she were here now, we should find abundant employment for her, and I think she would enjoy the partial care of her little cousin Gertie. Can she not spend several weeks with us? I think it will not be practicable for Gertrude [*Gertrude D. Grant*] to spend a part of the Spring <*at*> in Conn, [*Connecticut*] as we contemplated.

I have now Mr. A.L. Dennis' eldest son under my instruction -- to fit for College immediately.

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant*] wrote a very pretty letter -- Has improved greatly. We shall be very glad of another such soon. Write soon & often. Your aff. [*affectionate*] Brother J Grant. [*John Grant*]

We have a girl now to assist Gertie [*Gertrude D. Grant*]
-- I home this will relieve us in some degree.

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N. Stonington [*North Stonington, Connecticut*] Sept. 2, 1859.
Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

Your letter mailed Aug. 30 at Norfolk [*Connecticut*] sent to Stonington remailed there Sept. 1. to No. Stonington came to me this morning -- I am afraid I shall not see your sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*], but have written to her, that I shall be happy to see her in Newark [*New Jersey*], and assuring her that she will be welcome at Brother Johns [*John Grant*] -- that letter will not go till tomorrow, and she will not get it till Mond. or Tues. I should like very much to see her, & hope to -- Was glad to hear from you, & that John [*John C. Grant*] was a good boy, & is well -- he will always remember this visit at your house, and I hope the children will henceforth correspond -- J. [*John C. Grant*] will have to learn to write better, before it will be pleasant for any one to receive from him -- Your assurance that he is a good boy, is grateful, for I think you are honest in your expression -- I do not expect perfection in him, but I do want him to do <u>right</u>, and be kind, polite, and gentlemanly -- I miss him so much, when away from him -- Tom Hubbell is sorry he did not come here with me, but it is best (economically) that he did not -- I came here Wed. leave to-morrow morn -- hope to get to Winsted [*Connecticut*] tomorrow noon -- shall leave there Tues-morn from Newark [*New Jersey*] -- & often spending our week in N. & N.Y. [*New York*] shall start for my western home.

Received a letter from my husband [*Joel Grant*] <u>here</u> this morn -- shall have another from him next Mond at W [*Winsted, Connecticut*], He is rejoicing as much as I am in the prospect of being again united -- I hope if I ever come east again, to be accompanied by him, I do not like to be long separated from him. I know it is nothing in comparison with <u>years</u> but three months seems to me a long time --

I think of my visit at your house with a great deal of pleasure. I know you all better than ever before -- and Sister C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] I shall never forget your sisterly kindness -- I wish we lived nearer together, so that as brothers & sisters we might in time exchange those thoughts that have a sympathy -- Mrs. Grant writes as if Bristol [*Illinois*] was improving, and becoming more and more desirable -- I long to be there, and arrange our homes. If you should go west you will not fail to visit us --

My welcome at Avon [*Connecticut*], was touching, all seem to remember our stay there with pleasure, & wish Mr. G. [*Joel Grant*] would return there --

The bell is ringing for Mr. Hubbell's preparatory lecture -- I must go -- a word more after meeting. Tom says there is 15 minutes more. Is Abby [*Abigail E. Grant B*] going home with Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]? I wish I lived near enough to have her come and stay awhile with me -- & Eddy [*Edward Grant*] too. John [*John C. Grant*] will miss him --

Did you and Daniel [*Daniel Grant*] enjoy the Aurora Borealis last Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve? It was beautiful in Avon -- we watched it a long time -- I shall hope to hear from you soon after reaching home -- You know I am interested in <u>particulars</u> Brother Daniel [*Daniel Grant*] knows so too --

Love to all your family from your aff [*affectionate*] sister Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

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

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

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

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

carried Allie into her room) then I went down and hemed one end and part of another of a [?] and then I went to bed.

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] daughter,

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

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

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[*Addressed to*]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Millbrook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
Flemington [*New Jersey*]

Dec. 20, 1861

Dear aunt Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I cannot think of much to write; yet I wish to send you a letter so as to get one from you.

I used to help mother [*Mary Burr Hill*] a great deal before our girl came. I dried the dishes, and sometimes washed them. I often made the trundle-bed and set the table and we children almost always put ourselves to bed and <*ourselves*> dressed ourselves in the morning; We often took our bath alone. When Allie [*Alletta Hill*] and I went up to grandmothers and aunts Hates [*Henrietta Hill?*] I got myself and Allie ready without troubling mother at all.

Allie and I have learned that verse you sent us "O that it were my chief delight." I wish you and Eddie [*Edward Grant*] would come again this winter.

Your aff'.ate niece
Mary P.B. Hill.

Please give my love to uncle Daniel

We expected to send Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] letter yesterday with mine but it was not ready and she was not very well at noon and I thought it doubtful whether she would have it ready to day. The winter is here ground partly covered with snow and the ice making slowly. Think that war

with Old England will be avoided, and hope that our army with not suffer very much this cold weather I often think of the sufferings of our soldiers, and would like to see the war ended in some way.
Our Sunday school children expect to have a nice time at the Church to morrow. They have a Christmas tree and all the scholars will have something --

Yours in haste
[*Mary Burr Hill*]

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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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[*Envelope addressed:*] Mrs Caroline Grant
Care of Mr A.W. Burr
Oberlin
Ohio

Fr Mrs. Anderson Apr. '71

1871
Flemington April 23rd

My dear Mrs Grant,

I received your letter last Thursday morning, and would have answered it immediately only that I knew Mary had written you, and supposed you were in the possession of her letter, about the time I received yours, I was very glad to hear from you though sorry you should have been kept in suspense regarding the state of M's health, Her recovery is tedious, she improves; but it is slowly, and some days she feels pretty well, and on others, quite miserable, but she is able to be about the house and give directions. From the the beginning of her sickness, Hetty and I have tried to do all that we could to relieve and assist them, the bread baking, and the heaviest part of the washing has been done either at mothers or my house, and for several weeks I did the regular-= weekly sweeping through the house. and went out any, and every day that I could spare from my own duties, to do any thing to advise, and help in any way. Minnie is a great treasure to that household, she has been so womanly, and so untiring in energy during her mother's sickness and withal so cheerful, that it has been a pleasure to see and help her. My

sister, who has so great a charge at home, was not able to be with them so much as I was, but she did considerable in altering, mending and making some of their clothes, and in doing their ironing at her own home. I have not, dear Mrs Grant told you all this, to praise ourselves, but that you may know that they have not suffered for want of attention, and that Minnie has been relieved of that which we feared might be too hard for her, when continued for weeks. She seems very well. and to my question, "Minnie "aren't you tired?" she always says no auntie I am not tired, I like to do. Both she and Alletta drank tea here a week ago on Saturday. Alletta has not been kept from school at all during Mary's sickness.

My mother is very miserable, can not walk without a cane, and suffers in various ways, she had a very severe term of palpitation of the heart last week, we felt quite alarmed as she seemed almost exhausted with it. Miss Allen is pretty well tho. she was more feeble than usual last week, and a little rheumatic but when the weather is fine she likes to be out in her garden.

Tell Abbie I often think of her, and would enjoy seeing her and the baby very much, I hope they may all be induced to visit Flemington, before a great while.

Annie Pierce, (Emery she was) has a lovely baby, he is not so pretty, but very sweet, blue eyes, and fair complexion, very large and very good natured. She calls him Fred. She is very fond of him and I hope he may be spared to her.

We all love our present pastor, Mr Mott very much both in the pulpit and out of it. I wish you could hear his prayers & sermons. I trust that I hear him with profit, I know I ought, much more than I do, I often feel grateful to my Heavenly Father for sending him here He is very kind and attentive in visiting my mother.

You ask about Louis and Frank. The former was married last November, He and his wife are living at Branchville, a small village about 10 miles from here, where Lou is in business (the mercantile) for himself. They commenced housekeeping on first of April. Frank, returned from Iowa, rather more than a year ago, he is now at Hamilton Square, where his aunt and grandmother live, engaged as engineer in an India rubber manufactory. We hope he may do well, and keep his place, it is much more satisfactory to us to have him there, than so far away from home. Lizzie and Charlie go to school and are doing well we think, Rev Mr Woodhull a friend of Mr Mott and through his influence brought here, is the principal of the school. is a very fine man, and a good teacher we think, Charlie is in his department, he has an assistant teacher -- for the younger ones, Miss Ioanna Higgins, perhaps you may have heard of her when here, Lizzie's teacher. It is more expensive to us to send them to this school, but we feel better compensated, because we think they have superior advantages <*than*> to those of the Public school. Charlie has grown so you would scarcely know him, I suppose, he is as tall as his auntie; He is learning to work as well as to study. and is quite persevering in what he undertakes, for which I am thankful as it is an essential trait, in one's character I think. I hope and pray that he may develop into a good, and an upright and noble Christian man that is my highest wish for him. and; May God help him.

The weather here is quite cool and we are needing rain very much. Our garden is all dug and ready to finish planting, we have peas and potatoes up, but they need raid to bring them on. Mr. Anderson has gone to Trenton to-day, he is the sole trustee and executor of his step-fathers estate, and that takes him there quite often to gather with his own business. He has been quite well for him during the past winter, but has a cold a present. I hope it will soon pass away. Mother and sister join me in love to yourself and Abbie. I hope you will write again, I shall always be glad to hear from you Please remember me to Mr Burr.

I have heard of sister Mary. this (Tuesday morn) and she is feeling better. Good bye.

Your aff. friend

E.H. Anderson

I should like to hear of Mr Grant and Edward. I suppose they are well.

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[*Addressed to*:] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Flemington
New Jersey

Oberlin, Ohio
Aug. 22nd '71

Dear Mother,

You haven't heard from us for a long time have you? It is too bad, but as you said there was the hurry of Commencement, and after that the hurry of getting ready for our visit, I took along pen and paper for the express purpose of writing to you, but while I was gone, found no time on acc't of the baby's needing so much attention,

I was driven very hard Examination week before commencement, I don't think I have ever been through so hard a weeks work before, I didn't commence to learn my graduating speech until Friday afternoon and spoke it the next Tuesday evening,

I did well, so folks said, I spoke against "Church suppers, Fairs, &c," Mary Shurlteff to the contrary notwithstanding, Quite a number thanked me for bringing out those sentiments, Several ministers, Mr. Hubbard the merchant, &c, And now seeing I am blowing my own trumpet I might tell you that I have received a great many commendations for the work I have done in teaching Latin, and also a very flattering public notice in the Reports of the Officers of the College read before a meeting of the Trustees and Alumni!!! There, I won't say any more about that or you will begin to say I don't "seem sensible,"

I shall not have to work so hard next year, I teach only three hours next year and have the same salary, School commences in just two weeks.

