Subject: Death

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

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

My dear Parents & Brothers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

we are to have & garden, & another small piece of land & the use of a cow or its equivalent, & in exchange we are to board the owner of the property & do his washing he furnishes his own bed. — this gentleman is a goldsmith & besides employs persons to make tin ware. he will wish to employ Daniel some in <*p*>selling tin & doing various other jobs for wh. [*which*] he will pay in cash & otherwise as we need. Daniel does not think it best to try to go to farming at present but expects to work out, or teach school or both or do something else & get what he can & live comfortably as we go along Mr. Pennington in whose house we are to live is going to put a plate in our looking glass frame. we also hope to have a bureau or something of the kind before long but can not tell whether we shall be able to.

Daniel now expects to put up a house in the upper end of the village on the road leading by Joels 40 acre lot. as I have before said we shall be able to make the house very comfortable to live in without going much if any into debt though he will now be obliged to take this winter's wages as he was disappointed in selling sand last fall — he now expects to purchase the lot on

wh.[*which*] he intends to build there is about 1/3 of an acre — price $50. we do not think there will be any risk in getting this property as there is little doubt but that it will sell or rent should we wish to dispose of it — should we have a house of our own where we think of we shall not pay rent & shall be conveniently situated to obtain work. attend meetings &c. It is a great privilege in many respects to reside in a village. I dont see but Daniel is just as busy as when we were on the farm — has earned several dollars this winter beside teaching — when not at work there are meetings to attend & his relations to some of them are such that he feels obliged to attend being Secretary of a Young Ladies & Gentleman's Temperance Society & President of a Phonographic Association — these meet once a week & there is also a stated Thursday evening prayer meeting, beside other meetings occasionally — We like our minister better than I expected to like one after hearing Mr. Curtis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Point Defiance. Cal. [*California*] Jan 2, 1853.

Dear Friends,

How long it has been since I have written I know not, when I have no letters to answer & no one to push me up to write you will not wonder that I do not write often. We have not received a letter yet since we started from home excepting those I got from Daniel & Ethan in San Francisco [*California*]. I do not know where Daniel & Marcus are or any one else that I ever [knew?] before I came here, excepting Levi & he is on the other side of the table writing home. Le [*Levi*]] has had a hard time of it lately he has had the diarrhea for six weeks so that he has not been able to earn any thing & has been paying 12 dollars a week for board, he has boarded here at the house. I am at work at. Don't know as I have ever told you what kind of a family I am living with. Am working for the firm of Wood & Clark. Mr Wood is about 48 or 50 has a wife & three daughters & one son here two of the daughters are married the other one is about ten years old & a very pretty little girl. David the son is 20. Mr Clark is about 30 not married. They were all from Virginia formerly & moved from there to Missouri & from there here they are none of them very highly educated, but are moneymakers & I expect have made a good deal here. They have between 20 & 30 horses & mules hauling flour & provisions from Sac. City [*Sacramento, California*] here. Flour is 22cts in Sac. City [*Sacramento, California*] & they sell here for 50 cts but the roads are very muddy now in the summer when the roads are good they charge 5 cts a pound for hauling. We have had more rain this far this winter than was ever known before. Last Friday the rivers were higher than they have been seen before, they were all of 30 feet above low water mark. [Some?] of a bridge was washed away about a mile up the river and an abutment to one which Wood & Clark are building was carried off. The abutment did not cost less than 2000 dollars Le [*Levi*] was over the river at the time the bridge went off & did not get back until today. They fixed up an old canoe to cross people in it eight men got into it & attempted to cross this morning but there were so many in the boat & the current was so swift that before they got across it ended the boat round in spite of all they could do & carried it down stream, two of the men jumped out soon as they saw the boat was going & got ashore, the rest staid in the canoe which went down about 60 rods turned over three of them hung to the canoe & floated down stream about half a mile when one caught some bushes & was got out alive by Mr Wood & Levi & two or three others the other five are in the river yet. Le [*Levi*] ran with all his might to get into the boat to cross but a minute too late & probably saved his life by it. There were twenty or thirty men who saw the whole affair but could not save them. The river runs very swiftly. Le [*Levi*] is giving an account of the small pox which has been here so I will say nothing about it excepting that I have not had the varioloid yet & don't expect to have it very hard if at all, for I have been vaccinated three times with good matter which took on others but has not taken on me, & if that wont take on me the small pox wont be apt to. I have 4 or 5 good scars on my arms. Le [*Levi*] & I sent to the City by David to get some bills of exchange to send home which he brought home tonight, & is going back to the City in the morning so we are writing tonight expecting to send one of the bills in this tomorrow & shall keep one. Le [*Levi*] has two bills & I have two & they keep one of each at the exchange office & in case both these are lost we can get the other. My bill is to the amount 250 dollars payable to Pa at the American Exchange Bank, New York. Le [*Levi*] is going to send one hundred & fifty I believe. I might send another hundred now if I had the bills, but guess I shant send any more till I hear from this or from you in some way. Believe the note which I gave Pa was for 240 dollars – think this $250 will pay that. You may burn that note or do as you please with it, so as I never see or heard from it again. I have more money now that I had when I started from home, & if I can make as much between this & the first of April as I could have made in a year at home I shant have lost anything this year, & don't know any reason now why I shant live here all winter. I think just as much of that — Life Insurance business as I did when at home & no more you can do as you please about keeping up that policy I never expect to pay any insurance on it till I am making money faster than I am now.

