Subject: Civil War

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West Winsted June 16,/61. [*in pencil*: 1861]

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

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

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

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

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

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

Millbrook July 26.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please give my love to all.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] niece

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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

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

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

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

Abbie. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

I am going back to Winsted this week.

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Extract from a letter from Rev. Salmon Cowles to Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] -- they are cousins -- he was born June 1784.

It is dated West Point, Lee Co. Iowa, Sept. 17, '62

"I have for three for four years past given up the charge of the church in this place, & of the Des Moines College in this place a little longer, but still preach occasionally as I have opportunity -- Last week our Presbytery met at Keokuk, & as Moderator, I preached the opening sermon -- My wife is yet living, & we are on our farm, a little our from West Point, with our son Noah Miner Cowles, with his family, so that in our old age, we have a moderate living & suitable care -- We have not withstanding to wait on ourselves more, on account of Henry our youngest son, & James Noah's oldest son, being in the Army now nearly a year -- James was not quite 16 when he enlisted -- They are both in Co. G. fourth Iowa Cavalry, under Maj. Gen. Curtis -- Henry has been for some time in Memphis City Hospital -- Memphis Tenn. [*Tennessee*] able to walk about, slowly recovering from camp. fever -- My son Samuel Mills had a son <*Samuel*> William S. Cowles, by his first wife, about twenty years of age, in the third Iowa Calvary, who fell at Pea Ridge, Ark. [*Arkansas*] under Gen. Curtis, while fighting his way, with part of his Reg [*Regiment*], through the Texan Rangers & Indians, by whom they were surrounded. He first had a finger shot off, & then his horse shot under him, after which he had no way of escape, but was soon shot down --

My son Salmon has also a son by his first wife, who is about nineteen years of age, in the fifteenth Ohio (Inft [*Infantry*] (I think) He is under Buel, in East Tenn. [*Tennessee*] His name is Samuel W. Cowles --

My daughter Lucinda Stewart, who has nine children, has a son, Oscar Eugene Stewart, in the fifteenth Iowa Inf. [*Infantry*] He is nearly 18, & is about Corinth Miss. [*Mississippi*] He was one of the Reg. [*Regiment*] that just received their arms, & landed at Pittsburg landing, on the Sab. [*Sabbath*] morning of the battle, & fought valiantly through the whole two days battle, & came out unhurt, except lying on their arms two or three nights in the cold rain, after which he had to lie in the Hospital for some time.

I do not know what are God's designs by such terrible judgments upon our beloved Country -- But my mind was struck forcibly with the conviction from the first, & the conviction has been increasing up to this time, that God has some grand purpose to accomplish, by this mighty uprising, & awful chastisement. From the first I believed that such suicidal madness, & infatuation, as was manifest in the secession of the South, was a token that God was about to accomplish some grand design, & what greater than to overturn the vast & powerful system of slavery, which man could not do."

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Chicago Ill. [*Illinois*] May 7, 1866.

Mrs. Elizabeth Burton

Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Dear Sister,

I take my pen to inform you that I am in this place having been released from military service by the muster out of my Regiment some three weeks since. I arrived here three days since, and stop at the Home of the Friendless, an Institution of which Abby has been Matron for about five weeks. The character of the Institution you can infer from its name.*

[*written along side*] * I send you last year's Report, from which if you choose you can learn more (Abby tells me she has sent one--therefore I will not)

She has found the care of it very laborious indeed -- I fear she cannot endure it long.

As my position in the army has <*too*> but recently <*been*> ceased I am not able to state definitely what I shall do. For the present you may address me here.

I <*judge*> fear from what I hear from home that you, dear Sister, do not enjoy so fully as we all ought the comfort of your situation. I do not doubt that there is much, very much, in it that is undesirable, but so there is in everybody's case. "We who have believed" (says the Apostle,

Heb. [*Hebrews*] <*3*> 4:3) "do enter into rest" -- not "shall enter," but "do enter." And when I think of the good it was your privilege to do in the last days of our dear Mother's life, and that you still are doing while Father continues -- I cannot feel that you or any one else is warranted to call that a "mistake" that led you into a path where such action is possible. We sometimes it is true are compelled to bear a crop that is really for our good, but which we would no more take up ourselves than a child would choose a whipping. I sometimes both amuse and instruct myself by considering what the world would come to if every man and woman could carry out the programme each lays out. I think the result of Phaeton's experiment in driving his fathers chariot were nothing in comparison.

I should be glad to see you, and impart comfort if I have any you could receive. But it is too doubtful whether I shall be able to visit you, and perhaps even more doubtful whether I could benefit you if I should. I could do little more than tell you to take a trustful view of the present and the future -- as to the past with all its errors and mistakes, and sins "let the dead bury its dead." I know no one can be happy whose happiness is dependent on such a condition as that he shall avoid all mistakes -- The promise respecting the good man "Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down" is worth more than any expectation <*any*> we can indulge that you or I or any body else will do exactly the right thing

Abby joins me in sending love to you and Father, Caroline & Marcus and all the rest -- Direct as below

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant
911 Wabash Avenue Chicago Ill

[*written in pencil in another hand*] I meant to write to Sister C. [*Caroline*] to send with this but cannot get time to day. Love to all. aff. [*affectionately*] yr [*your*] sister Abby,

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Flemington, N.J. [*New Jersey*]
Apr. 8, 1865.

Dear cousin John,

I often think of your visit to Connecticut a few years ago. I enjoyed it very much and remember it with a great deal of pleasure -- but I sometimes think that perhaps it was not so agreeable to you as you have never fulfilled your promise to write me.

Do you recollect what a time we had with my gun? I never think of you but that comes into my mind. Have you been gunning since? -- if so, I hope you had better luck getting started that we did.

I suppose you have heard that our old place was sold sometime ago. Since then I have spent most of the time when out of school, at Grandfathers. Since last Oct. I have been at my Aunt Mary Hill's attending school, and shall perhaps remain here through the summer.

I do not consider the school in New Jersey superior to those in New England, though I think the school here a very good one. Our teacher is a Massachusetts man, a graduate of Amherst College.

I have rather enjoyed study this winter. Latin I like very well and should like it still better if I could translate with more facility. I suppose you can translate quite rapidly as I hear you are nearly prepared for College.

It is now the fore part of Apr. but the season is farther advanced here than in Conn. [*Connecticut*] Father says that a few days since the snow drifts had not disappeared in that region, while here the roads are settled & <*in places*> the grass has grown considerably -- the wheat fields are green and beautiful, & the leaf buds are swelling on the trees.

Hope I shall see you when you come to Yale. In the mean time I shall expect to hear from you. Do not fail to write soon. Direct to the care of Wm. [*William*] Hill Flemington N.J. [*New Jersey*]

Your aff. [*affectionate*] cousin,
E.B. Grant.

P.S. Abbie has been here for a while and says she will <*expect*> write to you soon.
What glorious war news we are having!

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Mon. morn.

Dear Brother,

As Abbie is writing I will drop a line. Tho' I cannot give myself credit for taking "good care" of Abbie, I think she takes pretty good care of herself. As to her patriotism I fear it does not meet the same responses as in her former position. I feel much about the war, as you do, & often inquire in my distress, (as in the days of witchcraft) "When & where will this accumulating mischief & misery end" I have not that full confidence which some express, that "the Lord is on our side." Yet we must continually look to him, & trust in him. We have no other refuge. May He soon say to the sword & all munitions of war, Return to thy resting place.

How is our dear mother now? By a letter rec'd [*received*] fr [*from*] bro. Jno. [*John*] I understand she is improving. I [w'd?] appear that the Lord has something farther for her to do or suffer, that she may be fully prepared for his presence. Are we not specially called upon to pray for her entire sanctification? Let us try to be faithful.

How is father this spring? I understand they have very kind good attention wh. is a great relief to me.

Where is our dear Joel now? your almost constant companion in your childhood. May the Lord be with, strengthen & comfort him

May we hear from you oftener?

Your affectionate sister
E. Burton.

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

Dear brother Daniel,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indian Territory [*postmark Highbuck*] June 3 1849

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

to find them for they followed them but one [1/2?] day at the rate of about 2 miles an hour and then left them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate husband
Daniel

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[*Joel Grant to Daniel Grant*]

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

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

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

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

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

You ask if I would be willing to have my part ($150) of the note against Mr. R. transferred to Caroline on condition that it should go <*to*> towards paying the note you hold against me. To

this I say yes, & if you judge it best you may make that transfer at your pleasure, endorsing $150 on that note Dec. 23, 1860.

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

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

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

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

Your aff. brother,

Joel Grant

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

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[*Joel Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

Dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. brother, Joel Grant.

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[*Joel Grant probably to Daniel Grant*]

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

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. brother,

Joel Grant.