We had a lively time here commencement, Both days there were five or six here to meals and the same number to stay over night Tuesday & Wednesday, Mr. Bakers young people were here, Amanda's sister, and a Mr. House of Painesville who was classmate in New York and resembles me very much, All went away Thursday morning.

We could not get ready to start for our visit until the week after Com--.

[Delia?] was sick before and during comm -- from teething &c, so that Abbie could not get her dresses made &c, &c. We had a very pleasant day for our journey and reached Mr Thompson's about 9 o clock in the evening, We enjoyed our stay there much. They are very well to do farmers and it is a very nice country, One of the best farming sections I have ever seen,

After we had been there three or four days "Pettie" was taken sick, She was cutting two upper teeth and her bowels became very loose, After a day or two we stopped it two suddenly and a fever set in, we got her out of that in a day <*or two*> and then she began to get well,

So that we were able to come home last Saturday, "Pettie" has been quite well since we got back, There were a number there to take care of her and they thought a great deal of her, So probably it was not so hard on us as if we had been at home, The visit refreshed us very much, I checked through in a box a bushel and a half of splendid Early Rose potatoes, they gave us, <*also*> and they also gave us a large piece of cheese,

We found every all right at home when we get back except a large limb of the peach next the road had broken off in a storm it was so loaded with fruit,

We picked about a bushel of Barlett pears from the tree by the gate and they are now ripening and are splendid,

Abbie and I are alone now, Our hired girl left the Monday after commenmt, and we were glad we were through with her, Mother, hired girls are a pest, They waste more than they earn, and are a poor speculation, <u>It</u> <u>don't</u> <u>pay</u>, Folks call the girl we had a good one, <u>I hate hired girls</u>,

But a little more about Pettie, When she was a year old she weighed 18 1/4 lbs. She had just been sick more than a week from her teeth and with Sum-complaint, She had when a year old six teeth and cold run about the yard any where, She has two more teeth now I believe, Says "purty" at every thing she likes, calls the kitty "tee" &c,

The enclosed letter from Father was received some time since and Abbie took the liberty of opening it, We have been waiting to<*o*> send it when we wrote, Mrs. Hayworth & baby are not back yet, Don't know when they will be,

I enclose a little scrap about clover blossoms that I thought might comfort you, especially after all the persecution you have gone through on that point, I think you and that Dr. ought to write to each other and condole and sympathize, &c, Good thing you got your blossoms when you did, for it has been terribly dry here this Summer and is so yet, But I must stop I hope Aunt Mary is improving and that you all are well, Remember me to

[*written across last page*] Carrie especially, Much love you all
Your aff. son Almon.
[*written across first page*] I enclose one of my Faculty pictures, We had that class party here that we were talking about, 21 here, She that was Nellie Striely among, them, Every thing went off charmingly, Abbie says she cant find all <*the letter*> of Aunt Abby's letter,

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Oberlin Ohio.
March 4th, 1872.

My dear Mother,

I will write a little while this afternoon so as to have my letter ready when Almon writes. The sun shines beautifully now, but it is very cold, this morning was stormy and blistering, regular March weather.

I tried your wonderful soap this morning. Put the clothes asoak in it last night and did everything in order, but we couldnt make out that it was any better than other soap. not a quarter as good as the machine. Mrs. Fay had to take the wash board, and rub the clothes out regular old style, before she could make them look any how.

I am doing my work alone again this spring (Pet is climbing around me so you must excuse the writing.) I didnt expect to. had an excellent girl engaged. but her mother was taken sick, and she was obliged to give up coming. Girls are very scarce this spring. we cant hear of a single one, good or bad, but I am getting along very well now. Pet is getting to be like her old self. her swelling has been lanced, has discharged a good deal, and has now healed up. her eye teeth are through, and one of those opposite is through, the other now looks as though it would be along by tomorrow.

Almon had quite a severe atack of diptheria. the first week of the term, but is over it now.

I hire my washing and ironing done, hall hire some sewing after a while. get along with the housework nicely. Ill have to stop writin for awhile, for Pet is crying and hugging to hard to be taken.

May 24th My dear Mother, Almon is going to write to you this eve, so I will try to send a little. As you will see I commenced this letter long ago, before Pet had the lung fever. The dear little thing is getting rosy and fat now and seems to be quite healthy. She tries to talk a little more than she did.

I am not able to do much of any thing yet, but have a young lass here who is excellent help. Although I am afraid every day that I shall lose her. I had been sitting up but one day when Alice Stocking went home. She was obliged to go on account of her own housecleaning, moving, &c. I shall try to get your things together to send before long. Alice couldnt see to it before she went, for the letter only came that day. I do feel so sorry for poor dear Eddie. Shall write him as soon as I am able. Almon will write him too. Almon says that if E will come on here, he will give him work for a couple of months. though I believe A thinks that he wont need him much before the first of August, still if Es health is in such a state that he needs to come before of course he might and be welcome. A things Father would [hire?] him some too. and in the mean time you know he could be looking around, making up his mind what he wanted to do &c.

If I should be unsuccessful in getting good help this summer do you suppose that you could come out here along about commencement, or even after. I do not want to take you away from Aunt Mary if she needs you yet, but there is so very much to do this sum

[*written across first page*] mer and fall that I am clear discouraged every time I think of it. If I should happen to get real good help though, I could get along nicely. I suppose it will be decided before long now whether Miss Sayer stays or not, she is not attending school and if she does stay, I can have her all the time if I want her, she is a real nice housekeeper. I am too tired to write <u>any</u> more.

Love to all,
Your aff. daughter, Abbie.

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Hallowell Maine

Sept 8th, 1875

My dear Mother,

Your letter has been just received. I forgot in my living of moving and settling that I had not answered your question with regards to the cape. I have been thinking for two or three days days that I would write to you right away, but I should not have thought of the cape. If you think that aunt W. or the [Stewarses?] would value the cape any I would just as soon they would have it for it will be some fuss to get it fixed and [thou I?] know how pretty it would be. I am not particular either way. We left Andover Miday Aug 27th and spent most of the day in Boston. At 6 P.M. we took the Steamer Star of the East and sailed for Hallowell. We reached here at half past 8 on Saturday morn, and found Dea. Page waiting to take us to the school. We were here in advance of all the others as the school did not commence until the 2nd of Sept. We did not more than get settled in our rooms before the time commenced and there are quite a number of things that are not arranged yet, brackets pictures, &c. We have a large parlor 18 x 21 upon which is quite a pretty carpet, but we furnish the rest. We bought in Boston a very handsome haircloth lounge and rocking chair, our four black walnut [cameseat?] chairs which we had at home were packed with the things and came safely. We bought in Augusta a large Mahogany [curtis?] table, and quite a pretty camp chair. Also a little [ratain?] rocking chair for the children. We have [hung?] several of our pictures in there but the room is so large that it doesnt seem much furnished yet. I am going to have a small rocking chair soon and my large wooden one that I brought from O. can be covered newly and when my flowers are started we shall be quite cosey. The bedroom opens out of the parlor through a closet which I have carpeted and in which stands a bureau when I keep the childrenss clothes. We also hang some clothes that we need very often there. The bed room we also carpet ourselves but they furnish it otherwise we have a full bedroom set light color. The room is about 14 x 16 in it are two large windows in the parlor are four. They both have doors opening into the hall and between them is a door opening into a large closet which we use.

Here is a rough diagram at the other end of the building

Almon Hall has a small study.
The view from our room is quite pleasant.
We can see the river for some little distance
but the hills close us in pretty [roughly?] Pettie
is writing a letter to you one of the girls gave
some paper and envelopes for her own use.
I asked her to wait and [...] help her write it, but she was in too much of a hurry. We received your letter with the $10, for which we were very thankful, and Edward sent

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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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Hallowell Maine
Nov. 1875.

My dear Mother,

We are having cold dismal weather now but are getting along nicely I think. Almon seems to be prospering with the school. I am pretty well and dont have much to do. and the children are pretty well too. Pet seems better than ever she was and Harry is stronger and less fretful than last spring though he doesnt seem to be very healthy yet. Almon thinks that he grows but I cant see that he does.

Our rooms are getting to look a little more cheerful than they did I have several plants. some hanging baskets and some dishes of moss and little wild things. I take the whole care of any rooms I have no one in particular to take care of the children when I go out but am going to try to find some one next time though I dont know as I can. It is very hard to find any one to help here. and we dont feel that we can pay a girls whole board for what she would help. I wish we could go to housekeeping but it seems as though Almon ought to be here in the building for the present. This is a cold dismal land except for a little while in the summer. I dont enjoy the board here very well. We have so little fruit. and things are not always well cooked. but upon the whole I suppose that the board is very good.

The soreness about Pets eyes seems entirely cured now which of course improves her appearance very much I like most of the people whom I have met here very much. quite a number have called and I have been out to three evening companies.

I hope that you are all well at Uncles. and that company has ceased to pour in upon you.

A little farther up this hill upon which we are there is one of the most beautiful views that I ever saw or rather was for since this landscape has lost its summer and autumn beauty the view has lost much of its charm but is still very beautiful in a bright day. I send some pieces of my dresses. the silk was two dollars a yard. I got 25 yds. the making up in simple style yet stylishly was $15.00 aside from lining &c. the cashmere was $1.25 per yard. 10 yards. the making cost 9.50. The Alpaca was well I have forgotten exactly what. but it was a remnant. and I think was 35 or 37 cts. per yd. I have a wrapper of it.

We heard from Edward a while ago. I am so sorry that he has to go wandering about so much. I wish that we could find a place for him here but nothing has shown itself yet. We shall not forget him though. What do you hear from Father and from Aunt Mary and family? I hope that you are well With much love

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

Almon is very much tired just now. but vacations is soon coming.
How are all of Albert's family? and [Jennie?]

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

Hallowell, Me.
Monday Dec 2, 1875.