Never had better health in my life than I have for the past three months, never was so heavy as at present. Was advised by a man the other day to use tobacco to keep me from being so fleshy. I told him that so long as I had good health enough to keep fleshy I did not think I should take poison to get thin

We have to pay three percent on the money to get bills of exchange besides 1 ½ percent to David for getting them. So you see this 250 costs me 261,25

Hope I shall get a letter from you before long

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

Will you please write soon as you receive this Direct to Marysville [*Callifornia*] as usual,

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

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

My dear brother Ralph,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yesterday a little girl of our minister died — she was three or fours years old. believe all the other children of the family are sick — Joseph who is 13. Ashur 11 — Sarah 5 or 6 & a babe — but they are very good children, have given their hearts to their Savior & endeavor to spend their youthful days to please him. Will you not do thus my dear little brother, then when sickness & death come you will not fear. Christ will be with you — Jesus loves you now — then

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

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

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New York Dec 5th 1850.

Friend Ralph,

There being no Lectures to Day in Consequence of the Death of one of the Students, whose Funeral will be attended this afternoon I take the Opportunity to Answer your last. I have not found the time to do so before, & you must not think me forgetful of you or attribute my long Silence to Neglect. I Suppose Augustus Pettibone told you all the News &c. that has <*happened*> been worth repeating I saw him a few Minutes Yesterday Said he had Seen you &c. I have not heard about Thanksgiving as yet, but Suppose you had the Usual Sermon Dinner &c

I would have liked to have been there, but thought it better to Stay a few weeks longer when We will have a Vacation of a Week & then I can enjoy myself at Home, without loosing any Lectures. The last Week has been Warm & Wet & the Streets so Muddy that you would not have know them from that New Road you have got in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] across the Curtiss Meadow — I hope the Weather & the Wind will get Settled before long — & that it will seem more like Winter.

Augustus Said he attended a Shooting Match a Day or two before Thanksgiving, but said Nothing of your being there & Therefore I conclude you were not present but Employed in Lecturing Science into the Heads of the Rising Generation in the Johnson School House, with a Beech Sprout &c — I would like to know if Any Young Ladies are to be indebted to you for the finishing touch to their Education, I Say all this as a Joke you will Understand. & you may expect to have your School visited one of these Days when I get back again. You must not call on me for any Remarks however just before Closing School which I believe is the Custom, at all counts it used to be. I Shall Decline the intended Honor expressing at the Same time my Conviction that the School Teacher is Lone. O Ralph we must have a Time about them Times. All that worries me is your Living so near Goshen & You know how Gold Beads shine, I cannot tell You anything New on that Subject. by the way tell me whether they look as they used to, I was rather disappointed to hear of your taking the Chair you occupy I thought you would have been Coming down here on the way to Jersey & Staid a Day or two with me, but I am not going to break my heart about it, by the way now when I think of it let me give you this advise to have Your School (Unkept) Christmas Week & then I will do the Same by mine & as for the Boarding Round let that alone for the same length of time, I must Adjourn now a few Minutes for Dinner, which needs my Special Attention &c — Well Ralph I have been thinking this 1/2 Hour what next to (rub you with) but Come to look at it all, it seems too bad, & if it were not that I have not time to write another, I would burn this Letter, but as it is I think I may rely upon your Good Nature & fortune to send it & if you have Time &
the Tools just answer some of my Queries, in the manner they Deserve, & what that Manner is I Do not think Will Puzzle you Greatly to Determine, Write me all the Marvels that Come to pass & Believe Me always

Your Friend
J.H. Stevens.