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[*Abigail Cowles Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

Dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Joel Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

Dear Sister Caroline,

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

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

Int. on this till June 23, '61	2.00
	$40.20

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

The interest on the note June 23 was $45.00

Add interest for 1 month .45

$45.45

Deduct amt sent Mr. H. 40.20

$5.25

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

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

Your aff. brother, Joel Grant.

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

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

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

I have but little time to speak of my visit to Cairo. It was pleasant, and <*may*> enabled me to see many things of wh. I was glad to have some knowledge. Every thing was quiet there. Commerce on the two rivers is of course entirely suspended and the army business is all that is done. I returned before the news of seeming defeat at Manassas was heard of. The times are fearful, but Christ is in the storm, & we need not be surprised if we find them worse before they are better.

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[*Abigail Cowles Grant to Caroline Burr Grant (1861)*]

Lockport. Ill. [*Illinois*] Nov, 8. 1861

Dear Sister C.

When my husband sent the letter home just before he left for the war, I was too much occupied with his clothes to write, but tho't I should do so, soon as he was gone. But then came a week of prostration in wh. I could not do any thing, after wh. I had to look after many things & get the N. wing room cleared of all manner of things that were left about and get ready to move in. Having no help, except for washing, I had to take it slowly and rest. Then the moving work, the work after, arranging, the work after that, had to go to Chicago, when taking the cars to return found two Cos'n's from Syracuse, one staid two days the other 11, since wh. I have tried daily to find time to sit down and communicate with you, but this is the first, & it is now past 9 P.M. John & I are living in our N. Wing; have a shantee kitchen, sitting room (John sleeps here on a wide lounge made up as a bed closet, & my bed room -- we have use of cellar, barn for the cow, &c &c. & two chambers. the front one keep just as it was, a smaller one is store room. We are very comfortable in these small quarters, much more so, than if we had more room to take care of. I am succeeding nicely in my line of house work, and John is cheerfully helpful & obedient. He is also much interested in his studies, and looks as anxiously for the daily paper as I do. Our state of mind for the day here depends so much upon the morning paper, wh. comes in from Chicago, on the 9.30. train. From past experiences: we have little to look for but defeat. Today came the

news of retreat from Columbus, Ky. the old story of unequal numbers, and attacking an entrenched enemy. The Ky. news takes my first attention, now -- The report of the Investigating Com. in Fremont's case, is painful, nobody to be trusted; his farewell to his soldiers is dignified and uncomplaining --

I hear from my husband once or twice a week. heard to-day. he has been at Smithland, Ky some 20 miles from Paducah for two weeks. will be there but a short time longer -- Is well except a cold, is very busy, and on the whole enjoying himself as well as he can any where away from his home. I hope he can come & make me a short visit ere long. I find it very loansome living without my dearest friend beside me, but make the best of it in every way. Mr. G. thought it best to go as it no doubt was, and I try to feel brave. My greatest comfort now is in committing him to our Heavenly Father's care asking Him to take care of the dear one, and keep him in safety, making him useful to souls around him and directing his efforts in every way

We have a kind christian family in the other part of the house, we try to be a mutual comfort to each other. It would be so pleasant, if you could come and stay a few weeks with me, we should have a quiet time for visiting. I really enjoy doing my work, tho' it makes my back ache every day. But my bread is so nice, & I can see that it is so much economy in wood & every thing else, that there is really great satisfaction in it -- My eyes will hold out no longer, so good night to you --

Sat. P.M. A hard frost last night makes everything look more like winter coming than before. Potatoes are very bad here this year. We have none now. 2/3 of what we had were discarded -- The dry rot is on all this region. We have two bbl's nice bell flower apples for winter. had a good many summer and fall apples.

[*written along side of last page*] John has gone hunting to-day. I am always afraid, but his Pa says he may go & provides the gun & ammunition, so I hope he will not get hurt --
Joel writes he was never so busy in his life. Do you hear from him --
How is your sister M.

[*written along side of middle pages*] What do you know of Aunt B. and Cos - Ellen -- & all the friends -- I shall think of you thanksgiving day. J. & I shall be alone probably. I shall have time to think how all the dear friends are far away.

[*written along side of first page*] We have a Soc. for serving for the Hospitals. By a Festival we raised the first $25 to get means to do with. We are making Hospitals shirts & drawers socks, sheets, & cot. & pillow ticks -- We send a box Mond. to the 19th Col. Surelin From another Festival, the eve before the Band left we made $50 more so we shall keep busy for awhile Let me hear from you soon I will try to answer more promptly -- Love to Father, & Mother. & you all, your aff. sister Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] --

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

(4)

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

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

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

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

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

The money acc.t with Caroline is as follows

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

Sept 13. Dft on N.Y.	$200	
Premium on do	2	
	202	
Int. from Sept. 13. to Dec 23}		
3 1/3 mos. at 12 per ct. }	6.74}	--208.74
Amt on hand Dec. 23, 1859		$532.95

Int. from Dec. 23, 1859 to } --63.95
Dec 23, 1860 at 12 per ct.} $596.90

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

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant

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

Dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

In securing the position I occupy I felt myself doubly fortunate, perhaps I ought to say triply. I felt glad to be connected directly with the defenders of my country*, I rejoiced in being placed in such a position as to do something to keep up the principles and practices of religion, and in which my labors are well rewarded. But as matters go, I fear that association with the

defenders of the country is but likely to prove a great honor, for every thing seems to be another link in a chain of blunders. The other two objects I hope I am securing in a good degree.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But I cannot dwell on these things. We were paid yesterday for four months – Up to Jan. 1. I inclose $45 for Mr. Russell. You will acknowledge the same <for> to him, according to forms I have heretofore given "Rec.d interest on (here describe note) up to Dec. 23, 1861. If you mention any sum <u>it must</u> be $37.1/2 not $45, for reasons that I believe you understand. So in indorsing the amount on note say Rec.d interest on this note to Dec 23,'61 etc.

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

Your aff. brother Joel Grant.

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

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

You will please acknowledge rect of money will you not.

C. [*Caroline*]

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

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

Your Sister Abby Grant. Feb. & Apr. 62

Lockport, Ill. Feb. 19, 1862.

Dear Sister Caroline,

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

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

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

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

Mr. Grant wrote me the week before they left Paducah, that he would as soon as possible go to Cairo an St. Louis, and telegraph to me, & I was to leave the next morn for that place. I was ready only putting things in the truck, to go. John was to stay at Mr. Smiths (they are Ct. people, have a son near John's age, with whom J. is intimate) I cooked just enough to last from day to day, etc. when I saw the announcement that the 12th Reg. with others were in route for Ft. Henry. It was a great disappointment to us both, but we do hope yet to see each other before long. I wrote last night to know if I might come to Ft. Donelson. Hope I can go. You will judge by_____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abby

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Lockport, Apr. 1, 1862.
Dear Sister,

The enclosed letter from Joel came this morning. He writes cheerfully, & I hope will keep in good health.

Three weeks ago last Sat. P. M. I received a dispatch from Paducah, saying Mr. G. will be in Cairo, Mond. & wished me to come – I took the train here, Mond. morn at half past ten, & reached Cairo, Tues. morn at six.

Went to the St. Charles hotel, & found Mr. G's, name was not registered, and knew by that he had not arrived. Soon I went down to order up my luggage, & saw the same old striped carpet bag, that has seen so much service in the family, standing by the door, with a familiar trunk, & roll of blankets strapped to it. I asked the darkey who was watching it, where the gentleman was who owned that baggage. "He's coming down there maam," and soon he came up looking so thin and weary, as to make me heart sick. He had just come off the boat from Paducah, & had slept very little, the boat was so full. We staid one day at the St. C. but soon as possible went to a family where Mr. G. boarded last summer, & where several of our acquaintances now are boarding.

Joel was very unwell for two days & nights, & I had fears of a fever, but my Homeopathic box contained the little pills that arrested the diarrhea, & fever. He soon rallied, & was quite well when I left, the next week Wed. morn. at half past three. We had a precious visit, one we shall both remember as an oasis. It was hard to leave him to go down amidst the rebels, but it was best, for I could be of little use amid so many hardships & was needed more here.

John staid at Mr. Smith's here,<where he> who has a boy of his own age, with whom J. is intimate. John, has often helped Mrs. S. by milking for her, when her girl was gone, & in many ways been helpful, and Mrs. S. has often said, "John is to come here when you go to see Mr. G." She says he was a good boy, & gave her no trouble – Mrs. S's sister from Odell, 70 miles from here, sent for J. & George Smith to come down & spend a few days. So they went last Sat. & are to return Thurs. eve of this week – Mrs. S. was in this morn, said she had a letter from G. they were well, & having a good time. A change will do J. good, & help him to study better next term.

Spring is coming on, already the tulips have started, & the other [borders?] look green. I fear the summer for our armies. I am so glad Mr. G. & Philander B. have met, hope they can often see each other

Love to father & Mother & all the family, from your aff. sister

Abby.