My dear Mother,

We are all pretty well. I feel the cold very much not that I really feel very cold. but I feel the effects of the cold. The thermometer showed 18 [*degrees*] below 0 here on the 30th of Nov. and 22 [*degrees*] below 0 this morning. during this month for the most of the time we have had very pleasant winter weather. We have had snow ever since the first of Thanksgiving week. Our rooms are beginning to look quite pleasant and homelike as we add our little things after another to them. We fear that Mr. McCully our minister here is going to leave us, as he has a very urgent call to Callis in this State. We shall be very sorry if he goes for besides being an excellent man and good preacher, he was here very kind to us. I was glad to hear from Edward, but sorry to know that he could find no work. It seems to be here just as it is in the rest of the country almost impossible for one out of work to find anything to do. Almon does not seem to think that the farm land is situated just right for raising things for market but I suppose he has told Edward all about it. I think that if cousin Samantha does not find her four subscribers easily that I will join with you in one number. I will pay a dollar I do not think that I want the engraving, better give that to someone else. I dont know much about the magazine but think it is sure like Godey. dont imagine that I shall care much about it except perhaps the pictures in it. Halley has been pretty freful for a few days. think he is hardly as well as usual. Pet seems very well. and her disposition seems much improved. she is most of the time a very good child. I received the letter which you sent with ribbons in it but the package never came It was too bad when you took so much pains to sent there the sugar. I keep myself very busy but do not overwork as I used to. Almon went to Boston during vacation saw Prof. Shurtleff there and. will [Boston?] I suppose that Minnie is home now and employing herself very much. I will try to write again before long -- With much love to yourself and Edward. I am

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

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

[*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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[*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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[*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<*l*> 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*]

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
(Care D[r.?] Collar)

[*Note on envelope:*] In Oberlin when Harold was sick
Apr. '79

[*Note at top of letter:*] from Abigail G. Burr
Oberlin Ohio

Thurs eve. Apr 3rd 1879.

My dear mother,

I am at Father Burr's with my little sick boy. Almon [*Almon Burr*] and Carrie started for home on Tuesday, and if they had no mishap reached home this morn, at about three o clock. We started from Hallowell [*Maine*] two weeks ago last Tuesday, at about ten o clock in the morning, reached Boston at half past five in the evening, and left there at six on the Hoosac Tunnel rout, were delayed on that, so we did not make connections at Troy, so did not arrive at John [Frazier's?] at Madison O. (where we were to stop over one night) until between seven and eight o clock on Thursday morning, several of Almons classmates were there to meet us, and we had a very pleasant time. We left there for Oberlin at noon Friday, where we arrived at five o clock in the afternoon. We had a very pleasant time for the first few days. Minnie Hill took tea with us on Saturday eve. Sunday was communion, and a great many united with the churches. At the Second Church where we attended, forty two united on prof<*f*>ession of faith and a few by letter, it was a very impressive occasion. Monday eve we took tea at the Hall with Mrs. Johnston, Tuesday eve at Mary Shurtleffs. Minnie also was there. Wednesday was so rainy that I remained at home all day and no one came except Prof. Newton. Thursday we spent in making and receiving calls. Went to Mr. Maltbies for one place. I do like Mrs. Maltbie very much. They seemed pretty well, though I think Mrs. M. is not very strong. I have forgotten just what they did say about themselves. Mr. M. I did not see.

Friday just before noon Harold was taken suddenly ill, headache and vomiting. we thought at first that it was a sick headache, but as the afternoon progressed and he continued to vomit and a high fever came on, we feared scarlet fever, we sent for the Doctor, he didnt seem decided what it was. Saturday he thought it bilious fever, but Sunday he began to break out and show other decided symptoms of scarlet fever. We were over him day and night until Monday night when he seemed a little more comfortable Almon took care of him alone that night as I was about worn out I had a very bad cold too. We had all expected to leave for Hallowell on Monday, but of course could not. Almon stayed over one day longer, and will be one day late at the opening of the term. We thought it best for Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*]
to go with him, if she is sick will have to have a nurse, there seemed no way to take care of her here. I have my hands full with Harriet. [Utica?] is no place for her to be sick, and no one in the family to take care of [him?] Celia teaches all day long and is not able to do any thing here. Nettie is an invalid Mother is not well, and if she were is so very deaf as to be useless in taking care of a very sick person, and there is no room in the house for a nurse. I hope the dear little thing will get along all right.

Friday morn. Harold had not had much fever for the last two or three days, but is very weak, and does not seem to gain much, his spine seems some affected, could not sleep last night because of pain in the back of his neck, he does not sit up any yet ex. to be held in my arms for a few minutes, or be propped up by pillows while he eats. Of course he is very fretful and wants me to be with him constantly. I have been having a very bad cold which with the care of Halley has made me about sick, but I am much better now, and I sleep the larger part of the night. The Shurtleffs are in their usual health, little Mary is a very lovely child. Mr Shurtleff is going away on a financial trip again soon We were invited down there last Saturday eve to meet Theodore, and some other friends. Theodore was not able to come, for what reason I do not know. I received a card from Almon today. They had reached Boston in safety. I hope that I shall hear tomorrow, that they are safe in H. Minnie Hill seems well, she appears well. Almon has a fine account of her from Mrs. Jonston. Mrs. [Joth...?] & she will make a fine teacher. I can spend more time now.

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

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Clayton.
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]

[*Note on envelope:*] From Abbie May 79

[*Note at top of letter above address:*] Abigail E. Grant Burr
Hallowell Me.
May 7th 1879.

My dear Mother,

We are safe at home my little boy and I. I am pretty well. Harold is very weak yet, but is gaining every day. The dear little fellow has been very sick, and we are thankful enough to have him as well as he is, when he was down the first time the doctor said that for a day or two he did not know which way it was going to go with him, then when he began to mend, we suppose that he took a little cold, though we hardly see how, and he had a serious relaps, with dreadful swelled neck, vomiting and other painful troubles. I was at that time sick myself, then he was taken with dropsy, but now he has recovered from all, and is slowly gaining strength. We started for home at the first minute that it was safe to do so. We left Oberlin Thursday noon May 1st and reached home about ten o clock Saturday morn. We came from Boston by boat, and both of us enjoyed that part of our journey very much. Harold was much stronger when we reached here then<*re*?> when we left Oberlin. We took a sleeping car Thursday night, and were in the boat Friday night, so that Halley slept well both nights. Brother Willie is in Boston now, and met me at the depot. I also saw Prof. Shurtleff for a few moments. All tell me that Carrie has been a little woman while here alone. I was very glad that she did not remain with us, she could hardly have escaped being sick. She has not been well for two or three days, and was taken down with diphtheria this afternoon, but I hope that it will not be serious. I am sitting up for a while to take care of her and it is pretty late that I am vomiting.

Minnie Hill and the Shurtleffs were in their usual health when I came away. Celia was suffering considerably with rheumatism and Nettie was feeling pretty weak and under [able?]. I had the scarlet fever thoroughly, but was not very sick, and got over it well, was confined to my bed four or five days, or rather five or six.

Mr. Shurtleff stopped in to see Aunt Gertie [*Sarah Gertrude Day Grant*] a few days ago, he says that she is living alone in the house now. A man comes to sleep nights. She spoke very tenderly of Uncle John, but on the whole seemed quite cheerful. Many Shurtleffs children are very pretty and sweet, little Mary is especially lovely.

I had a letter from Edward yesterday, he represents himself as about as usual</> and glad that he has changed his boarding place.

Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] has been quiet for some little time now, and I think I will venture to go to bed. Please give my love to Uncle and Aunt, and take a great deal for yourself please. Your aff. daughter

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

Father and Mother Burr, received your letter, but as I had sent you a postal a few days before they will probably not think it necessary to write [now?]. I think that in some ways Carrie seemed a little better this morning.

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Clayton.
Mass.

[*Note on envelope:*] From Abigail E. Grant Burr
1879
Tells what Mrs. Johnston says of Minnie Hill

[*Note at top of letter above address:*] From Abigail E. Grant Burr
Hallowell Me.
May 20th 1879.

My dear Mother,

Your letter enclosing one from Minnie Hill was received a few days ago. I will send the shoes as soon as I go back to the house, at present I am in exile, for Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] three days after I returned home had a mild attack of Scarletina, and the matron was so frightened that she kept some of the rest all the time stirred up. So Carrie Harry and I left the house and are not at this present state permitted to enter it. The doctor makes a good deal of fun

of them, he says that if any of them were going to take it of Carrie, they got it during the day or two that she was feverish, for she had not rash enough to be likely to give it from her skin. When she was taken her throat presented every appearance of diphtheria, and the peculiar appearance which scarlet fever exhibits did not occur for several days. Carrie has had three or four very sick days with inflammation of the bowels, which the doctor says has no connection with the fever but he thinks was engendered by the condition of her stomach previous to her sickness, indeed he says that she would not have had the fever at all, had it not been for this state of her stomach. We are pretty well posted about diphtheria, as we have a great deal of it here, there is hardly a time in the year when there not some cases in town. Nettie is expected to be an invalid for some time, her disease is considered to be a serious one, which time and rest may overcome, but their physician says it may be several years. Celia has kept in school all the time, is now getting a little better. She writes me Willard is in Boston studying music, he expects to go to Germany in the latter part of the summer, his whole heart and soul is bound up in music.

I thought I told you in my letter from Oberlin about Minnie, and still think that I did. Every one spoke highly of her, Miss Johnstone very much so. She was not a first class scholar but a good one, and had remarkably good sense and executive ability would in their opinion make a good teacher, better than many who stood before her in scholarship. Mrs. J. spoke of her as a most excellent girl in all ways.

I think that Carrie took care of herself mostly, all were kind to her.

Carrie is improving rapidly Harry keeps tolerably well, has the ear ache some, but the doctor says is not at all strong, and cannot endure much, shall have to be very careful of them both till we can get to the sea shore and let the sweet salt sea breezes straight in them. I received a letter from Edward since coming home. We live in a little room in one of the houses near the school, and Almon [*Almon Burr*] brings us our meals from the house. I hope that you are well. How are cousin Albert [Bentons] people now? and Jennie and her family [Write?] much to Uncle Aunt and Yourself. I am

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

Was glad to see Minnies letter. I hope that if she is to teach she will be successful in obtaining such a situation as she deserves. I think Minnie is much liked in O. [*Ohio*] I noticed that she was one of the leading girls in her class.

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
Care Dea Collar.

[*Note on envelope:*] From Abbie
Aug. '79.