Mr. Ralph E. Burr.
PS

I am going down to see Guson & shall make particular enquiries about you, so if you do not write one the Facts, I shall know it,

[*Written on outside by address:]* I have pulled this open to insert a parting Word So you need not think any one Else Did it

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[*Addressed to*:] Mrs Caroline Burr,
Norfolk,
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

My dear Caroline,

Often, very often do thoughts of the past come over me, and with these, come images of the loved ones of other days, —

And surely then, the friends of the last year, claim a place in my memory — Yes, I often think of you, and of others that I loved, and the remembrance is like a pleasing dream. But those days are past, and we can only remember their scenes. — And where are you this winter? — and what are you doing? If I may be so inquisitive. Do you ever wish you were back to Holyoke [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] with your sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]? She looks so much like you, that I almost think you are here, once in a while. Mary will tell you about all the changes here, and about all the improvements upon the old system of things. I felt like a stranger when I first came back, and thought I never could love the new building as well as I did the old one, And indeed I used to say in the secrecy of my heart, when I looked about on the multitude of strange faces, that I never should love them, as well as I did those with whom I use to mingle last year — But I am <*going*> beginning to love new things, and new faces for they have now become familiar.

But you will ask of our religious state — I can say that we trust the spirit of God has been among us, altho' there has not been that general effusion which there was last year, We have had a day of fasting and prayer — It was a solemn day, as you well know that they always are here, — it was a day when I trust Christians humbled themselves before God, and sinners were converted. There were a number of interesting conversions on that day. — [Miss?] Abby Brown was one. When your thoughts turn back to Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], do you ever think of our little praying circle on Saturday eve? Then think of me. I had a letter from Catherine Blair a little time ago. She was well and happy — she is teaching a select school in Hyde Park N.Y. [*New York*] — You probably heard of the death of Anna Maria Clarke — Truly, every day brings with it sad evidence of death's doings. —"—"—"—"

Now my dear Cara Burr, you are well acquainted with the press of business here, at the close of a Sem [*Semester*], and therefore I shall offer no excuse for this hastily written note, for our friends must accept hurried letters, or none from Holyoke's busy daughters.

Do write me a long note by Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*], — do not fail,

With love from,
Caroline E. Bois,

Tuesday Eve.

[*Added in another hand*:]
Caroline E. Boies Married 1848 to Geo. B. Ely Esq. of Trenton N.J. In 1852 removed to Jamesville Wis [*Wisconsin*] —

Caroline Grant

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

Miss Mary Burr.

Mt. Holyoke [*Massachusetts*] Mar. 19. 1840.

My dear Miss Burr,

Much as I regret the casualty that gives me an opportunity to communicate with yourself, I most gladly accept the invitation of your sister to write you a note, tho' it must of [necessity?] be a very short one Certainly if your feelings correspond with my own, I know you will be glad to have a word from our common "Alma Mater," even tho' it be from me. Is not this still a sacred spot to you? Does not your memory love to linger around this consecrated temple of literature? We wish you were here. Many a hearty kiss would be given, you nor should they need the element of sincerity Doubtless you are looking forward to the time when you shall again be reckoned one of Mt. Holyoke's [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] favored inmates, and perhaps you even venture so far as to anticipate the time when you shall be called one of the Mt. Holyoke's graduates.

Now I'll tell you a word about this part of the subject You may think (if you labor under the same mistake that I did) that in the name Senior is embraced that transforming power that changes to gigantic strength the weak mind of the "Junior," & gives to the unstable character of the "Middle" fairness, dignity, & grace. But believe me Caroline Burr Senior will be just what Caroline Burr Junior was. There is no magic power in the word Senior to make it otherwise

We regret that we are not able to send diary to you in rather "letter or air" lest you should be almost disheartened. Take good care of the dear girl & we trust that under your fostering care she will soon regain what she has lost — we do not like to part with her. I believe that even Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] herself would drop a "tear or two," would her dignity allow it.

You see I have no more room [&] certainly no more time. I only ask you to not forget me entirely

1st page

and will you not think of me sometimes on paper. I fondly hope that we may see each other once more meanwhile I remain your true friend

L.H. [C?]lark

[*Added in another hand*:] Died soon after completing the course at Hol. Sem [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] — C. Grant —

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[*Addressed to*:] Miss Mary & Caroline Burr

Miss Elizabeth Cone will be
happy to see Miss M. & C. Burr
on Wednesday eve at 7. o'clock

Tuesday July 27th 1840 ——

[*Addressed to*:] Miss Carrie Burr. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Present —

Distresses of Marie —

Grant Temple of Luince [Lands?]