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

Dear Sister,

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

The papers have informed you of the main facts respecting us here. Our Reg. (together with others) was assigned the duty of garrisoning Corinth, & taking care of Rail Roads etc. in its vicinity, and it seemed probable that <I> we might stay here for some time. But the news of McLellan's reverse near Richmond came yesterday, and also an order for 25,000 troops to be furnished by the army here, to succor those in Va. As the result we may be called to Va., though, as yet, we have not rec.d orders. Our former Col. (now Brig. Gen. McArthur) has rec.d orders to go, with all his Brigade – which does not embrace us. In any case so large a withdrawal will weaken us here, and render us more liable to attack in points where the enemy may see fit to mass his troops, and pour down upon us. The news of McLellan's ill success created great sorrow here, as it must over all the land. We were looking for the speedy subjugation of the rebels, but this will probably postpone that event many months.

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] MrsCaroline Grant

Mill Brook
Ct.

Lockport, Ill. 4th. July '62.

Dear Sister Caroline,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abby –

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

From Mary Burton
Oct. '62

Austinburg, Oct. 30th 1862.

My dear Aunt,

Thank you very much for your good letter received a week or more ago. It is not because I do not enjoy hearing from you as much or more than ever before, that I have become such a poor correspondent of late, but, as I have already assured you, because I am <u>so busy.</u>

We love to have Abbie with us, and hope that her stay here will not be an unprofitable one to herself. She is studying pretty hard this term, but I think not so as to endanger her health, and as the term is drawing to a close, perhaps she would better not drop either of them.

She thinks she will <not> take but two studies during the winter term. I suppose she will go on with her Algebra and Latin. It will be an advantage to her, if she goes to So. Hadley, to have a knowledge of Algebra, as it would be a long hard study if she took it up there for the first time. She will finish nicely Andrews and Stoddard's Latin Reader within the year, and be

prepared to take Nepos or Sallust. I wish she could have another year upon her Latin before she goes to Holyoke, as she could there finish the course in three years with ease. Perhaps you will conclude to let her remain with us longer, than was at first proposed. I think she is interested in her studies, and will make a fine scholar.

I think mother does not feel that Abbie adds to her cares and labors. True, we are both very much occupied with the duties of school five days in the week but upon Monday we hold ourselves at Mother's service. Abbie puts the house in order while I assist about the washing. Our family is not large, and when we are all well, mother does not find it hard to do her work without much help – indeed she prefers it. Do not feel troubled for fear Abbie will not do her part. She has always shown a disposition to do all, and more, than was asked of her.

With regards to matters of dress, I think our views accord with yours. Austinburg is not a dressy place, and we approve Abbie's taste, and think she is amply provided for. I do not think a silk dress an essential part of her wardrobe while she remains here, - She will tell you about her arrangements for this winter. I wish we might have found a pretty all wool delaine such as we wanted, but I could not find it in Ashtabula or Jefferson and finally concluded to take a dress for myself from a piece of blue parametta which suited me better than anything else I found, and Abbie got one like it. I suppose we are in the habit of paying higher prices here than you do east, though probably there is not much difference.

We can furnish her with money until it is convenient for you to send, just as well as not, and we are happy to do so.

Brother Willie was engaged in the battle of Corinth. We were quite uneasy about him, after we heard that Hurlburt's Division was there, until we received a letter from him, stating but two of his Battery were hurt, and they not seriously. He seemed quite elated as the part his battery had taken in the engagement, said that the General told them that they had done more execution than any other two batteries on the field. We also had a letter from Philander a few days since. He reports himself well, and enjoying himself as well as possible under the circumstances.

We heard that Grandpa was having a number of photograps taken, and trust that we shall be remembered in distribution of them.

I am very glad that Eddie is going to be under the instruction of uncle John. He has written us that he thinks that the young man who is boarding with them will be a very agreeable companion for Eddie, as well as an excellent example. – Our Eddie has had quite a severe sickness of a week – was threatened with a course of fever but is about again. Mother joins me in sending love to all of Grandpa's dear family.

Very affectionately, your niece

Mary E. B.

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Austinburg Ohio.
Nov. 16, 1862

My dear Mother,

I receive your letter with what it contained all safe and sound, and was very thankfull, (somebody just hit my arm) for it you may be sure. I received the five which you sent some time ago. The photograph of Grandpa was firstrate, thank him very much. It is Sunday evening, and we are going to start before light tomorrow morning for Canton. I have been to the prayer meeting this evening, and have not much time to write.

I donot have any blotches come out excepting once in a great while

Am glad they have named the<r> baby Cassie, they ought to.

I saw about Uncle Clarks death in the Independent, knew it was he. Am very very sorry. Am glad Mary Wallis is with Aunt Mary.

I have not heard from Linnette for sometime, last time I heard she was sick with the Dysentery. She said there were a great many dying with it. I have had two letters from her since I have been here, and have written as many and I think one more.

The Institution is distant, about a quarter of a mile or less. Am glad Rene Eldridge is married. Do you whether cousin Ralph has any office or not. Cousin Will Burton has been in the hospital for a time but is well now, he is at Bolivar, he says that about 20,000 troops left to go after Price not long ago, but they have left to guard the place because their horses were unfit for use, and their new ones had not come. In the battle of Corinth the Gen. complimented Will's Battery very highly. Will sent home a piece of shell which came 'not far from his head.' Phil<I> is still in Jackson.

Am glad you wrote about our other friends who are in the army.

Has Mrs. Allen recovered yet. Am glad McClellan is removed, hope something will be done now.

It is getting late and I must go to bed or I shall be tired tomorrow. We are going to stop in Cleveland and look around the City for my benefit.

Give my love to Father and Eddie and all the rest. I hope you will be able to read this. I will write a longer letter another time.

Your aff daughter

Abbie E. Grant.

Wrote to Mr. Eddy some time ago, have received an answer which is real good.

Abbie

All send love

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

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] June 29, '63

Dear Sister Caroline,

Mr. Russell was home on Sat. and wished me to write you that he had the money on hand to pay you up, as soon as you send the notes & release: wh. you will please do, directed to me, here, and Mr. R. will be up again in a few days, and will pay & arrange for sending to you. I suppose it had better be in a draft on Metropolitan Bank, on some other wh makes it perfectly safe to send --

I left Memphis June 16 at 2 P.M. & arrived in Chicago June 19 at 8. A.M. staied till the P.M. of the 20th then came down home, found a dozen or two friends at the depot to welcome me, one when John has boarded invited me to tea, & Mrs. Stowe who lives opposite us, insisted upon my spending the Sat. with her, wh. I most gladly did.

Mond. I came to my rooms, & commenced cleaning up. Everything was very dusty, but a few days work put all to right again. John & I are now boarding with the family who live in the larger part of our house -- Shall do so while the hot weather lasts, we do not know what is before us, but if all is well, I shall return South in the fall, either to be with Mr. Grant, or in Hospital labors, as may [semhist?]. Mr. Grant came over to Memphis the Sat. before I left, and staid <*till*> to see me safely on the boat. A dear lady & her daughter from Ft. Pickering, Memphis, were my travelling companions -- It had been a great comfort to both of us to be when we could see & hear from each other so often, and it was hard to come away, but I had been quite unwell for some time, & did not dare to stay in that climate longer, in summer heat.

Mr. Grant is very thin & not very strong, but hopes to be able to take such care of himself, as to be comfortable, if his health is worse we will come north for a few weeks. He can [illay?] be spared from the [camp.?] for his mind moves all the machinery -- Still, his assistants are brave faithful men, and do all they can to spare him -- The place is a dangerous, as well as responsible one, for guerrillas infest that region, and are determined to break up the Memphis & Charleston R.R. [*railroad*] I spent two weeks in a tent in Mr. G's camp a little while before coming home -- the excitement & discomfort would soon finish me at this season of the year -- you can have no idea of war, till when its results are seen -- The day I came over the R.R. (M & C) the track was torn up, & we had to wait to have it repaired, and only for a guard of three Co's of Inf. we should not have escaped an attack by guerrillas -- Mr. G was delayed coming to M. by the entire stopping of the train one day. We feel that thus far, God has been very good to us, to spare us Mid so much

of danger -- May His mercies continue. I found from all reports of John, good reason to believe he had done credit to himself, & parents -- He had been faithful <*and*> & trusty, and some of our friends say, shows uncommon business talents. We thank God for it, and hope he will continue to do well -- He looks so much older than he is, & is trying to have a good manly appearance, & keeps himself neat & [comely?]. I encourage it, & hope he will not neglect the inner man.

Much love to Father & Mother, and to you all from John, & your aff. sister Abby.

& John must go to school, we don't know where yet, perhaps at Beloit, Wis.

[*Separate piece of paper*] John has been in the P.O. as clerk since March 1st it has been employment to him, & gives him an idea of business, & of people. He has had only $15 per month, & hoards himself wh. of course is scarce enough to pay his board ($3 per week), but it has done him great good.