[*Note at top of letter above address:*] [fro?] Abigail E. Grant Burr
Cushing Me. [*Maine*]
Aug 4th 1879

My dear Mother,

We have now been in Cushing three weeks, and are glad to be here. We were not any of us very well when we came, the children were not strong at all. Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] had coughed slightly ever since her sickness in the spring, and seemed to be losing strength all the time. She has not been very well all the year, and I have been feeling a little troubled about her, fearing that the climate [was] too severe for her. She is so apt to have a cough, but I am feeling greatly relieved now for she has <*imp*?> improved wonderfully since coming here, has grown plump and rosy and strong. Harry does not improve so rapidly but I think is now really on the road to better health, he is quite deaf though, but I am still in hope that it will wear away. I had a very dreadful cold on my lungs, when I came but do not cough any now and am growing stronger. Almon [*Almon Burr*] is gaining strength and enjoying himself very much It has been very hot here for the last day or two which makes me think that it must be very very hot back in the country.

Willie Burr was married July first, to a lady of Franklin N.H. a widow with considerable property, they are going to Germany sometime this month, I suppose to spend several years. [Austin] Burr had another son, born in June.

We begin with new teachers entire next year. Carrie & Harry have just begun lessons again and I think Carrie will be able to write you a letter before long, as she seems to learn very well. You spoke sometime ago of Uncle Erastus' going to leave his pleasant house and take another elsewhere, that Ralph was to be married &c. I would like to hear more about them. I shall be sorry enough to have Uncle Erastus' people have there. How are the Bentons now? and Jennie and her husband and children?

I hope that Uncle and Aunt are pretty well, and how is it about yoursel<*f*>f I have not heard anything particular from you in so long. I suppose you must be very busy. We shall be here about three weeks longer. With much love to you

Your affectionate daughter
Abbie. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]
Cushing
Care of
Capt. Ha[thorne?].

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Cushing Me. [*Maine*] Aug 8th" /83

My dear Mother,

We are here at the Captain's again, and the delicious sea air is putting new life into us I hope. Baby and I are improving slowly, but surely improving. I am getting able to take most of the care of Arthur [Emmons?] when he is good. He was baptized the Sunday before we left Hallowell and his middle name is for the Rev. [Wm?]. Emmons who has been a dear friend to us. Prof. Shurtleff and his family are here with us for two or three weeks. Mr. Shurtleff himself is very poorly and Mary is not at all strong, the little girls are very pretty and pleasant <*and*> I hope that their stay will do them all good though I doubt if they are prepared for our cool weather.

Our plans now are to stay here for a few weeks until fully recruited then go to Andover Mass. when we will rent rooms and keep house for a few months or a year. Almon [*Almon Burr*] wishes time for rest and study, and as no work that he really wishes to engage in has opened this seems the best time

Auntie Burton is with Philander in Grinell is better in mind than she used to be, but is very feeble in body. Philander is doing well and living comfortably. William is in California has a wife and a little one. Edward still in Lincoln Ills. Theodore Sawyer in Cleveland, quite successful. Mary says that there is now an effort being made to have a life of Aunt Banista published a Miss Guilford who was a graduate of Mt. Holyoke Seminary [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] who has been for 30 years a teacher in Cleveland O. has undertaken it. She travelled around with Aunt was greatly interested in her and was one of her dear friends. Aunt spent several weeks with Miss Guilford when she was in Ohio in 1857. Miss G. has been troubled that no life of Aunt B [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has ever been written and at first wrote some reminiscences of her for her own pleasure. After awhile the idea of writing a life grew upon her, and She has been consulting with Friends of Aunt B upon the matter Mary says that she came to Oberlin and read some of the introductory chapters to her. that they were very interesting, and that Miss Guilford is a lady in every way qualified to undertake such a task. Miss G. does the writing as a labor of love, but she has not the means to publish it unless she can sell enough books to clear herself. She has consulted with publishers and finds that she will have a pay five hundred dollars to have an edition of 400 volumes that is the least she can do. which would bring the books at $1.25 apiece. Mary is very anxious that the relations should come forward and subscribe for as many as they can so that Miss G. shall feel that she can go forward with the work. I believe that [Many?] hope that as many as 200 may be subscribed for among friends and relatives. Mary is

going to write to Uncle Marcus about it, but we thought perhaps you would be more likely to remember to mention it to the friends than he and see what could be down in Colebrook.

Well I am too tired to write any more and must say good night. With much love to the friends with whom you are,

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

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Daniel Grant
Care Rev. A. W. Burr
Andover
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]

Flemington, N. J. [*New Jersey*]

Jan. 27 1884

My dear Sister,

Am glad you have a new cloak. Have no doubt that it is all right & that we should be perfectly satisfied with it here. Of course Abbie & Almon [*Abigail E. Grant Burr* & *Almon Burr*] would not let you get anything, but what was right. Am glad to hear about Abbie & family. It was very good of her to write that nice letter to Mary.

Aletta is doing very well but does not sit up.

She suffered very much for nearly 24 hours before the birth of child. Mrs. West, the nurse has been with a great many women & never saw one suffer more unless it were Mrs. Spangenburg in this place. I only saw Alletta twice through the day, did not feel that I could endure it & it was not necessary. Chalmers, the nurse & the Dr. were sufficient. Perhaps Mary told you that the baby was born at 10¾ P. M. I believe Dr. Parish always keeps women in bed four weeks if he can. He tells Aletta that she must lie in bed four weeks. The baby is nearly two weeks old & I think she does not yet feel like sitting up.

The baby is not named. We hope it will have neither of the grandmother's names 'Emily" nor "Mary"

Do you intend sending money out to Mrs. Benedict? You might possibly find when too late that her title was not good or that some other mortgage came before yours or something else that you should have informed yourself about before sending money.

The baby takes long naps (sometimes sleeping four five & six hours at a time) but cries a good deal when awake.

I have written to Erastus, also to Aunt Jane & Mary Haynes together since the baby's birth & asked them all to visit us. I dont think the baby will look so pretty at three months old as her aunt Carrie did, & <I dont> nor do I think she will ever be so pretty. She has finally learned to suck very well & her mother has quite a flow of milk.

Love to all in the family

Your aff. sister
Mary B. Hill

Am glad Almon is having time & rest, also that your cough is better. Etta Hill has sent the baby a very pretty knit shawl <for> to wear when it goes out.

Aunt Jane

I send this thinking there may be something that M. did not say in her letter to you. I would like it returned – it is the last she wrote to me. C. G.

M. alludes to my sending money to Kansas. I sent D's letter for them to read but said nothing about the money. I had replied to them declining to loan it before I send the letter to them.

D. G.

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Oberlin, O.
Feb. 28th '84.

My Dear Aunt,

I am glad to learn, through uncle Marcus, that you are at Andover [*Massachusetts*]. I know a visit to Almon's [*Almon Burr*] family, while situated in that classic town, must be pleasant, both to them and yourself. I hope you have all been well this winter, and that baby has made such progress in strength and good looks, as he gave promise of doing when I last saw him. Laura had a pleasant letter from Carrie, some time since, from which we gathered that "all was well" with the family, up to that time. I hope that Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] received a letter from me, written soon after I reached home, the 1st of last Sep. – I addressed it to the care of Capt. Hathorne, through I was not sure but she had left there, before it would have arrived.

I talked with Abbie, last summer, about a life of Mrs. Banister, which was being prepared by a Miss Guilford of Cleveland. I now write to you, upon the same subject. The life was completed some weeks ago and Miss Guilford, at my earnest invitation, came here and read it to me. I was very greatly interested in it. As a literary work, it – seems to me superior to either of the lives of Mary Lyon. It is also complete, covering the whole 80 years, and giving extracts from correspondence and papers, which Aunt Banister had carefully preserved for such a use. If published just as I saw it, it would make a duodecimo volume of four hundred pages. But since then, Miss Gilford has sent it to Mrs. Cowles of Ipswich, in whose judgment, it should be considerably abridged. My last word from Miss G. is that she will have it returned <to her> and undertake to shorten it. That will diminish, somewhat , the expense of publishing. But I doubt if 500 volumes (the least number which a publisher would care to undertake) with a good picture, could be gotten out much short of $500. Miss Guilford does not ask <u>any</u> reward for <u>her</u> large share of the enterprise. The Tract society will publish the book at actual <u>cost,</u> but will <u>not</u> take it, and depend upon the <u>sale</u> of it, to meet expenses. Somehow the money must be raised, or the book will never be a book, except in manuscript.

I dislike to have the matter dropped, after Miss Guilford has taken so much pains, partly on her account, but more because I think the book is a worthy memorial of an excellent woman, whose life and work ought not to be forgotten. Mrs. Cowles offers to give $100 toward the expense of publishing, besides something more to help furnish a good picture. I have taken it upon myself to find out what can be raised among the Grant relatives, and I think Mrs. Phillips will do as much among the Griswolds. I have corresponded with aunt Susan Grant, and she is willing to pledge, for herself and family $50. I think our family will do as much, though I fear Theodore and I will have the most of it to pay. Cousin John Grant will give $10. Mrs. Phillips is sure of $50 or more in Winsted. So we have $260 pledged out of say $500, which leaves a large sum yet to raise. It would seem as if there ought to be a good many among Mrs. Banister's friends who would be glad to purchase her life, and pay for it beforehand. Unfortunately I have no acquaintance with any of them. I have written to uncle Marcus, and hope he can do something among the Colebrook friends. I know you, Abbie and Edward, will all be interested, and will do what you can. The money will not be needed till after the manuscript has been sent to the printers, and they have made an estimate of the cost of publishing. There is time for correspondence and consultation among friends.

You may have heard something about an expectation that some money could be obtained from Mrs. Hale's estate, inasmuch as she made a verbal request that such was her wish. Miss Guilford, at one time, has strong hope of such help, but has now given it up. Mrs. Hale's estate went to a distant relative, who feels no interest in the life of Mrs. Banister.

May I hope to hear from you, sometime, when you have leisure to write upon the subject? Please remember Mr. Shurtleff and myself to all of Almon's family. The little girls would send love if they were at home. They both attend school, and are as well and happy as we could ask. We should all be glad to see our Aunt Caroline here in Oberlin. Is there not some hope of you visiting here, before long?

Affectionately your niece
M. B. Shurtleff.