My dear Carrie

I did not think when we parted that so long a time would have elapsed without my hearing from you. But as it happens, I hear that you have been transformed from an "Old Senior" to a dignified "School mam" quite a transformation an't it? Do you love to teach the young "ide" how to shoot? You must be careful that it takes a right aim or else it will overshoot the mark. I am writing now in study hours and to pay for it I shall not get the time on my lessons — & more than this I have lost my lines and have to write nearly by guess, I wish to tell you of one fact which is quite astounding is Miss Hill lived to get home & I believe is alive now. I waited very anxiously all [vacation?] to receive a paper containing her obituary notice as she promised she would leave word to have one sent me.

I get along in about the same truck that I did last year only I think my character is very much more elevated then it was. The [reader?] probably is oblivious to you, I improved very much last year under your supervision, I expect every moment the bell will ring & I must close. I have not written one half sheet I wish to. Hope a long [answer?] in return — aff your old room mate Lissie L. L.
P.S. Love to all inquiring friends

[*Added in another hand*:] edgwick
of Sharon

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

Folio post.

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

My own precious Sister,

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

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

I fancy you think of us to day, as one year ago this day my dear husband & I took upon us the solemn marriage vow – life has since passed pleasantly with me, & I feel it good "to lean on an accordant bosom, I love
The beating of a heart that beat as mine
The sparkling of an eye that tells of thoughts
That harmonize with what I feel." –
But you know "There will be dark hours for all." & strange if some moments of sadness should not steal over me, but then 'tis sweet to feel a Savior [high?] –

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

Thank you for that paper containing those lines upon a "Forest Home." They seem true & I love to read them & I think as the Author says, "more & more dear, And far more beautiful, doth Nature seem
So them who daily meet her face to face,
And learn from her the bliss, that, like a dream,
Robes common things with beauty & with grace."
May 15. Wed. This day completes brother Erastus's [*Erastus Burr*] 21st year, does it seem possible that he is "<u>21</u>" O that the bloom of his manhood was consecrated to the Savior's Service – let us sister often & earnestly remember him to the [Heard?] of Prayer –

Last Sabbath was rainy & prevented my attending church – Mon. was also rainy & I delayed washing until yesterday – Just as I was about to commence washing my pantry floor Levi Grant came up to announce the arrival of his wife [*Lucinda Octavia Tryton Grant*], & her wish

to see me – You will imagine that I was pretty expeditious in finishing my work & hastened down found her & her child in good health (exerting a cold & looking more healthy & fleshy than when she left – they have been absent nine months –
16. Today have been assisting Mrs. Grant in washing her house. She brought considerable dried fruit & has given us some
17 – One year this day since we left our dear homes & fresh to mind are brought many tender recollections but I trust we shall yet all meet again & enjoy each others society –
18 – Yesterday P.M. went to the village made several calls took tea with Mrs. Tickenor & brought from the P.O. [*Post Office*] some papers from Joel the N.Y. Weekly Tribune [New York Weekly Tribune] containing articles written on "Association" & in one we learned that brother E.P. Grant Esq is the president of a society of Associationists called the "Ohio Phalax" Their Domain is said to be very beautiful consisting of 2100 acres situated in Ohio on the O. river [*Ohio River*] – You are probably aware that these Societies are becoming common throughout the country –

Joel says he thinks something of the kind will be eventually adopted, though not according to the plan of Fourier – thinks there is a great deal of nonsense in their pretensions, & many of their plans visionary, although some of them seem good enough –
To day Daniel planted in the garden
May 22. Wed. Yesterday I visited at Levi's with old Mrs. Brown our neighbor & Mrs. Burgess a young married lady from the state of N.Y. [*New York*] recently – she is acquitted with Mr. Erastus Holt's family – says Mrs. Holt is very much esteemed – & her children are pretty & bright – the oldest is a son 11 yrs. of age – the [next?] two daughters – she has a young babe – [Georg…] lives near them builds organs &c. is a [pious?] smart young man – Mary does not now use crutches [*text missing*?]
25. Sat. To day Daniel & a neighbor with whom D. [*Daniel*] has "changed work" are planting potatoes & corn beside our common corn we have some for parching & also "broom corn."
[*One line erased, reads in part: …* part of the day keep…]
28. To day is the funeral of Miss Sarah love – a young lady much beloved & one of the finest singers in the vicinity – she died of the prevailing epidemic – scarlet fever – it has raged here since the last of Feb. seizing alike old & young. There have been times when the disease has appeared to abate – but there are still new cases every few days – I believe inflammation always attends the fever & if it settles in the bowels the case is considered almost or quite hopeless – we feel that a kind Providence has indeed watched over us for good <*by*> thus far preserving our lives & health –