Willy is much as usual. His pure spirit will shine in Heaven, & we shall forget the trial his feelings it to us here, I am going this P.M. to the funeral of a mother who has left eight children behind & could trust all with God. How mighty her faith must be! Her family were among our first friends here --

Do tell me all about Father & Mother, Marcus & Daniel & your children, & yourself, yea, all about every thing I am interested in, I am glad you could visit Mary, (I want to know about her) & spend some time at John's. I wish I had your photograph & Daniels, & A's, & E's. Don't forget me if you have them taken. Love to all the friends.

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La Grange, Tenn. [*Tennessee*]

Dec. 1, 1863.

Dear Brother,

I have found it impossible to ascertain any thing sufficiently definite to warrant my writing to you in accordance with any implied promise made in my recent letter to Father. I now take my pen rather to satisfy you that the matter is not out of my mind than to give you such definite information as I would like to give and you would like to receive.

Since I wrote you I have been mainly, at the plantation here, The work connected with it draws to a close very slowly. The weather is sometimes too cold to pick cotton -- though as yet we have had no snow = and very little ice -- sometimes it is too rainy or muddy & always the days are short. I hope we shall be through in a week, however. The crop -- as I told you in a former letter -- is very light. The frost has had upon it the effect which it had on many a corn field at the North -- and, but for extravagant price at which cotton sells, the crop would scarcely pay for picking.

The gentleman who has had special care of the Cotton crop this year will make bare wages at a very moderate rate. He was to have two fifths -- be supplying seed &c. he will probably get $600 in all. Had the season been good, however, he would have made $10,000 -- but he ran all risks of invasion by guerrillas and loss of life or captivity.

He has made an arrangement for next year that will probably be a success. He has secured about 400 acres in the vicinity of Memphis, which he is to be allowed to use free of charge. He is to be allowed to hire Contrabands (Freedmen, we are learning to call them) at such terms as he shall arrange with them, and is to be allowed provisions for them from government, on condition of paying for the same at close of the season. He will also be allowed the use of unserviceable horses & mules paying for their forage at close of season. The arrangement can scarcely fail to be a good one for him. It is one, however, that no other man would be likely to secure; and is a part of the fruit which his arduous and faithful labors the present year have produced, better than a crop of Cotton would have been.

As he will devote himself almost entirely to Cotton, it is possible that I might secure in connection with him a position in wh. you could accomplish somewhat. A dairy kept in connection with his establishment, would doubtless be profitable if carried on wisely -- not for the purpose of making butter & cheese, but to supply Memphis with milk. This article, delivered at houses, commands always 10 cts a quart, and in winter more. There are, however, many draw backs to the profits which such a price might seem to imply. This is not a country in which nourishing

grapes grow naturally -- or even with cultivation as they do at the North. There are no fences in the vicinity -- soldiers & fences, at least in a [...] country -- cannot co-exist. Cows are scarce, & would need to be brought form the North, at considerable expense, and no little risk.

Garden vegetables might be cultivated profitably. The demand is practically unlimited, and the prices good. The fence difficulty is here as prominent as in the dairy business -- though it might probably be conquered by the construction of new fences, well nailed. I do not suppose Mr. Wallace (the gentlemen referred to above) will think it best to take up either of these branches of business. He will cultivate cotton mainly if not solely. This has the advantage of not needing fence so much as most other things; since cattle will not readily eat it, nor at all so long as they can get grass. of any kind.

I mention these things since it seems to me that you cannot safely enter on any thing in this direction unless it be of this nature. If you feel inclined to enter upon these things or something like them, <*let*> perhaps you had better write me soon as possible. I cannot say that it will be best for you to do this, but I will still keep the matter under consideration.

I think you can answer this before I shall leave Memphis.

My Reg. is, as I suppose, at Chattanooga now -- and probably participated in the recent battle there. With love to you all I am,

Your aff. brother,

Joel Grant.

P.S. I mail for you two Memphis Bulletins -- a daily paper -- in which you may find something to interest you. The guerrillas on the river bank and elsewhere are a great annoyance now -- and if you were here I do not know but the order requiring the citizens to arm might embrace you.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Mill Brook
Conn [*Connecticut*]

Memphis, Tenn. [*Tennessee*]
Jan. 4, 1864.

Dear Brother,

I have now been in Memphis some ten days, and have looked (hitherto in vain) for a letter from you. I have reason to fear that a letter of which I have heard, but which I have not been able to find, was from you. At all events I have concluded to write you some things which you may be glad know and which <u>may</u> be of use to you practically.

I am about to leave the Contraband Department, perhaps permanently and go to my Regiment, which is now (or was two weeks ago) at Pulaski, Tenn., 175 miles (in a straight line) East of Corinth. As the region from Corinth East is not held by our forces, and is unsafe for travel (aside from the fact that it has no modes of conveyance) I shall be compelled to go a round about way probably by Cairo Louisville and Nashville. A long route is this -- to Cairo 130 miles (straight) to Louisville 225 to Nashville 175, to Pulaski (which lies between Nashville and [Decation?] about 30 miles North of the latter) 70 miles Total 600 miles in straight lines. (I measure them on a map) To this must be added at least two thirds -- making 1000 miles.

I have completed my work at La Grange The results [...] have been small. The frost which destroyed so many corn fields at the North worked equal disaster with Cotton fields in this Latitude. From our 500 acres of Cotton, which in any ordinary season would have yielded 100 bales and sometimes 250 we gathered only 5 bales. These we sold for $1512.50 -- a part at 72 cts. and a part at 62 1/2 cts. Of course we could not pay the laborers. We settled with them on the principle of the Bankrupt Law at 10 cts. on the dollar -- with which as they <*never*> had always heretofore had 00000 for their wages they were tolerably well satisfied. Those who received most had $17 and those who received least 10 cts. They for the most part recognized that they had been cared for, (at Uncle Sam's expense -- the $1500 would not have paid one sixth of it) and well used, and were willing to try another year's experiment in the same way -- Perhaps they will be able to, but not with me as a leader. The principal crop we have raised this year is one of ideas, and in this particular we have been successful -- we have shown that

negroes, can & will work as freemen. I am satisfied. A small crop (100 bales) would have given us $30.000 -- more than paying all expenses -- while an abundant crop 250 bales would have made for us $75.000, In any case no portion of it would have been mine, and as it has resulted it is fortunate it was not to be.

Jan. 6. The weather has been unprecedentedly cold for the past 6 days. The last day of Dec. was stormy -- first rain then snow -- then a freeze -- and at day light New Years' morning the Thermometer was 10 [*degrees*] below Zero. Several instances of death by freezing resulted -- among the most distressing of which was that of a party of soldiers sent out from Fort Pillow the night of Dec. 31, to arrest smugglers -- The whole party are probably dead by this time -- and five of them including the Lieut. who commanded them were dead New Years morning frozen stiff. The rest were so far gone that at the latest news no hope was indulged of their recovery. It is probably that hundreds of negroes have perished. There has scarcely been an hour of thaw since the year came in, and the roads where much travelled are smooth as a floor and hard as ice.

I came on board a Steam Boat to day to go to Cairo -- but the ice is so abundant in the river, floating down in large cakes, that our Captain is slow in starting, <*We*> and the Boat is likely to be slower in making the trip. It is said that navigating is already closed, both in the Ohio and Mississippi, above Cairo, and though river men affirm that below Cairo it is never closed yet a few more days like the last six would render it very difficult. The water is unusually low, which renders the case worse.

When I began this letter I thought I had found an opening for you <*to*> but it seems that I had not. It was a chance to cut wood from an Island near Memphis. The place has since been taken by Government to get wood for R. Roads. All enterprises of this kind have in them a good deal of uncertainty and I felt it undesirable to have you come to a point where I could not help you either by counsel, or influence with the military authorities who, even more than civil authorities, need careful handling. Still the opportunity seemed so good that I had determined to advice you to take it if I could complete arrangements. <*As you*> It was a chance to cut wood at the rate of 50 cts a cord from about 100 acres of heavy timber. The cutting and piling on the bank would cost about $1.25 & when seasoned it would sell at $3.50 or $4. Several draw backs would attend upon the scheme -- among them the influence of floods which might at any time stop the work, and if not well guarded against, carry off the wood. The laborers must be paid, before the wood would season, requiring considerable capital to do work enough to come so far from home. The fact, too, that the Govt. makes soldiers of able bodied negroes, who must <*do the*> must do the chopping would greatly increase the difficulties -- for labor would be scarce.

A good many people are coming from the North to engage in Cotton culture. Some of them will do very well, others will lose all, money, health and life.