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Office
3 – 11 – '84

Dear Aunty

I am afraid you do not get news of Mother as often as you would like but I know that you remember how busy we must be and you may always be sure no news is good news, Mother progresses from one stage of the sickness to another Her cough troubles quite a good deal just now. Her joints are not so stiff as during the exceeding cold weather of the past week

The end of back bone has been very tender but by help of air cushion hair cushion and a great deal of rubbing it is much better, no skin has been broken we have used, tablespoon of powdered alum in pt. of alchohol to toughen skin It is very grateful With help Mother walked half way round the bed this morning

The outlook is favorable if we only have pleasant weather During all the five weeks she has been in bed we have hardly had three entire clear days

So you see we have had great deal to contend with just at present

Emma Loweree is away so there is only Nora Parish beside the family We expect Emma back any day

Mrs West the nurse who was with Allie has been helping us with Mama this week and that is giving us all a rest

Mother likes her and she is able to rub a great deal more than we could get Min to do Allie grows all the time and Baby Sophie is better than she was at first about crying takes long naps of three or four hours.

March 15th – Dear Auntie

Min asked me to finish this letter this morning so as I have a few minutes before the mail comes, will try and do so. Min has taken cold and is not feeling very well so I came up to the office this morning. Mamma is a great deal better than when Min began this letter on Tuesday. Her cough is better and her feet and legs are not so much swollen. The baby is as cunning as can be. She laughs sometimes and looks so pleased and happy. Cousin Tom & Cousin Eliza & Sophie are so pleased with the baby's name. It seems as though they would never be done talking about it. I went up to Easton last Sat. and spent Sunday with Sadie & Jessie Pollock. You remember Sadie Pollock don't you? She is Mrs Bullock niece and use to live there. She and her sister are going to break up house keeping next week and they wanted me to come before they left their house. I knew it was the only chance I would have to go to Easton so as Mrs West was with us to help take care of Mamma I went up Saturday afternoon and came home Monday night Sadie wanted Min & me both to come but we could not both go of course, and Min was good, and let me go. I had a splendid time. I don't think I ever enjoyed a visit so much before. Easton is a very hilly place. It reminded me of Hallowell on that account

John Watson a senior in "LaFayette" College there, took Sadie and me all through Pardee Hall on Monday morning. John used to live here in Flemington and went to Mr. Leighs School at the same time I did so he was an old friend.

The view from the top of the Hall is beautiful. We could see all over Easton and Phillipsburgh over in New Jersey, and up and down the Delaware. It must be lovely there in the Summer.

Allie had a letter from Miss Bethel on Thursday and she says she is to be married in May and had been out that morning buying furniture which gave her inexpressible pleasure etc. Benton [.....?] is to be married on the twenty fifth of this month. Chalmers & Allie have an invitation of course.

Ella Ramsey and Ed. Allen are to be married in the Presbyterian Church next Wednesday at five o'clock. We all have invitations. I just heard the train so will have to stop. Please tell Carrie I was very much pleased to get her nice little letter and will answer it when I get the time.

Does "Puppy dog's tail" go wiggledly – waggledly as much as ever. I don't suppose he has forgotten how to talk yet. You must kiss dear little baby Arthur (I dont suppose you will object!) for me and his cousin Sophie and give my love to his Papa and Mamma and tell then that "Cudya" Thinks it is high time baby Arthur has his picture taken and sends us one. Auntie what is

good for “hungry consumption” I have that or something else for I am hungry all the time. I can’t get enough to eat. Perhaps Hally can <symphath> (I am worse than Sam am I not?) sympathize with in this respect. Well I can’t write any more so goodbye. With a great deal of love to you all

Affectionately
Carrie.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Flemington
Hunterdon Co.
N. J.

Andover Mass.
May 7th. 84.
Dear Grandma

I am not very well to day so I did not go to school. It was so lonesome for a few days after you had gone it didn’t seem like home. The day you went away I stopped going to school in the afternoon, and had Arithmetic and Writing with Papa for two hours. I now have Itelleclual Arithmetic with Mamma too.

Miss Charles came here Monday the 28th and stayed until last Tuesday. Florence and I go to a class at Mr Makepeaces for the purpose of studying the Creed.

I made a basket of moss and flowers the first of May and gave it to Miss Woodbridge. Lilie Cutter one of my schoolmates made one with me but did not give it to her at the same time, hers was made of paper and filled with hot house flowers. I went with her to get her flowers one recess, it took as agreat deal longer than we expected so we were a half hour late. We were afraid she would scold us but she didn’t.

We have decided not to take the stone house in Beloit it is so large
May 20th.

Florence went home last Saterday, and Papa went to Saugus so we were all alone Sunday. We have had such a time cleaning up dishes and closets, though we have not got it done yet, Hally and I get up early in the morning so as to get the work done before school.

Everyone is getting ready for examination day at school. The blackboards in Miss Berrys Whitehouses and Woodbridges rooms are to be decorated with pictures which the girls and boys are going to draw. All the classes are going in Miss Whitehouses room to be examined. There is to be some singing and nearly all of them take part on operetta representing different birds. I am going only a few days more to school.

Mr Wright the one who is going to help Papa in Beloit came Thursday the 15th. and stayed over night, he looks very much like Mr. Nickerson. I have mended all the stockings since you have been away.

Papa and Mamma went up to Prof. Churchills Wednesday night to a reception that was held there. They had a very pleasant time. Papa Mamma Uncle and aunt Fanny rode over to Haverhill yesterday. Papa and Uncle went to see about getting some watches. Papa got a gold one and Uncle ordered a costlier one. Papa’s is very pretty.

The trees have all bloomed out and it has been so warm that it has been uncomfortable with our thick clothes on. Miss Allen the painting teacher in Hallowell is coming here in two or three weeks to see us and Miss Hattie Allen in Miss McKeens school.

Baby is quite well now but he has been troubled with his teeth. We are all well and send love to you all especially Baby Sophie

Your Loving Granddaughter
Carrie L. Burr [*Caroline Lynette Burr*]

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[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant
<Mill Brook> Canaan
Conn.

Care E. D. Grant
Soon after reaching Beloit in Aug. '84
Beloit Wis, [*Wisconsin*]
Aug. 1884
My dear Mother,

There really hasn't been a chance to write before for lack of a suitable place, even if the chance had come other wise. I think of you and know that you are wondering why you don't hear. It has been very hot most of the time since we came, though it is cooler now, and settling has been slow work. Here the house is a very inconvenient one with but few cupboards and closets, and it has been hard to know what to do with things. We are getting along now so that we are beginning to see through

After we left you we went to Aunt Charlottes. There Arthur began to have bowel trouble I <made> had some neutralizing mixture <and> which I gave him, and he improved a little, but while we were at Lymans it gave out. On our way to Oberlin I stopped at Alice Leonards as we expected, but after leaving the train I began to worry at the character of the passages, which I hadn't fully observed in the close quarters on the train. At Mrs. Leonards he grew worse very fast. I sent out and got the ingredients for some medicine for him and began giving it but Mrs Leonard was so alarmed that she wanted me to send for the Dr. he came and pronounced him a very sick child. I told him what I was giving him, but he knew nothing of it, so I let him treat him as he wished. Baby grew worse faster than before. I felt that I must get to father Burrs with him, and went on the day before I intended to, the Dr gave me medicine to give him every half hour on the train. When I reached fathers I said to Mother as quick as I got into the house, "I want some neutralizing mixture as quick as I can get it." There happened to be some in the house already prepared and he began to take it immediately. Before twelve hours had passed he was much more comfortable, before two days were gone I felt he was out of danger. But if it hadn't been for the neutralizing mixture I believe he would have died. He was <u>so</u> sick poor little thing. He hasn't been quite so pleasant and happy since his sickness as before, but seems well.

We find Beloit very pleasant, the people are kind and a number have sent in things such as apples, green corn etc. a good many have called already too. Our house (The one we used to speak of as the Rowland house) is in a very nice neighborhood on a pleasant street. When we came Pres. Chapin meet us at the station and took us to his house to tea, and to spend the night.

We are all pretty well now. I hope to hear from you before long and hear something of father. Give my love to him. Have you made any plans yet? What do you hear from them at Uncle Erastus's ?
I must get to bed.

With love Abbie.

Mond morn

I found there were no envelopes so did not get my letter off. I forgot to say that we called on Aunt Susan and Jennie in Chicago. John of course was not at home again. Little Susan is a sweet child. Not as tall as Arthur but about as broad.

I had a nice visit in Oberlin both at Fathers and Mary Shurtleffs. Spent two or three days at Mary's and was there at tea once or twice beside. Annie and Laura renewed their intimacy and were very happy together. Prof. S. was in Dakota but returned the day before we left for Beloit. Father and Mother Burr are well. Nettie much better than when I last saw her. She is wearing an electric belt which she thinks helps her. Celia rather under the weather with rheumatism
I send a picture of little Arthur

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[Addressed to] Caroline Grant
Office
9 – 4 – 84

Dear Aunty

I do know that this letter should have been written long ago. It has been on my mind but so many things crowd upon me that it has seemed impossible

After you left we were busy finishing housecleaning which we did get out of the way before Mrs Brown came Helen Pepoon came the 22nd of July Sam came home for a week the 21st so we had a houseful We were all glad to have Sam with us. He took all our photos. Succeeded in getting very good ones of Allie, Carrie, Chalmers and baby Sophie. None are finished but one of Carrie which Sam sent to her for a birthday remembrance on the 29th.

Chalmers Miss Pepoon and I spent one day in New York Walked over Brooklyn Bridge went up to Central Park saw the Obelisk, went thro' Tiffanys and into many of the larger stores and then went down to Coney Island & back, to get a view of the ocean

We went in on an excursion train and reached home about nine oclock in the eve.

The next day the last day of July Helen and I went down to Philadelphia stayed four days and saw a great deal

Cousin Tom and Sophie were very good to us and we saw more than stranger ordinarly could see in so short a time

We visited the Park, Memorial Hall with its multitude of curiosities left from the Centennial, Horticultural Hall is my special delight with its wonderful plants The fern house is enchanting, we saw the Elephants at the Zoo, taking their bath in a bath tub out of doors built for their special & sole use, It was curious to see the great creatures splashing round to their very evident enjoyment.