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

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

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

May 29 – Brother Ralph's [*Ralph E. Burr*] birth day – how I want to see the little fellow – one year ago this day we were on Lake Huron –
June 1. One year this day since we landed at Milwaukie

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

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

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] September 26th 1852

Dear Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Henrietta Hill

Mrs. William Hill

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Catskill, Green Co. W.S. [*Wisconsin*] Box 282
Jan 9th 1882.

Dear Cousin Mary

I have post-poned writing to you from day to day that I might give you a good long letter & I don't see that I will ever get the time unless I take it. I have just thrown down a piece of sewing that I am sorely in need of to have a chat with you & yours. When I first reached C. & was at the Hotel I remarked to Mr B. [*William Benton*] "I will write to Cousin Mary Hill" & he replied, "I am going to write" I knew you all would be so glad to see he was able to write that I deferred writing – & ever since I have let different things prevent my writing any letters with the exception of a very few. Mr B. did write to you I believe. The week we were at the Irving-House – the weather was intolerably hot – & yet we were obliged to go out & suit ourselves with a good boarding place for the winter & a good school for M. Aflie [dree?] deliberation we settled upon Mrs Whitteseys' on Summit Ave. She with two maiden sisters – keep the house. It is very high up. & the views & walks are delightful From my South winders I have the mountains & Catskill Creek in full view – & never tire looking at them. I often think of Mr [Dunn?] & the Kaaterskill Hotel. I can see the Kaaterskill Clove from my windows – also the mountain House, plainly. The Catskill Creek is a beautiful stream. We are up on a hill looking right down upon it. It is a winding stream & the banks are high & rocky so that there are no floats or marshing places – & a strong tide flowing in & out & taking all this might be disagreeable with it – The winter so far – has been mild & beautiful Mr Boulin began to improve as soon as the weather got cool – & has continued

to do so. He is very much encouraged & so am I So far I have not had such a happy winter for eight years. He seems bright & cheerful is with us a great deal – sits in our room & takes long walks with [my self?] & is companionable & more like his dear old self. & I feel that the 'grass-hopper is no longer a burden' Things that appeared like Elephants to me now seem like Pigmies, I begin to take courage again & hope that all will be well with us here & hereafter. We are so blessed in our Rector Dr Harrison from the South. A most eloquent preacher – he just holds you spell bound – and O! so spiritually minded! He had no manner & yet you feel as he stands before you that it is a seemed St. Paul. We have our pew & my dear husband goes to Church with me every Sunday morning & remains through service & sermon. If Mr B. continues to get well & some of those delightful days of our married life can be lived over again I shall feel like Simeon "Lord now [lettest?] thou thy servants depart in peace" It really seems as if my mind had been so on the strains that this sudden relief is like sunshine out of the dark clouds. Mr B's money affairs (investments) trouble him – yet he bears it so different from any thing before since I have known him that I feel more hopeful. He wanted me this winter to board M. [with?] Miss Gaylord (the lady to whom she goes to school) & go with him to Florida. A party of his friends were going from here Two gentlemen & their families, & they sailed from U.S. last Wednesday gone with a view of investing & settling. I agreed to go – but told him I thought the hot climate would not do him any good as he suffered so much this last summer, but I would go with him. He came to the conclusion that this cold weather agreed with him best & it is post-poned until next winter. We do not care to settle here. It is a lovely looking country – but in a business point of view – not much of it. Mr B. had numerous [Corbuman lar?] boils after he came here but did not seem any the worse for them <*it*> – but on the contrary better. He had his urine examined by a physician who assured him that was nothing of kidney trouble that has given him another impetus. He goes back & forth to Hudson on his private business. A dear little Steamer (the Eloise) did ply between H. & the place until a few weeks ago – where she was taken off until next Spring the round trip was 20 cts. Now we have to cross in the ferry boat to the East side & then take the cars. M. too has improved wonderfully – She has gained 12 lbs. Miss Gaylord says it is "wonderful" Miss G. has taught for 30 years. She is bringing M. on finely. She is studying Latin & Physiology this term. She has grown very much & looks healthy.