I think it probable that I may yet be able to find something for you. I would like to have you write me how much money you could invest. I suppose it must be comparatively small -- and for many reasons should be so used as to be reasonably safe from loss. Whatever I owe you, I hold myself ready to advance on reasonable notice -- I suppose it does not exceed $200 -- probably is not so much but in the tempest tossed life I am in I cannot keep accounts, and lose my memoranda three or four times a year.

Write me as below

Your aff. brother
J. Grant
Chaplain 12th Ill. Inf.
Pulaski Tenn

Jan 7. We started to day at 1 P.M. Progress slow and a good deal probability we shall have to return to Memphis. Weather still cold river full of ice.

Jan 11. We are at last so near Cairo -- (8 miles) that I may assume we shall soon be there. We have had a long and difficult trip -- though not particularly unpleasant. The weather has been very cold but we have been comfortable. I finish this letter and will mail it as soon as I arrive. With much love to Father, Mother, Caroline, Marcus & the children I am your aff. brother Joel Grant.

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Huntsville, Ala. [*Alabama*]

May 4, 1864.

Dear Sister,

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

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

May 5 On board the cars for Chattanoga. <*It*> I write with a pencil because pen and ink are out of the question here. We are now far advanced towards Chattanooga -- probably not more than 10 miles off. I left my lodgings at Auntsville last evening at 8 o'clock. The appointed time for trains to leave was 9 o'clock -- but it is one of the annoyances of a state of war that every thing is uncertain -- and in fact no train left till 12 1/2 -- and then only a <*passenger*> freight. We came along pretty well to Stevenson -- 60 miles -- where we arrived at 5 1/2 in the morning. Since that we have had many delays, & now at 4 1/2 P.M. we are still some 10 miles from Chattanooga. The day has been very warm, almost hot. The season here has been very cold & backward. The trees are now leaved out, but are at least three weeks later than usual.

The country from Huntsville [here?] is very mountanous. We struck the Tenn. River at [Bridgeport?] (30 M.W. of C.) where we crossed it. The Road has since, often, passed along its bank with the River to the left and precipitous bluffs to the right. The River is exceedingly beautiful as is the scenery generally.

5 P.M. We have just arrived. I sit now in plain view of Lookout Mountain the scene of a fearful combat and substantial victory, and now the cemetery for soldiers. It lifts its form high into the air. You remember that a part of the battle was fought above the clouds. None but a power divine would seem sufficient to overthrow a force that held its lofty top & giddy precipices.

I find (by report) that our Division, & consequently the 12th left this place this morning -- Contrary to my expectation they were taken up by the cars about 50 m. West of this, & thus

arrived much sooner than they otherwise would, and in a rested state. Where they will stop I do not know but I presume I shall be able to join them to-morrow. There is something awfully impressive in such an advance into the country of an enemy so heartless, vindictive, treacherous & cruel. Certain it is that many will never return -- possibly only a small portion.

But I must cease descriptions I was greatly interested in the news you imparted -- also in the intelligence contained in Mother's & Marcus' letter. Give my love to them -- as also to Father, Daniel & your children. Whether any of you will meet me on earth is of course largely uncertain -- while it seems scarcely possible that you all should. Let us all look rather to our gathering in another world.

I am favorably disposed to the idea of Daniel's coming to some part of the country where negro labor can be secured. I suppose it is impossible or at least inexpedient to attempt the removal of such persons North -- and that habits of society there are such that negroes can neither be well used nor happy. If Daniel does not lay out too much work I think he could lease or perhaps purchase land which he could cultivate to advantage with the labor of negroes -- The great thing is superintendence, & good management. The crops that to me would seem advisable would be either cotton, tobacco, or flax -- with corn, & vegetables enough to suply the establishment. If he is to undertake such a thing at all -- since it is too late for this season -- he had better be ready by October to begin to lay his plans, & it occurs to me that he had better not bring you with him at once -- Let me know the result of his visit to Wisconsin -- & other things respecting his plans -- Address as below your aff. brother

Joel Grant
Chaplain 12th Ill. Inf
Chattanooga, Tenn.

*Later the reports were very much exaggerated. Indeed the whole matter seems to have been a kind of trick on our part to hide our movement.

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] May 16 1864

Dear Brother & Sister

Carrie's letter came duly to hand and we were very sorry to hear of the death of Erastus's little boy and of the painful circumstances attending it. Though there is His satisfaction that the dear one is safe from all harm and enjoying that presence & loving kindness that is better than life and they now have certain treasure in heaven which may help to draw their heart where their treasure is --

I enclose you a certified check for the interest on my note for one year and owe you an appology for not attending to it sooner. Will you be kind enough to give me the date of that note as I have neglected to put it down and would like to make out the mortgage from date unless you would be likely to want the money when you have decided what to do -- We have not heard from the Rail Road a decided answer Though I think there is a pretty good chance for me to get the appointment. Will most likely know by the middle June or it may be before as they expect to open the road by the fourth of July -- Have had a very good offer for part of our farm 150 dol. per acre and have some considerable notion of selling it think we could get that price for the larger half of it independent of building lot, on the [front?].

Want to hear from Daniel in regard to his visit westward and hope he will give us a detailed account. I went down to Maryland fore part of April and found that really desirable properties were as high there as here, that is properties near R Road and Baltimore with good buildings & good land in good order -- Like the land North of City very well it was easy to work. Generally well watered buildings in general not desirable -- Found the low priced land similar to that in the State of Deleware, lying in large tracts and comparatively poor -- We have had a very fine rain and the country is now beautiful a feast to the eye to contemplate Grass looks luxuriant, wheat growing finely -- Little Carrie is growing finely and begins to say many words but does not make any sentences as yet is healthy and a great eater -- Gets rather more indulgence than some of the others did at her age probably because she sits at my elbow. Will pack and forward that carpet [warp?] soon --

My feelings are about as they have been for sometime I am not so anxious to lay up a large Estate as to see those about me enjoying life in a sensible way and when I am so situated that I can afford to spend the amt of money necessary for such [end?], and wife & family will make themselves comfortable will be situated to my hearts content. Think with what we now have and situation on R Road can afford to do it or could by selling and change of situation accomplish the same end -- My friends all appear to be wise and I the only fool among them which is bad for them and worse for me But (that which cannot be cured -- Must be endured) I cannot see that it is at all necessary for you to go to Idaho and am not satisfied that your welfare would be better insured by that course than any other -- Still work at the shop most of the time and find that it is just the same hard and to me disagreeable work that it was years ago but perhaps a little worse now on account of my unsettled state of mind.

Shall be glad to hear from you both, and and to see any or all of you at any time -- and to do anything in my power to forward your happiness --

We have Glorious news from the Army and have hopes that we are beginning to se the beginning of the end. We are to have a draft in our Township this week for 38 men to fill up our quota of calls to date, I shall have to run the chances with the others --

Head my life insured in a Mutual Co of Newark, the other day for the sum of 3000 dols in favour of Mary and by the payment of 101 dollars (and interest on that amt in notes for 4 years) for ten years secures the policy without further payment should my life be prolonged beyond that time --

It is very evident that but few of us think enough of the future life and that too many that are considered as christians are as anxious or more so about the good things of this life. It is much easier to have Ideas than to carry out those ideas into actual life -- Too many forget that it is the little graces and kindnesses of heart and action, every day self denials, that make the charm of life. We are too apt to think that our own ends must be accomplished without regard to the happiness or welfare of others -- Christianity is doubtless the cure for most earthly evils but must enter into <u>all actual</u> life to work its cure and bring about its greatest good -- day by day, -- hour by hour -- every where -- constant as the sunlight -- Gentle and refreshing as the falling dew. May it be our portion and of all others --

Affectionately yours
William Hill

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2 Div. 16 A [O?] embracing 12th Ill. Inf
Ackworth Ga. [*Georgia*] June 9, 1864.

Dear Sister,

As a part of the army invading Ga. I have been very busy for the past six weeks. We have been at one place but a little while at a time -- often only a part of a day -- often have changed places during the night, sometimes of necessity and sometimes for [sceresy?], and all along we have been operating with an army so large, and as an insignificant part of the whole, know next to nothing of the purposes of any four movements. The work done we ascertain first, in many cases, by papers received from the North a week or ten days after. This campaign has been different from any in which I have ever had a part in several particulars. It is longer -- most of the important movements in which our Reg. has acted did not last more than two or three weeks.* Here we have had long marches -- have been in the field six weeks and would be glad to have the assurance that in six weeks more our work would be done.

What we have accomplished you have learned from the papers, though details of it you can never know fully. We have advanced about 100 miles into Georgia -- a state that hitherto has been less affected by the war than any other in the South -- we have dislodged that Southern army from Dalton -- a very strong position -- [Resacea.?] Calhoun, Kingston, Dallas, & various other places of which if you have not a recent, and a good map you can have no idea, for nearly all of them are new. We are expecting to make another move to-morrow the object of which will be to dislodge the enemy from all his positions this side of Atlanta at least. In what direction we shall move, or where we shall be placed, I have not the least idea -- nor has a single officer or man in our Reg., much less what dangers we shall encounter, or who shall live to tell of them.