We spent a whole day in the park and wished we had more time for it

One day we went down into Old Philadelphia visited State House Carpenters Hall which has stood for more than one hundred and fifty years as a meeting place for the Carpenters Association of the City

Cousin Tom took us into some of the handsome business blocks of the City They are really magnificent in their appointments

Another day we went into the New Public Buildings with those four stairways, each costing $100,00, 00

We had altogether a very good time and Helen enjoyed it Cousin Tom & [Elizie?] and Sophie all
liked her and have taken pains to tell me so several times

Helen and I returned to F Aug. 4th, Aug. 6th Helen left for Ohio stopping at Elmira on her way

She bought baby a very pretty cap in Phila. Also gave Carrie a beautiful little cup & saucer and after she left sent me a beautiful plush frame in which I have put Mammas' picture. Aug 11th the Monday after H. left Carrie went to Asbury Park to stay ten days, Sophie Hill was to be there and we all thought it would do Carrie good You know Sophies two Aunts live in Asbury Park and they were pleased to have C. board with them so C's bill was my birthday present.

Just after C got away Father caught a heavy cold and was home three days and did not come regularly to office for a week. Chalmers was very good and helped in office But it made me rise early to send out first mail

Belle (the colored girl) was very ugly while C was away and in fact had been growing worse all the time since she came and we could stand it no longer Carrie came home Aug 20 and Aug 23 Belle left or rather we sent her away

She would go out so much and was so unwilling to do her work that it did seem a relief to have her away We have the washing done and have a good women to come two days and help iron and sweep and clean. Have had girls room cleaned this week and 3rd story stairs down and so third story is done for the Fall except of course we must look over things The Attic is in first rate order and clean as can be

But you can see that we have been pretty busy and for the past two weeks we have had fruit to take care of tomatoes to put up Peaches and pears and plums everything at once

Ellen Stout came one week and cut carpet rags. I think nearly enough for a step carpet When she was here last summer Mama made an arrangement with her to come in April and cut rags and wash dishes. E. could not come then but she wanted to be out of the city awhile in August and so came then She praised the rags exceedingly and has cut them very nicely Mrs Brown who bought her up taught her how Now we hope to sew those rags ourselves but I do not know when I am sure I shall give some uncut rags Mrs Car[??]huff so that she may be working at

them but it seems to bad to pay her to sew cut rags But if we must, how much ought I to pay her? pr lbs.

Mrs Brown and Emma are still with us and will no doubt remain until 1st of October About the middle of August Aunt Eliza Cray came up to Uncle John Capners She was scarcely able to come and the journey proved too much for her strength. She was unable to leave her bed after the first day and grew gradually weaker until the 28th of August when she died Poor Aunty she did have a hard life We were all so thankful that she could get up here She had every attention Dr Parish attended her several time a day part of the time

Her mind wandered a great deal I went to see her several times she seemed to know me called me by name but in a few minutes would evidently forget Father went to see her and she knew him and was pleased that he visited her She had heart disease and much of the time was unable to lie down Mrs Thompson was very good to her Mr Cray was with her a great deal Poor man Both he and Uncle John feel the loss sorely Very few relatives could come to funeral Cousin Tom and cousin [Kathy?] of Philadelphia were the only ones from out of town I was at Post Office and Carrie took care of house and Sophie, Father Allie and Chalmers went, Uncle Tom of Portland could not come

Sept. 5

Again I take this up I wonder what you and Uncle Daniel will do this Fall Give Uncle love from us all Would be glad to see him were it possible now You will let us know when you wish your things sent and write us what you wish us to know of your plans. I will try not to let it be such a long time before I write again

Have had a great many letters to write about that Brazilian girl (They have decided to keep her in this country) Then [...?] in [peach?] season we are unusually busy at office I will be glad when they are gone

Mr<s> Anderson is about the same They have a man nurse for him now. It does not seem possible he can live much longer He is the thinest and worst looking man I have ever seen alive Aunt H. is not very well is tired with the long period of nursing for she has the responsibility of Mr. A and house too

Miss [Jacot?] visited Cousin Annie Pierce a week we saw very little of her except the day she spent at our house She made a great fuss over baby and wanted to hold her all the time

She missed Mama and spoke feelingly of her Also told Aunt H. that Carrie managed house keeping wonderfully and that everything was as <u>clean</u> as <u>could be</u>. It was after Belle went that she was there

Last eve (Sept 4) we heard of the very sudden death of Charles Hill of New Brunswick Found dead in the morning know no particulars

Father feels that so many have been called away during the last few years

Caddie Morrison of Elizabeth wrote to Carrie a few days ago inviting herself to spend next Sunday with us so we wrote to her to bring Maude and spend a few days, Carrie likes Caddie and I should like the acquaintance kept up Carrie will go to Elizabeth sometime

Thus you see it is all the time something on hand

Baby grows and is good in day time but her teeth are coming and at night she is inclined to be fretful which makes it hard for Allie tho Chalmers is very good and does his full share of nursing She sits alone and is very cute in her short dresses This is a long letter and have not yet written all I wish too, several ladies enquire after you after you had left. Aunt Eliza said we were to have a quilt which is ready to be quilted, also some linen sheets

Send regards to Mr & Mrs Phiney Shall hope to hear from Uncle Erastus and Abbie and Ed & Ralph & Mary thru you

With love from all

Affectionately

Minnie

Sam signed that assignment. Has Chalmers written about it? Shall it be sent to you?

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Flemington N.J *[New Jersey]*

Jan 4th 1891

Dear Auntie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

It is too bad that your kind letter with enclosure has not been acknowledged before, But we have been so busy & sometime too tired to write that we have put off writing from time to time. I was so sorry that I could not send you anything for Christmas this year, but I could not nor to Sam either, so resolved that I would write you each a letter, I am writing to you first Sams letter has not yet been started, you were very good to remember us, but I wish you would not do it, for I know you can ill spare it. Minnie has come and gone, went back Friday eve. was home three weeks. We were very busy while she was at home doing necessary sewing. It takes a great many stitches to keep three children in cloths. We turned Sophie's best coat -- which she has worn for three winters -- that was quite a job and we had a woman to help. Then we had two night drawers to make for her and a new waist to make for her school coat and a new flannel skirt. I did not want Minnie to sew so much while she was at home, but I think she thought it was her last chance to do much for us, and she wished to improve the opportunity She sews very little while at Oberlin, so in way it was not a rest. She went out some, had a new cloth dress made for herself at dressmakers All the sewing done was not for Sophie, some was done for Carrie and for Minnie herself. Aunt Hettie is making Minnie some new underwaists she has done a great deal of sewing for M. which saves much expense. Minnie will not be married until sometime next Summer, time not fixed yet. I doubt if we home folks see much of her after she is married If Mr. Wrights work calls him East in Summer she may come with him, but I do not know how it will be. Chalmer's father is here now making us a little visit, he goes home to morrow. He and Chalmers have gone out to church this evening. All the children are in bed and asleep, they go to bed early, and usually waken early. Mary is a dear little baby. She is fifteen months old, walks all around & has for two months, but talks very little, She is a very happy little thing and full of fun. Sophie goes to school and gets along very nicely, reads very well & does well in arithmetic, She is seven years old this 15th of Jan. Will is an active, restless boy, likes to be out of doors with his father & grandfather he does not go to school yet and we shall not send him this winter, he is a little over five We all think him quite bright -- very observing and quick to understand things, There is a strong affection between him & his father. Minnie <*say*> said she would write to you after she got back to O. but you need not expect a letter soon, as the first few days there are very busy ones. Aunt Hettie sends her love. says she often thinks of you, spoke so nicely of you to night Carrie and I belong to a reading circle Chautaugua, so that takes some time. We get behind sometimes and then have to make desperate efforts to catch up. We have English History English Literature, and articles in the Chautauguana Magazine <*bup*> published by the Society Carrie and I read aloud to each other. We have a local circle in F. about 33 members. Of course while one stops to read, we do not get along quite so fast with any sewing we may have to do.

Father sends love, says he will write sometime. he is well now, but was sick about a week after he came from Mass. took a heavy cold. I was away at the time, up at Bloomsbury, father's sickness and Mrs. Hulsizer's death, put us back with house cleaning, so we did not finish until after Thanksgiving, Carrie and I did most of housecleaning ourselves, the girl helped some.

I thought I answered about Ladies Home Journal, they came & we enjoyed them very much. Carrie says she thought she had acknowledged the calendar, she is very sorry, if she did not do so. There are some very good things in it.

The children received a package of little papers from Lucy, please thank her for them, Sophie enjoys them very much, Will does not care so much for reading as Sophie <*does*> Mrs. East came back to this country the first of November. At Christmas -- She is in Philadelphia -- she sent the children a box of candy, and afterwards sent a bundle of things for us all, which she had bought in Paris.

Minnie received a half dozen pair of beautiful kid gloves, Father a handsome knife -- Jack knife with twelve different attachments or blades, for instance a corkscrew tweezers, a saw, screw driver & a lance &c. Carrie had two pins, one, Caroline in silver letters and a round one set with small pearls. Aunt Hettie had a silver bracelet. Sophie, a silver pin like Carries -- Sophie in silver -- Chalmers a little writing tablet to carry with one when traveling and I had a beautiful fairy lamp, gilt set with glass, cut in imitation of stones, blue, red, yellow, &c when a light is inside the effect is most lovely. Then I had beside a Russian Icon, which is really a picture set in silver and gilt,

which is very handsome. Wasn't it kind in her to send us so much and think of us while in Paris, she has been there for three or four years. Aunt Hettie gave a Christmas present to the house this year of lace curtains for the parlor. She had quite set her heart on our having them, she thought they would add so much to the parlor, which they certainly do, and she wishes it to look pretty for Minnie's wedding, They are Madras light yellow ground -- which does not show much -- with white sprigs of leaves over them, a very pretty pattern. They cost ten dollars for the two windows. Carrie and Minnie gave father a flannel wrapper, grey with stripes of red on bottom, something [*end of page*]

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[*Addressed to:*] To-
Mrs. Daniel Grant
New Marlborough
Berkshire Co.
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*

May the Second
1891.

My dear Grandma, --

'Twas so sweet to me to open that box full of delicate color & fragrance & find it was your thought that sent it to me that bright sunny Monday morning. -- I never saw larger or more perfect clusters, thy were beautiful Grandma mine. & I thank you with all my heart appreciating the time you had & trouble, in fixing them.