We do not care to settle here on her account. Miss G. will break up her school in the spring & retire to a beautiful place in the country that she has just bought – then M. has to be changed again & we are thinking of some place where there is a college & let her [enter?] & finish. & we must look out for a place to introduce her into society

It is rather late but let me wish you all a very happy New Year I hope you all enjoyed a very pleasant Xmas & New Year.

Did Allie get my little box?

Ours was quite a pleasant one – Mr B. & self gave M. a handsome writing Desk – Her birthday came on the 9th of Dec. (She was twelve) & her father gave her a very handsome broad plain gold ring with name & date & I a locket – so when Xmas came we united & gave her one present. She received many beautiful cards from Bessie Van Syckle. She also received a handsome pen knife Mr. B received a handsome china cup & sauce from me. Mr. Benton's improved condition was my Xmas gift & I wish no other – In about a month (D.V.) he will make a few visits alone – I think he will go to <*kind*> Kinderhook, Poughkeepsie & Castleton I think they do him good. He is not willing that M. should be taken out of school now & I cannot leave [her?], & it costs more for 3 to go than for two. I hear good news from home (i.e.) all are well. Did you know that my dear Aunt Mary Pearson at Bordertown lost her adopted son Robbin Hunt? I cannot tell you what a blow it is to her. She took him when 8 years old & had brought him up a splendid farmer & she had given up things pretty much to him & she looked upon him as her support in her old age (she is now near 70) He was her nephew & heir. She is now entirely alone in the old homestead "Spring Hill" When so many dear ones home have been carried out & laid in the family burying ground

He died of Malaria. It was sudden. It attacked the brain on Sunday & he died the following Thursday. He was delirious most of that time. I would never dare to take Mr B. there after this but I did wish <*he*> I had a home to invite her to at least for awhile. She is too much crushed to write to me yet.

Now for your dear [Celoes?] – How are you? Mr Benton sends much love & wants to know particularly how Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill Wright*] stands the school? How does she hold out? Well I hope. Was Sam [*Samuel Hill*] at home during the holidays? Tell him when you write that I could not have lived to get here without that Palmleaf fan he gave me at the depot. It hangs in my room with his name on it. Tell the girls to write & tell me all they know about themselves. Remember us very kind so Dr Parish. Love to cousin William & all the junior cousins – I love you all very much & think of my sojourn with you last summer with pleasure. I hope you all will keep in health this winter – Have you had any rain yet? We have had an abundance. Now my dear Cousins I think I have given you a long letter & as much news as I have in my budget – at this time. Hope you will give me a long one full of news of yourselves in return. You can send this to Cousin Carrie if you wish to & request her not to sent it any where else but to destroy it, & a little later in the season I will write to her. Please remember us to inquiring friends & accept a larger share of love for each & all from

Your sincerely attached
Cousin
Mary H. Benton

[P.S.?] numerous interruptions have caused numerous mistakes. The arrival of a [nice?] bill of goods from Stewarts' was one. I got a whole piece of Victoria [Yarn?] so you can see I am going to have some white dresses & white […?].

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[*Addressed to Pamela Benton Burr?*]

We are all about as busy as we can be this winter. Sue & Mollie attend school. Sue studies French Arithmetic & Algebra & Physiology I think, & Mollie dont study French. Sue plays the Organ satisfactorily both in the High School & in the church They have been to surprise parties & had one at home & have been to dances & the High school gave an entertainment at a Farmers Club at the Hall in which Sue & Mollie had quite a conspicuous part in a Farce – "The Mouse Trap" others were it also & they very much applauded & it was said Sue did remarkably well. It was quite an additional labor to get prepared for it. There seems to be something going on to keep their time pretty fully occupied. Tonight Sue was invited to a surprise party but declined, but expects to be out to a concert tomorrow evening. Mary & Bessie are now making a spring dress for Bessie & then they must make Sue & Mollie some so there is work enough planned. I am anticipating a delightful job of coloring when the weather is favorable. I am always glad when I have got through with it. Sue & Mollie had some soiled dresses which they could not wear as they are. If I can get a good color they can wear them longer. I have no doubt I shall get up a coloring That is something I can do & take my time to do it. Mary will have to do the pressing which is always pretty hard work. There is a good deal of hard work to be done in the course of a year to keep things up. It seems as through we could not do much more but I suppose we could but not in addition to what we now do. We endeavor to take pretty good care of our health which we consider of great importance

I hope you will not over exert yourself. It must be quite an addition to your labor to do so much for Edwards family. I know they must need help with three little children & a farm on their hands. I dont know how Mary would have got along if had not been able to help her in various ways She could not have got along comfortably without hiring a good deal.