I have stood the campaign very well or rather, I am standing it well. I believe I wrote you that I was sick at Pulaski. We left Pulaski <*read*> May 1 (about) -- May 10 we were near [Resacea?] -- 15 m. S of Dalton, in the wilderness -- in a country not quite as rocky, but more hilly than Litchfield Co. We were in a position confronting the enemy, & during the day had made an advance of about a mile. At 8 o'clock in the evening there came on a most terrific thundershower -- at the same time we were ordered to retreat -- back to the works occupied in the morning. We saw no foe -- heard none -- but such was the order -- and in the rain & darkness & mud we obeyed getting wet to the skin, & when at about 2 o'clock we found a place to stop -- bed clothes were wet -- ground was wet -- everything soaked & the rain still continuing. I was attacked next day with chills &c. but with proper care have escaped their influence since.

June 13. We moved from Ackworth the day after I wrote the above. We moved but four miles however -- to a placed called Big Shanty -- a Depot on the R.R. [Kenesand?] Mt. is before us about 3 m. occupied by the [rbs.?] & it is (we hope) the last position they will take before retreating to Atlanta. We have been here three days -- two of wh. (yesterday & to-day) have been very rainy -- pouring -- pouring -- pouring -- until every thing is full of water. Nothing has been <*do*> done of a marked character -- All we have done is to wait & suffer.

June 14. Your letter, with that of Daniel dated May 29 came yesterday P.M. I was very glad to hear from you & all the people at home -- & to know that so many favors are continued to most of them -- I am sorry my leisure does not admit of my writing you in reply as much as Id wish, but I must omit much I would gladly say. I do not pretend to be able to judge, but I have a <u>feeling</u> (not worth much) that it is well for you not to go to that place in Wisconsin. What Daniel ought to do I cannot now tell at all -- May God keep him and us all from any steps that shall involve those we love in trouble -- or prove otherwise than for the present & eternal good -- My love to Father & Mother -- to Daniel & Marcus -- to all your children -- from any of whom I shall be glad to receive a letter -- Direct as you find my name below

Your aff. brother
Rev. J. Grant
Chaplain 12th Ill. Inf.
Ackworth
Ga.

* We moved from [Padueah?], Ky. Feb 5, 1862 -- took Ft. Henry Feb. 6 -- Ft Donelson Feb. 16, after three days fighting -- the dreadful battle of Shiloh lasted but two days (April 6 & 7 1862) and that of Corinth 2 (October 3 & 4, 1862) Our advance on Corinth lasted a month, but in all that time we moved only 20 miles (May 1862)

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E. Point, 6 m. S of Atlanta Ga. [*Georgia*]
Sept. 26, 1864.

(At this place the R.R. divides, one branch running to Montgomery Ala, and another to Mason Ga. A few miles this side of Montgomery, the road branches again, and the place is called West Point. In our advance S. of Atlanta, We destroyed both the Road that leads to Montgomery & that which leads to Mason, making great fires with the ties, laying the rails upon the fires, and when well heated, bending them into all the shapes the soldiers' fancy suggested, sometimes putting them wire like, around a tree. This brought us to the battle of Jonesboro 22 m. S. Atlanta Aug <*Sept*> 31, & resulted in the capture of Atlanta, Sept. 2 and great was its fall.)

Dear Brother,

I know not that any please of business, or care can fully justify me in your sight, or my own, for my long silence, and my omission to write home. For some reason I find it difficult to write a short letter when there is so much of which to speak, and to write a long one has been impossible up to this, hour, and even yet it is scarcely possible <*so*>. Amid scenes so surprising, so full if importance, since our nation's destiny seemed dependent upon them, so full of toil, and inconvenience, so calling for aid & sympathy <*from*> for sick and wounded & dying, it seemed scarce possible to attend to anything not directly necessary. If a little relief came (which was

rare) it seemed important to use it to secure the rest without which nature would give way, rather than to use it for purposes, wh. were desirable & yet admitted of postponement or entire omission*

But enough of this. We have ended the campaign, 125 days after we began it (up to Sept. 2) and after having fought over <*all*> every foot of ground from Dalton to Jonesboro, and <*taken*> captured positions that seemed [Gibraltars?] for impregnability. Our troops may well boast, now, that nothing can stand before them.

Many brave men have fallen -- I cannot tell how many -- but in our Reg. 25 are dead, either killed (15) or dying of wounds (10). Thus either of the battles of Donelson, Shiloh, or Corinth, was <*were*> more disastrous than this whole campaign, with its frequent skirmishes. Ninety Five wounded <*be*> makes out our total casualties 120. In the Division to which we belong (2nd Div. 16 A.O.) consisting of eight Regs & a Battery there have been 115 deaths from wounds in the Hospital -- the killed I can not state. In the same time there were 40 deaths from disease.

The losses of the rebels during the same period have been immense, but years must elapse before we shall know the exact number, and perhaps not even then. The newspapers will have given you nearly as accurate an account of these things as I can.

There is no doubt that we can, and shall, wipe out this rebellion if the people of the North will stand by us, and re-elect our President. It is this we need to have done now. The election of the Chicago candidate would render nearly certain the disruption of the Union with is consequent interminable series of wars, by which your descendants, and mine would be tormented indefinitely, and from which we, personally, might not escape. But I cannot for a moment believe that the people of the North will do such a thing.

It is a dreadful evil -- the war in which we are engaged, but it could not have been avoided except at the sacrifice of national character, & hope.

I have often thought of <*the*> a remark I heard Father make when I was much younger than now -- perhaps not more than 10 years old. It was on one of those evenings when, as was not unfrequently the case, some of the neighbors -- Uncle Sam (Cowles) & Mr. Rollins came in and talked of affairs in church and state (Here let me say that from those conversations I learned no small part <*amount*> of the political, civil, and ecclesiastical knowledge I possess -- though neither they nor I thought of it -- I took it in by absorption -- and this should teach us to make, as far as we can, our firesides instructive) Then Father said of the system of slavery, "It <u>must</u> end, in some way it must die, either it must go out in blood, or by a peaceable allowance of the slaves' rights." How true! And how little did I anticipate then that it would be mine to see the bleeding mangled dead & putrefying corpses, that would fill grave yards by the acre that are fulfilling <*showing*> this prophecy. Nearly 4000 buried at Shiloh -- half that number at Corinth, a greater number than at both places during this campaign, & even then the circuit of my own narrow observation is not filled.

I have but little reason to complain of my state of health, having been well the greater part of the campaign. I have been exposed continually -- have had no other cover then a rubber blanket for the most of the time, and none but the coarsest food, and yet have been well with the exception of a few days. Indeed this part of Georgia is, I think among the most healthy regions in our country. We have not had a hot night during the summer, though many a hot day. I think white men could labor here as well as any where -- indeed they have labored this season, as the huge works of the rebels, and our own testify. The regions through which we have passed have but few slaves, not more than one to three whites as testified by the census of 1860. The population is sparse, not more than a tenth part of the land being under cultivation, the rest is still a forest, not heavily timbered, but yet in its natural state.* The soil is poor in comparison with that of Illinois but quite as good as that of most other parts of the country. It was occupied by Indians until about 30 years ago, when they were removed beyond the Mississippi.

Our Reg. came to this place Sept. 7. It removes to day, going Northward -- perhaps to Rome. I shall delay a day or two for the purpose of packing up the Reg. Library & will endeavor to write more in a day or two.

Thurs. Sept. 29. We (i.e. myself and some 20 of the Reg. that remained behind to take care of the "stuff" that the Reg. could not take with it) came to Atlanta yesterday, expecting to get away on the cars. We loaded our baggage, and were expecting soon to start, when orders came

to clear every car for the shipment of troops. Of course we are still left. There seems trouble in our rear. The rebels discomfited at this point have undertaken, it is thought, to destroy our communications, and thus bring starvation upon us. The country here has nothing in it, and, if they can sever us from the North, we should be be reduced to great suffering. We have little apprehension of this, and yet they may annoy us much.

I had a pleasant visit from Wm. Burton of the 15th Ohio Battery day before yesterday. He is 20 years old, appears very well, has been in the service 3 years almost, and has good health. His Battery has not lost a man during this campaign.

I have in one way or another missed my pay for a long time. It is seven months since a Paymaster visited the Reg and then I was not with it. There are due me now 13 months' pay. When I receive it I shall try to settle your [claim?] against me. With love to all, I am your aff. brother,

Joel Grant
Chaplain 12th Ill. Inf.
Rome, Ga.
(direct as above)

*I might add that much of this time pen ink and paper were scarcely obtainable.
*We have neither seen, heard nor felt mosquitos --

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[*Addressed from*] U.S. Sanitary Commission
Soldiers' Home Cairo, Ills.