Mamma's letter a week or so ago, spoke of a new little one in Uncle Edwards home. I hope Auntie & the <u>baby</u> are growing strong fast. -- It must be so hard for Aunt Lucy she has been poorly for such a long while -- give her my love, & sympathy for her weeks of pain. How happy she will be soon, with all her girls about her. Mamma doubtless envies her their companionship, she herself is so lonely. -- I am getting very anxious to go back to her for she needs me more than she can or will tell. & I feel so ashamed of myself, having all these good times & easy undisturbed days -- to be sure getting more strength in each one, -- but so seemingly idle beside her[*'s*] busy & burdenfilled. However she has gotten along better than I dared dream of. -- They are about as usual I think now, though Harold is ailing rather more than common.

I hear from Laura Shurtleff very often from her last accounts I judge they are all getting better, their mother is with them again & Uncles expected soon.

Grandma I was so pleased to hear of Cousin Minnie's engagement. I have always admired Prof. Wright, & since he has shown his good sense & taste in asking <u>her</u> to help him in his life work, I think the more of him.

They all have been quite laid up & good for nothing at Grandpa Burr's this whole winter & spring. & not being able to sell their place in O. [*Oberlin, Ohio*] are rather giving up the Winstead [*Connecticut*] plans.

If nothing happens I shall return to Beloit in <u>June</u> a much improved daughter <u>bodily</u>. May these warm spring days make you & Grandpa more comfortable, adding new strength & peace to your true & patient lives.

With much <u>love</u> to you both.

Your affectionate
"Granddaughter Carrie"

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Bittersweet
Flemington N.J. *[New Jersey]*
Oct 4th 1891

Dear Aunt Carrie

Have intended to write for the last two Sundays but did'nt find time one evening I went to Church and last Sunday afternoon went to the Sunday School Anniversary with the children, and that took all the afternoon we did'nt get home until half past five, and in the evening I did'nt feel

equal to writing. We have been without a girl for more than three weeks now, and while the boarders stayed were kept pretty well on the go, but they have all left now, part went last Monday morning, and the other two on Wednesday. It is a relief not to have to fuss over meals so much. We began churning again the first of September churn two and three times a week and get from ten to twelve pounds of butter at a churning. We are having a very warm Fall, need summer clothing yet, and have had no<*t*> frost as yet. The thermometer now (4-30 P.M.) registers 80° on our front porch. Fruit is very abundant in this part of the country, the apple orchards are loaded, peaches very plenty and cheap, and Father says he never saw finer corn in his life. Father and I were out for a ride Wednesday. Father had business in Annandale and he rode over there, and took me with him. It is about twelve miles from here, and we had a perfect day, and the roads were in splendid condition.
Peaches are almost over and how good these last ones taste.
Mrs Grey was buried a week ago Tuesday. She was in Oswego with Helen at the time of her death. Was buried here in the Cemetery. Helen, Mrs Charles is still here, visiting at Voorhees! She and her little daughter, the youngest, called the other day. I had gone to Mission Band Meeting, and did'nt see her but Alletta & Auntie were home.
Sophie came home from Sunday School to day feeling very happy because she has been promoted to the big room Mrs Bell Thorton (Bell Mott) is her teacher. She received a copy of The New Testament this year for learning the little catechism. She was also promoted to the next higher room in day school this Fall. She has learned to read very well indeed, and is fond of reading to herself. Will started to school for the first this year. He doesn't enjoy it very much yet, it is pretty hard work for him to keep still. Alletta expects to go to Bloomsbury for about two weeks soon and I hope nothing will prevent her going. The change will do her good I think and she did'nt get up there this summer as usual. She will take Mary with her, but of course the others must stay at home to attend school. Mary does'nt look as though she needed a change. She is as big and fat and healthy as any one could wish. Was two years old on the twenty seventh of Sept. She begins to talk more now, but does'nt speak as plainly as the others did, is a little tongue tied. Sam took a photo of her in her "wedding dress" when he was home and I will get Alleta to send you one. We think them very good. We have begun house_cleaning have two rooms done.
Kate Capner is to be married on Thursday. I am invited to the wedding and expect to go. She marries Hirvey Finch Jr.

[*written across first page*] Father is feeling quite well at present The rest of us are all well. I enclose a letter of Mins. Please send it on to Sam when you have read it, Dont send it around to the relations please Abbys caps have arrived and Min says they are lovely, hand_painted and so dainty. Give my love to Ed & family and Uncle Daniel, keeping a large share for yourself

Aff. your niece
Caroline

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[*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.

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Bittersweet

Flemington N.J.
May 6th, 1889

Dear Auntie

I feel rather conscience stricken for not having written before but have been too lazy on Sundays and took the time to rest instead of writing and go to bed at night almost as soon as the work is done. Our girl has been gone three weeks and we are kept pretty busy with churning and boarders and housecleaning and sewing. The Sutphins are still with us, but they Expect to go back to their house next week provided they can get it cleaned, and Mrs S. is able to be moved. Have four rooms cleaned -- am speaking of our own house now -- but cannot get on with the cleaning very fast, as we cannot get help just when we want it. Father is busy with the garden now. Is still in Mr Emerys Office. Has not been feeling very well lately and gets tired very soon. The children are well and play outdoors most of the time and get in all sorts of mischief

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

Sam has not been feeling very well, was unable to work for a day or two. In his last letter said he was feeling better. Do not know what the trouble is. When I was there he thought he had dyspepsia, and was Eating some fruit Every day. Either an apple or an orange. He is interested just now in taking photographs by flash light and has succeeded in getting some very good negatives. Louis and Susie are going on as usual. Louis paints watercolors some, besides the

photographing and making of picture frames Sam says L. works all the time and takes very little time for rest. A brother and sister of Susies are keeping them.

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

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

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

Love from us all to yourself and Uncle

Affectionately yours
Caroline

Kiss the little ones for me.

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Bolton. Aug 31st 1887
My Dear [Niece?] --

I was very glad to get your nice long letter & also the one it contained I really had been some anxious about you lest you might be sick, although I thought if you were affected as Mary & I are you would need some time to rest & recuperate How any one can get rested by going away from home is more than I can understand from any Experience I have had. To be sure it is a change of fatigue, & thought & scene.

I am glad you went & enjoyed so much. I feared you would give it up. Your account of it is very interesting & it was quite an inexpensive outlay for the enjoyment you got from it, & it will be pleasant to think about in future. I do hope your health will improve as the cool weather comes on. I feel much more rigorous since the weather is cooler I have been able to do what was absolutely necessary to be done. I find I cannot do as fast & as much as I could in younger days, but if I get pretty tired one <*one*> day perhaps I can rest the next. It is not like having farm work, men & a dairy &c which must be attended to every day.

I have been looking over things & making some changes which I find very tiresome but I keep very well that is I am not sick or in pain but have needed to lie down once or twice a day some times. I thank you for your cordial invitation to visit you this fall I should be pleased to accept it for I should like to see you in your new home & & have a good visit with you & also with your daughter & son & the other friends I should not think Cornelia would venture to leave home unless her health has much improved since her letter to you in July I hope she is better now

How ever much I should like to visit I do not think it would best for me to do so. It would be a great undertaking & I have many things to do & attend to about the house

Mary & family keep pretty well. They all have as much to do as they can comfortably

Sue practices on the church organ an hour & half daily & Mollie blows for her twice a day 3/4 of an hour at a time & then they each practice 2 hours on the piano. Sue gives Mollie lessons She dont learn as easily as Sue who learns quite Easily She still plays the Church Organ & also the smaller organ for the Sunday school very acceptably The choir rehearse Sat. Evenings

Our children have all had their photographs taken recently I intend to send you one of each. I will send you one of Sue but we do not consider it as good of her as of Either of the others pretty difficult to get a good one of her Her hair is a light brown which appears black in the Photograph She has red cheeks naturally & is just 17 years old tomorrow 1st day of Sept. I shall expect a letter from you soon telling me that Abbie has arrived with her son safely. Much love

S J Wallis [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

Dont forget to send the Flemington [*New Jersey*] letter

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[in pencil at top] to Caroline Grant?
Oberlin, O. *[Ohio]* May 15th '85

My Dear Aunt,

Your good letter of the 3rd was truly welcome. Its words of sympathy have comforted my heart. I have long known that you appreciated mother's excellencies, and felt for her in her sorrows. The same too, was true of Abbie, and Mother and all the rest of us enjoyed having her with the family both in Austinburg and out on the farm near Grinnell. It was kind and generous in you both that you were willing to give the time when mother was so low spirited, and could not make it very pleasant for Abbie, when she was with her near Grinnell. Abbie had the satisfaction of knowing that she did what she could to help her aunt out of her depressed state of mind, and I hope she has not had occasion to regret it. If, as a family, we had our lives to live over again, that move to the west would not be repeated. The recollection of its effect upon mother will make us very careful, I think, what changes we make, after reaching middle life.

The Jones' family were never sorry they moved west. Mr. J. has not made a prosperous farmer. I think he would not succeed in <u>any</u> business, which he was left to carry on, in his own way. His oldest son graduated from College, and is becoming somewhat prominent as a naturalist especially in the department of Botany. He married a classmate--a lovely woman, I am told—and resides in Salt Lake City, Utah. -- Charles and Edward are not scholars, but are industrious and take to farming. Lucien is not so strong, and is learning the shoemaker's trade. The three youngest Lynds, Burton and Arthur, give fair promise of being scholars. The daughter Carrie married a kind and industrious young man by the name of Morse. They rent Phil's farm, two miles east of Grinnell and are doing well, both for hire themselves.

Phil's oldest boy, Frank, is now 14. Arthur two years younger. Katie 9 and Grace not quite 7.

Edward's children, Grace and Mary are thirteen and eight respectively, both bright and beautiful girls, but Grace is lame and delicate in health, and will never be better, I fear.

Yes, the aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] book [The Use of a Life: Memorials of Mrs. Z. P. Grant Banister *by Linda Thayer Guilford (American Tract Society, 1885)*] is soon to be published! Miss Guilford came here with the entire manuscript last Monday, and I have read it, page by page with her at my side, to question in regard to anything I did not understand. We finished, at noon, today. (Friday) I am sure all the relatives will enjoy it, it goes through the <u>whole</u> life and will be interesting and valuable to a wide circle outside her immediate friends. There are 374 pages of manuscript, and the book will <*be*> have very nearly as many. It will go to N.Y. next week, and the book is promised as early as Aug. and perhaps earlier. Mrs. E.C. Cowles of Ipswich, has taken charge of the matter, has ordered 1000 copies, and is to have it stereotyped beside.