I see you are in the way of having company, frequently & must necessarily keep yourself in readiness which is something to do. I am glad you can do it & hope you will not get sick by doing it.

I hope you will be able to write me soon & enclose Wm. [*William*] Hills Christmas letter. Tell me how the Flemington friends are getting along. I want to hear about all the friends, Abbie, Edward & Erastus & New Haven friends if you hear from them I dont expect to <hear> have a letter from there under year if I do then unless there is a death of some one of them. Well, I suppose their time is fully occupied among themselves as there are so many of them within calling distance of each other. I presume Cornelia's time is fully occupied it was when I was there. She has gone through a great deal in bearing & rearing so many children & burying some & such poor health as she has always had. If you know any thing about Alberts & family & about

Jennie Baldwin & Sybil & any body I know. I hear nothing of them only through you, you are pretty good at writing. You get a good deal of information in a short place which I can not without re writing & have not time to spare for that. I have written most of this at odd minutes & part of it when I was quite sleepy which may account party for the poor writing & composition. Perhaps it is about as good as usual I hope you will not send it off to any body as I write for you only to see & I hope you will burn it when read Do not keep my letters.

The winter has passed very quickly & comfortably with me thus far. The weather has been none too cold for me. I feel very much better in the coldest weather, not that I want to be cold but the air is more invigorating. I should like to have it winter all the year for my own comfort. I used to dread the winter

This month brings to mind the sad trial I was passing through 40 years ago when Darling little Eddie was taken sick, & died the 14th of Feb & lay dead in the house my birth day 15th I would have saved him if could but by dying so young he escaped the ills of life. How many sad accidents have occurred on the railroads this winter This last one bound for Montreal seemed the most terrible of any. How forcibly such occurrances remind us of the uncertainty of life. It is now 11 oclock Sat. evening. Our children have been out to a concert and did not get home till after 10 I am a little wakeful & so I write a little more. The man is to give instruction in singing for a week & he got up a subscription & got $14.00 this evening & hopes to make it up to $25. Amory gave a dollar & those near him gave the same & it is free to all & our girls will attend. I think they could learn to sing but not with one week's training, but it will do any harm to try perhaps. Amory can sing naturally but never had much training. We expect Sam home to spend Washington's birthday. He likes where he is very much but comes home every holiday.

It costs now but 55 cts from Boston There are two boys near us who attend school in Boston & board at home, which seems to bring Boston pretty near to us. We have fresh meat brought five times a week & fresh fish once & oranges brought along 18 good sized for a quarter Today Amory went to Clinton & brought home 3 dozen medium sized oranges good, for 25 cts We cant help indulging in some, although we have plenty of good apples.

I don't know as you will get another such a long letter from me in a long time. I should like to get as long a letter from you every month but I know you have a good many others to write to & can't spare the time. I hope you & your husband are getting along comfortably but I am aware that neither of you are very well. I hope you will get along as easily as possible. They are all in bed & asleep & I must retire

Sunday All our families have gone to church but Mary & I fancy you are at church also We have but one service & no Sunday school in winter Our minister preaches in Berlin 4 or 5 miles from here in the P.M. so one minister answers for the two towns We are hearing candidates now. Mr Boys the former Minister that married Mary Edes has gone to Nantucket. We are trying to get a minister to suit both Parishes & thus be able to give a salary of $1,100 & the use of the Parsonage. Both congregations are small. Do you take any interest in the Andover controversy & which side do you favor the Professor or their opponents? I hope the Professors are in the right although it is contrary to my early training. "As the tree falleth so it lies." There seems to be quite an over turning of old beliefs & a great searching after the truth.

I meant to have sent this letter last Friday but got hindered & if I had it would not have been so lengthy.

Mary sends a great deal of love & she is the only one that knows I am writing

Affectionately

S. J. W. [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Aug 27, 1869.
Tues. 2 1/2 p.m.

My dear Nephew,

I know not whether to think of you as at the homestead or in the church at Colebrook Centre [*Connecticut*].