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

[*Stationary*] U.S. Sanitary Commission

Cairo, Ills. [*Illinois*] Nov. 9 1864.

Dear Sister Caroline,

It is a long time since I received your last, but the cares of this establishment, with the heat of summer & flies, & fleas & mosquitoes, &c, &c, have kept me almost wholly from writing except to my husband.

I went north to rest a little, three weeks ago, & spent five days in Lockport, four in Chicago, & three in Beloit: the trip to C. [3?]65 miles is always a tedious one, but I had to have a change. John who had been spending three months with me, went up with me, & went on to Beloit, I went to L. & there to B. and left him there to go on another year with his studies: this year will fit him for admission to College. He is very anxious to go to Yale, but I am afraid we cannot [...] it. He is a great comfort to us, and his teachers in B. speak well of him, so do the family (Rev. Stephen Pats) where he boarded last year. He now boards (as a special favor) at Mrs. Judge Keep's who has a son Fred about J's age, & a great friend of his: it is just across the college yard. J. rooms in the middle college -- there are six ministers sons on the same floor. J. had a fever (billions) here, was in bed a week, & was far from well when I left him in B. but to day I got a few words from him, saying he was well, & in "full pursuit of knowledge."

Willy, I found much as he has been for years. Mrs. Spenser takes good care of him as well: he has grown some in a year, and looks sweet tho' vacant. O, how I wish he could be restored to health.

I have so much comfort in John, I often wonder why God couldn't have spared us the three others in their health & beautiful life, I know & feel that "He does all things well," and acquiesces in His will, but how pleasant it would have been to have all those children now, that He gave us.

I arrived at this "home" Fri. morn last. Sat. had a letter from my husband from Rome, Ga. was well, & thinks to come home ere very long, it is nine months since he left. There will be two very glad hearts when he comes. If he can get long enough leave of abscence, it may be he will make a short visit to Conn. tho he has said nothing about it. I wish we could go together, tho I

scarce see how I could leave here long enough. Our numbers are large as ever 409 soldiers eat breakfast here [sand?], morn, 117 at supper last night, 227 to night.

Much love to all the family, especially father & mother, I am so thankful you can be there to make them so comfortable. With much love I am your aff. sister

Abby.
Write soon.

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Steamer Marble City

on the way from Cairo to Memphis
Dec. 31, 1864.

Dear Sister Caroline and all the Dear ones at Home Mil Brook, Ct.

I cannot tell when, or what, I wrote you last, though I am painfully conscious it has been too long -- and that many a thing has occurred in my history that I ought, in kindness, to have informed you of, and doubtless many a thing has occurred with you that I might have heard of had I written. I mean to write one letter before the year closes, though it is now nine o'clock P.M. of the last day.

I have been so much on the wing that it was hard to tell where I would be, though both in the past (and probably in the future) a letter sent to Cairo will reach me more surely than by any other course.

I did not accompany the Regiment from Atlanta to Savannah, in that trip which for boldness, success and grandeur, perhaps surpassed even that protracted campaign in which I did take part, and which resulted in the capture of Atlanta (Sept 2) and afterwards in the fearful battle and glorious victory at Allatoona Oct. 5. In truth I was much the worse for wear at the close of Oct., and feared another campaign might be very hard upon me if indeed I could stand it at all. Providence opened the way for my relief. A request came from Col. Eaton Sup. of Freedmen's affairs on the Mississippi for my detail here to assist him and so I was ordered around here. I left Nov. 12, upon the last train that passed from Atlanta to Chattenooga -- having in charge about $60,000 money recently paid the troops, which I afterwards sent to 360 persons by Express or Draft -- a work which took me several days. Afterwards I had a visit at Cairo, finding Abby as well as she has been for several years and successfully managing an important and difficult institution, where during the 11 months ending Dec. 1, were received 90,000 soldiers, and 190,000 meals furnished them. I then went to Memphis, and reported according to order, and learned that I was wanted at Little Rock Ark -- to take charge of schools for Freedmen in that state. By Col. Eaton's permission I was excused till after the [...] days, that I might once more go to Cairo, and I am now on my way to Memphis, where I expect to arrive tomorrow morning, and there go early next week to my post. My journey will be down the Mississippi to mouth of White River, thence up to Duvall's Bluff (not on any map that I have seen) thence by R.R. nearly west 45 miles to Little Rock. The distance from <*Vicksburg*> Memphis is about 600 miles by that course, though I suppose hardly 150 by the bee line.

If you prefer to send a letter to me directly address

Chaplain J. Grant
care of Col John Eaton
Lock Box 42
Memphis, Tenn.

It <u>may</u> be, but is not probably that for some reason, I shall not go to <*there*> Little Rock, and hence I do not wish letters sent there now. I am yet as Gen. Sherman said of his troops, "in the air," i.e. I have not lighted, and fixed my place.

My health has improved much since I left Ga. My hair which was fast coming out, is growing again, naturally, i.e. with out any artificial aid, <*and*> though it is somewhat mingled with gray, foreshadowing the time when I must have a hoary head if I live (and retain any hair as I sometimes have though I should not) and in other respects I feel better. Wonderful have been the deliverances I have had. Our Regiment has had 38 killed and 151 wounded the past season, and, how many have shared a similar fate since Nov. 12 I cannot say.

But I can tell no more of the thousand things of which I would like to write. I want to say a few things about Daniel. Is he liable to the Draft? If so had he not better volunteer? A private

soldier is now almost the only one that can make anything in the war. The high prices of every thing swallow up an ordinary salary like mine. Three years ago I bought an entire suit for $45. Recently (and by favor) I paid $55 for a coat $25 for a vest & pantaloons. A meal cannot be got for less than $1, of the same kind we used to get for 50 cts, &c. But the money is not all the consideration. If he is able he will eventually have to go, I think, for one year at least, and if he volunteers he will get a good bounty -- if he is drafted none. Moreover, it is something of which we should <*be*> have reason to be proud that more than one of us had been in the army. Of course if he is physically disqualified that ends the matter. I hope, and believe, that a year more will end, if not the war, at least the necessity for a draft.

If he does not think it best or is not able to enter the service, then I will do my best to assist him for which I am now in a better condition (perhaps) than ever before, but I am strongly inclined to think if he is not exempt -- that he had better squarely meet his fate at once.

Sad times are these, but God has called us to them, and we must do our duty. God is also carrying us gloriously through them. "In due season we shall reap if we faint not." It is a long time to hold out.

With the promise to write without waiting so long again, & with love to clear Father & Mother to Daniel, Marcus and your children I am

Your aff. brother,
Joel Grant.

The boat joggles so much that I would not write, except that I know I ought, and that the time with all its inconveniences is better than I am likely to have soon again. The writing is, I believe, even worse than usual -- and that is bad enough. Tell your children from me to learn first and foremost to write (after learning to [spell?]), This is a lesson I have for years impressed upon John, and he bids fair to be a good writer. If Daniel could write as well as is <*he could joi*> desirable he could join the army and probably not be in the field a month. Our Generals Colonels &c, have a great deal of writing to do and if there is a really good writer, they are sure to find him out. There are too few of them. John has already had the offer of a Detail for that work if will enlist. Of course he is too young.

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Little Rock, Ark. [*Arkansas*]
March 15, 1865

Dear Brother Daniel [*Daniel Grant*],

Your letter of the 27th ult came to me yesterday, having been forwarded from Memphis on the 7th of this month. It was long since I had heard from you, except a vague report that you had gone to the coal regions, but in what part of the country I had no idea. Even now (as I have no map at hand) my views of the position of Titusville are very indefinite, but in due time I shall find out.

The <*coal*> oil interest is not yet in a growing state here. We hear nothing of it, and know nothing about it. As, however, the whole country seems to be underlaid with it (i.e. wherever there is coal) I presume it will yet be found here. At present there is too much of a struggle going on, and besides the cotton interest is so strong that it leaves no room for any other to grow. This is one of the best cotton regions away from the Mississippi and though there is but little land that is safe for tillage, yet there is a great rush for such as is open for that purpose.

I do not therefore see that I am likely to be able to help you in the oil matter. For your sake, however, I will give the matter attention though I know nothing about it more than the babe untravelled. I would like a good oil lamp because I could save $2 or $3 a month by its use but I have not yet developed a taste for oil speculations.

I hardly know what to write about such matters for I have not thought enough of them to form any opinion. I hope you may do well, though I suppose you are aware (your letter indicates it) that for some of us speculation is a dangerous road to travel. It is full of risks to any one, though a good judgment in business is doubtless a great help. If you can get $5000 you may feel that you have done a good thing even if $1000 would not come amiss.