She has made herself responsible to the publishers, for the entire first cost, and desires us to send our money to her, soon as convenient, drafts <*to be*> or postal orders, to be made in favor of Eunice C. Cowles. I suppose your books would be sent to West Winsted with those to be distributed by Uncle Marcus and Mrs. Phillips, and perhaps, to avoid sending too many drafts and orders to Mrs. Cowles, it will be best to send your money with theirs. Of course we all have the book at <u>cost</u>, which Mrs. C. thinks will be $1.-- If any of us do not care for so many books as our money would call for, we can leave them in the hands of the Tract Soc. *[American Tract Society]* to dispose of for Miss Guilford who is not likely to have any adequate return for her labor of love. So you will need to specify whether you wish the full value of the money in books.

If I do not make myself quite clear it will not be strange, as it is late in the evening and I am weary.

Mr. Shurtleff joins me in kind regards to yourself and uncle. We should much like to see you both.

Your affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff

[Note: Papers of Zilpah P. Grant Banister, L.T. Guilford, and Eunice C. Cowles are all at Mount Holyoke College in the Archives and Special Collections.]

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Beloit, Wis
Oct. 14th 1885

My dear Mother & Father

Please excuse the red ink, it is so much handier for me to use just now. We have all been pretty well this summer. I did not get over a < *…ry*> full so as to amount to much till a few weeks ago, and now I am not as strong as I was before. We have had a girl in the kitchen since about the middle of July, a German, has done very well.

Uncle Harmon Burr his wife < *f…*> Morrison [Ill]?. And Aunt Charlotte Ransom and her husband from Unionville, CT. visited here two or three days in the summer. Uncle Porter also spent a night and part of two days with us. Mr. Bacon who came to be one of Almon's assistants this year was here a week at the beginning of the term. We have had other people once or twice to stay over night or to means. I have invited company in to supper twice since the term opened, not counting Mr. Bacon who has been in more than that. So you see I don't have a chance to be lonely. Aunt Ann Burr, Uncle Harmon's wife is visiting me now she is to stay several weeks. She doesn't make any trouble at all and helps me a great deal. Carrie is in the High school this year and seems to be getting along easily. Harry is going to school pretty steadily so far. Baby Arthur is pretty well and happy. Almon also is able to do a good deal besides his regular duties, he writes and delivers a lecture every week before the normal class in the academy, and carries on a large Bible study or instruction meeting every Sunday morning with the College students, it really amounts to a little sermon, he did have a Sabbath school class of < … > from 30 to 40 members beside, but he gave that up two or three weeks ago, because he could not stand the strain of quite so much.

I have made a great deal of crabapple jelley, canned some, made some marmalade, put up a good many plums in various ways, and am now putting up some apples and quinces. It does take lots of time. Aunt Ann has helped me with them to-day.

Almon is enjoying his school very much this term. I heard him say not long ago that he had never had a pleasanter school, he enjoys his associates too very much. Mr. Wright we like better and better, and Mr. Bacon is delightful. The man whose place Mr. Bacon takes was not a help.

I have been down town this afternoon and bought some warm red flannels so when it comes cold again, I shall be ready. I have shirts and drawers both.

I don't believe that I have written a letter this summer since the one I wrote you before except one to Carrie when she was at Lake Geneva. She spent ten days at Lake Geneva with Prof. Whitney's family.

How have you all been during the summer? And how are Edward's people? I think of you all often if I don't write. Those dear little girls how I would love to see them.

I was greatly interested in the plan of your house which you sent. Thank you very much Father for your trouble in making it, and you Mother for your description of furniture &c.

We have bought but little new furniture here a rocking chair or two, some new dining room chairs (cherry) a carpet for the dining room and one for Carrie's room, table and chair for Almons study and some stoves. I am interested to hear from the Flemington people, hope that I shall get around to write to them some time before long.

Give my love to Edward & Lucy when you see them. I hope that they are enjoying their new home, with much love to you both

Your aff daughter
Abbie

[In pencil] Please return Ohio letters.

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Bittersweet N.J.
May 23nd 1886

Dear Auntie,

I am pretty bad about writing to you am I not? My conscience has been troubling me for some time for not writing but I am so lazy about letter-writing that I just let the days go by without doing it.

We are very busy house-cleaning now. Have the third & second stories nearly done. Aunt Hettie's room is cleaned too. She bought a new carpet for her room and we are going to put the old one in the room over the parlor and in the little dressing room. Chalmers is going to kalsomine & paint his room so it will be some little time before we can get that room to right. Mrs. West is helping with cleaning.

When we are through cleaning Min hopes to go to Waterbury and then to see you if possible.

You did not mention in your letter anything about my money. Will you please tell next time you write what has been done with it. Thank you very much for the trouble you have taken in attending to it for me.

When we looked over the closet in Allies room we found the skirt you spoke about and Min will take it to you when she goes. Allie whishes me to impress it upon your mind that Sophie is, and has been for some time wearing boughten stockings, because we wear all our stockings so closely that even the legs wear out.

Papa intends to write to you soon. Is not feeling well now. Has dyspepsia quite badly.

Sophie went to Church today. She behaved very well, so well that several persons spoke about it. Maggie Mott said to Allie coming out of Church, "Why I didn't know there was a baby back there. You are bringing her up aren't you!" Allie said she was trying to.

Sophie is getting to be quite a big girl, goes up and down stairs by herself, and has fed herself at the table for some time. She is full of mischief too.

Will is a real good boy laughs a great deal more than Sophie ever did and sits in his carriage for a long time without fretting. Buttercup, one of the Adderneys, has been sick for over a week. We were very much afraid she would die but she is getting better now. Little Charlie Hyde is growing nicely. Lizzie brought him down the other day. We weighed him and he weighs six pounds and eleven ounces. Give my love to Uncle Daniel and save a large portion for yourself,

From

Carrie

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Bittersweet Dec 24/ 86

Dear Sister

A Merry Christmas to you both if not too late, if so a Happy New Year – Yea both. We are having a spell of damp weather with so little frost in the ground that it was easy to dig up a mess of salsify for dinner this morning.

I have often thought of you & yours since my pleasant visit last fall. Have been in so much better health since my return that there has been no need to take any of that medicine I brought with me. It seems strange that my digestion should become so much better immediately after my return.

The girls have been very busy for several nights and at odd times through the day making picture scrap books on colored muslin for some of the young relations of the family – finished them late last night.

Monday I took a long tramp to get a cedar tree for a Christmas tree for the little folks. Sophie talks a good'eal about a Xmas tree and says St. Nicholas is to bring her a doll. My walk was about 5 miles long, arrived at home about dinner time nearly fagged out but had a nice little tree which will be decorated to night and give great pleasure to Sophie we hope.

Tuesday cut all the Ivy that we could spare on request of Rev. E.K. Smith to trim Episcopal Church at Lambertville.

Yesterday was at the P Office all day in Mr. Poulson […] place while we went to N.Y. Felt quite at home there but was a little green in somethings.

Min's glasses have not relieved her from headache very much. Does not use them as much as she ought to, but I think her trouble is not altogether with her eyes, fatigue & over exertion has something to do with them. She sometimes worries to carry out her ideal and perseveres beyond her strength of body suffering therefore.

Hope that you are better than when Min left you and that you may have a comfortable winter.

Will has grown very nicely lately and can stand in a corner of the room alone but will not venture to take a step alone. Backward about talking only saying a word or two occasionally and only when it suits him to make the effort.

Chalmer and Allie send you the stockings and the girls the apron. Al says the stockings were the smallest he could get and if do not fit can be changed. Sends her love saying she has not time to write. These little folks take a deal of care and the house work is considerable. We hoped to have help for day to day but could not get any one.

Had a letter from Sam lately in which he speaks of developing a large number of negatives for a Miss Hayden of Waterbury. They were taken by her on a trip to Labrador last summer, and required care & skill in the development as some were not exposed long enough & others too much, having to be developed accordingly. He does it evenings after his regular work is over, will be useful experience for him besides paying him something for his trouble. He says he enjoys sleeping in a comfortable room and not feeling afraid of suffocation from coal gas. When Min was up there she determined to have him sleep in the Prichard House and not in the Lewis gallery.

Sam has recently sent some very good pictures of Carrie taken on his last visit home.

I had a letter from Mrs. Earl lately. She and her sister are keeping house in three rooms in Paris getting their own meals except dinner which they have sent in. Sent us some small photos of some churches &c in her last. She had been to call on a friend living in good style and says sometimes the desire to enjoy the luxuries of byegone days is strong but it soon gives way to contentment (says (I was born happy and inte[n?]d to live happy & die so. And I hope it may be so.

Aunt Soct[. . .] is better of her sore eyes that she brought home form Vineland but has had a severe cold for a few days [that?] is better now. Is expecting to make another visit to Vineland in February on account of an expected event in Charles's family.

I miss regular employment now that there is so little that can be done out of doors, and get weary sometimes of enforced idleness. Have been so used for so many years of regular daily work that it worries me not to have it to do.

Chores are pretty plentiful part of the time. We have now 7 cows to take care of (expect to sell one next month) and one calf, give them warm water and keep in stable most of the time. Milk four one fresh, just bought and we think a good one gives 12 qt.milk a day – sell 4 ½ qt milk daily for 6 c. qt and lately have been selling most of our cream for 18 ct qt. Sold 15 qt yesterday for ice cream and will sell all we have this week, after the holiday the demand for cream will fall off, but the cream now is worth about the same to churn as best butter is 32c. We have nice turkey in cellar for tomorrow and are looking forward to a pleas feast. Hope you & Edward's family will have a pleasant day together. We are going to have but little present giving, except to the children. Not feeling able to spend much money except on necessities. Lately bought a Bbl of sugar (granulated, for 6 ¼ c per pound. The cheapest Bbl of sugar we ever bought.

Allie has made some very nice cream candies and some fruit & nut candies, also chocolate creams. We do not give candy except just a taste to Sophie and she has had very little so far in her life. Tell Ed's wife that we have enjoyed maple sirup on Jersey buckwheat cakes made from the block of sugar she gave Min. We have not had any good Sleighing this winter so far. Just finished covering my strawberries with leaves the day before first snow fell. We have one Cala Lily just opening and our Mexican vines are reaching towards to window tops.

Love from all

Affectionately yours,

WH.

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