I am engaged at present looking to the interests of colored schools in this state—a business that [Mr. Pastington] would say was more disturbing to the oilfactories (olfactories) than any other. However we do not hear so much of the "stinking negroes" as we once did, and as they get more used to freedom, probably we shall cease to hear of them. I inclose a slip of newspaper that will let you know something of the extent of my field. There are really but four points yet open in the state, and they are a great way apart. This point, Pine Bluff 50 miles below on the Arkansas river, DuVall's Bluff 45 miles east on the White River, and Helena on the Mississippi. At these points we have now schools with <*1300*> 1267 pupils. Probably the number will be tripled before another year.

I have had a severe and dangerous attack of Pneumonia this winter. It came upon me Jan 24, and when I escaped the crisis left me with a very bad cough, from which I have scarcely recovered yet, though I am much better. The weather is pleasant now, except the frequent rains. Peach trees are in blossom and garden vegetables will soon be in season. The worst of it is, that where soldiers are, none of these can be safely raised.

Every thing here would remind you of California prices. Butter 90c & $1 a pound, eggs $1 a doz., flour $25 to $35 a bbl. &c.

Abby is at Cairo in Soldiers' Home; John, our son, is at Beloit, and at last news was well; Willie (poor boy) is at Lockport, and thus, as a family, we are scattered and broken. It seems best at present, but I hope a more desirable state of things will be developed ere long. While the war lasts I want to be a part of it, if in reason I can.

My Reg. is with Sherman, I cannot tell where. I left it just as they started from Atlanta on the grand move to Savannah. Wondrous things have been done since then.

Remember me to Caroline when you write, as I presume you often do, and write me often even though but briefly, especially when you change your P.O. or meet with any good or bad luck. If you make a thousand dollars let me know, if you lose all, or a part, of what you risk, let me know. Direct as below,

Your aff. brother
Chaplain J. Grant
care of Major W. G. Sargent
Little Rock, Ark.

P.S. Did you know that the pop of Titusville in 1850 was only 243. I have just seen it in the Census. I presume it has more than that of oil hunters and speculators now. Happening to lay my hands on the Compendium of the Census for 1860, I find a few items respecting Titusville, Oil City, &c. the former of which is stated to be on Oil Creek. It says that Mssrs. Bowditch and Drake of New Haven commenced operations there in 1857, and in Aug. 1859 , a fountain was reached at 71 feet that yielded 400 gallons daily. Before the close of 1860, these were about 2000 wells and borings yielding daily 1165 bbls. of crude oil &c.

Mrs. Caroline Grant

Dear Sister,

I did not notice until I had written the above, hastily, that Daniel requested me to write through you at Flemington [*New Jersey*]. <*I hope*> It is not too late to make the correction. I received one week since a very pleasant letter from Marcus, telling me of the state of affairs at home, of Father's and Mother's condition &c. I shall answer it soon.

I have just made out the full returns from our scattered colored schools in Ark. for the month of January. They number 11 with 22 teachers and 1267 pupils who paid during that month about $650 for tuition. After meeting all expenses for rent, fuel, school furniture &c. there remains net income $440. This is the day of small things but it is a good beginning and highly encouraging. Remember me to Mr. Hill and Mary, and let me have another of your valued letters.

Your aff. brother
Joel Grant.

[*Newspaper article from Arkansas Journal, March 8, 1865, clipped to letter: "Colored Schools in Arkansas." It closes: "The above facts are gathered from Chaplain J. Grant, who is appointed*

Superintendent of these schools, but whose plans have been much interrupted by a serious illness that came upon him while visiting the schools at Pine Bluff."]

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[*Envelope return address*]
Soldier's Letter
J. Grant
Chaplain 12th Ill Inf.

[*Addressed to*]
Mr. Daniel Grant
Charleston
Kanawah Co
W. Virginia

Little Rock, Ark.
May 29, 1865

Dear Brother,

Your letters of April 4th (Flemington) and May 20th (Parkersburg) are in my hands – the last recd to day. Thank you for the information they contain. The last seems to imply that you are about to buy a farm at the rate of $5 an acre. Of course I can form no opinion as to its value, though I would prefer a country not so hilly and rough as you represent that to be. But even this decides nothing – land may be smooth and worth nothing and so the other way.

I must confess my inability to give advice even to this hour. There is no excitement about oil in this state as yet, and there could not be because war has been the business until quite recently and it has not been safe to travel out of military protection. Agriculture has languished. Now, however, it is beginning to revive and no doubt there will be a great stir in due time. I can only say at present that there are projects for colonies on foot, and as the state is large, and probably about a third fit good land, and room enough on that to accommodate several times the population the state ever had, there will be a great movement beyond all doubt. Two reasons (among several more) keep me from acting. First I have no money to render it possible. My expenses are great personally, for since I have been in Ark. [*Arkansas*], living has been higher than in any place I have ever before occupied – the cost of my two children is enormous for a man of little means, and I have mostly made up my mind that God does not intend I should ever have much if anything. He gives me a great deal – sums that are astonishing, but like a snow storm borne on the North wind to-day, and melted by the South wind to-morrow, it all vanishes in a little time, or melts as it falls. So I cannot do much if I would, Then I find it impossible to know the facts of a case in season to act. There have been sales in this place within the past month of some $800,000 worth of property – wh. in all scarce brought $50,000 – part of it under the act of Confiscation Act, and part of it under the Act for collecting taxes – in which had I had money in hand I could have put myself by the use of $2000 in probable possession of $10,000. But I have bought nothing, for the reasons already stated.

If you have not already purchased (and I know not whether to hope you have or not) perhaps you had better come to Ark. and see what can be done – or let me know what amount you would like to expend here, and I can select an agent who will expend it wisely – or not foolishly. For myself I shall leave the country after three or four weeks for a time at least.

If I were to determine to take any steps to make money I think I would take advantage of the Homestead Act, and take one of Uncle Sam's farms, go into the wilderness, and start anew. But I cannot make up my mind to do such a thing and deem it better (probably) to stick to my profession, to whose ills I am accustomed, and which has hitherto given me bread (not the best) to eat, and clothes (not the finest) to wear than fly to <*all?*> untried ills. I am not in all things a coward, but in this I am, I confess.

I am glad to know that Dr. Patterson has traced the genealogy of our family & will send $10 to help him through. I am willing to do this in the hope that in some way we can find some

way to link our family to the hero of the age. Lieut. Gen. Grant, though if the examination should prove there is no such connection, I still would like to promote the investigation & will send another $10 if necessary. I will send $10 to Marcus in a few days.

You will regret that I can do no more to promote your wishes -- but not more than I do.

We are doing a great work for the Freedman of Ark. I inclose a slip of a paper (*Christian Times* a Baptist paper of Chicago, May 11) containing one certificate of this. Others appear in the correspondence of visitors to this country, but I cannot now lay my hand upon them, and if I could you would not care to read them.

I am much better in health than at any time before since my illness in January.

I believe all your letters have come safely Hope this will reach you & that you will acknowledge at once. With love to all your household, I am,

Your aff brother
Joel Grant
care of Major W. G. Sargent
Little Rock, Ark.

[*Clipping headed "On the Arkansas River." is a letter from Chas. Hill Roe. It closes: "P.S. Capt. Mallory, at Pine Bluff, Maj. Sargent and the Rev. Joel Grant, at Little Rock are doing a noble work for the freedmen of Arkansas*."]

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
West Winsted
Conn.
Austinburg Ohio
Apr. 18th 1869.

My dear Father,

Auntie and I received your letter some time ago, and I intended to have answered it long before this, but my time has been so much occupied that I have not been able to do so.

This is a beautiful evening, and I wish our family could spend it together, it is a long time now since we have all been together. I have been here a little more than eight months but it does not seem as though it could have been so long, the time has passed so rapidly.

I enjoy the society here more than I ever have any where before. That is the society of the young people. They seem to be more warm hearted than any whom I have known before.

This is a very pleasant term of school, more so I think than previous one which I have attended.

I am studying Latin and Botany, shall finish the Latin Reader this term, so as to be able to take up Sallust.

I am rejoiced that Buckingham is again elected. I found the prevailing opinion here, to be that Seymour would be elected, but I did not give up to that for a moment. I thought it would be Buckingham, and it was.

Now is about the time when I want some more money, and if you could please send me some I should be very glad. I think I shall need about $30, for I am owing $10, school bill - $5 for last term and five for this – and am owing Auntie five dollars which I have borrowed of her. If you could please send it quite soon I should be very thankful.

When do you intend to leave Winsted? or do you intend to leave at all? I thank you very much for sending the Winsted Herald to me so regularly, it is very pleasant to have it, for then I can know what is going on at home.

How is Grandma now I have not heard wheather she <was> is better or not.

I have a little Sabbath School Class, it made me feel rather strange at first, to be teacher, instead of the one to be taught, but now I enjoy it very much.

Please my dear father accept very much love from

Your aff. daughter

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

Cousin Willie Burton is now in Memphis Tenn. and Cousin Phil is a paroled prisoner in Columbus Ohio.

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