Tues. 6 1/2 p.m. All of you have returned from the burial of your father to the homestead. It seems desolate. Tho [*though*] you feel that the sting of death was taken away in this case, as it is with believers, the world around, its sadness remains. & after the laying away of the body, dust to dust, the bereavement seems greater than while it remained in the house. The care that had been so constant, so pressing has ceased. Your main occupation seems to be gone. In the case of a widow, who has lived for her husband, it is not difficult to conceived of the element of that sense of being good for nothing; of being no longer wanted in the world; or no longer essential to the happiness of any one person, that in their lack of a divine revelation, they should be tempted, & be ready, to be burned on the funeral pile. But each of you in that lone homestead, has various calls to present, active duty. Besides, you cannot mourn with out hope in case of the departed as the heathen do. You can see things in same measure as God does. And you can sympathize with the psalmist in the expression, "Precious in the sight of the lord is the death of his saints" The highest rewards promised by our glorious Redeemer, to his disciples, is that they should be with him, behold his glory, & be like him. Our dear departed one, has no doubt entered into the joy of our Lord, is now enjoying what he enjoyed, & in sympathy with him in his love; his love to God the Father, his love to all that God loves.

Your having ministered to your father I have regarded as a favor not only to your father, to Marcus & Caroline, to all your father's children & grandchildren, to his Christian friends & his acquaintances generally, but also as a special favor of our heavenly Father to myself. It has for months been a subject for constant gratitude. It was your privilege to minister to his spiritual, as well as his temporal wants. You could be tender towards him, even as a nurse cherished her children. Caroline & Marcus too have done what they could every way. --

Your frequent & full communications to me have been a wonderful comfort. Next to my being personally present to enable me to sympathize with my elder, my only brother, as he was descending into the valley of the shadow of death. By being permitted to be with you in spirit, I have had a tender, a sad, a cheerful satisfaction. At the present time, it is better to seem to be in the house of mourning, than in the house of feasting.

In love & sympathy
Z.P.B [*Zipah Polly Grant Banister*]

My love to Abbey [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] & John [*John Grant*]. You will tell me particulars of the funeral.

In fellowship yours Z.P.B.
[*Zipah Polly Grant Banister*]

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Care of Dea. [*Deacon*] Elijah Grant
Colebrook
Connecticut
Oct. 30

My dear Mother,

It is always my first impulse upon receiving a letter from home, to sit immediately down and answer it and it is that feeling which induces me to answer yours, which came to hand yesterday so soon. We were very glad to hear from you, especially to learn that all were well. We have been expecting to hear from you through Mr Griswold, but had nearly despaired of this coming this fall before the receipt of your letter. He has not yet arrived but perhaps he will before I finish this letter. I am very sorry for his misfortunes but hope he will soon be in a more prosperous condition.

You expressed some anxiety about my health, and speak as if you supposed I was still afflicted with sore breasts. This is not the case. I was troubled twice in the fall and early part of winter with sore
hands, but drinking the sarsaparilla syrup cured them in both cases and they have not troubled me since until the past week they have been a little sore. About a week after my confinement my breasts began to swell, we tried the usual remedies for swelled breasts in vain, they continued to swell, but were not very painful unless I moved my arms, and in less than three weeks they broke

three times. Since then they have never troubled me but once, and then it was a cold which was removed by sweating. I have much reason to be grateful that I got through with them with so little pain. I was quite out of health for two or three months after my confinement, had a diareah which reduced me a good deal and was bought on by the least excercise, but I have got entirely over that, and for the lat two months have been as well as any body need to be, and have grown quite fleshy. I have done my work alone 8 or 9 weeks this summer and do not now wish for a girl. I find a good deal of excercise agrees with me. Mr Grant has been in very good health the most of the summer, but has for some past days been severely afflicted with the toothache. He went this morning to attend court in New Philadelphia, and Elizabeth and I are to spend the night alone. Elizabeth is very healthy and good natured. She is rather small featured but very fat, and I think resembles Jane very much. It is very gratifying to me that she does. She lies upon the floor a great deal, but sleeps very little indeed. We do not use a cradle let her wear caps, or give her paregoric; three things which astonish the people here very much. I put her in a pail or tub of water every day if I have the time, if not I wash her thoroughly all over. She likes either method of washing, but prefers going in a tub of water. I wish you could see her. I am afraid she will not be so good when she is older, but I intend to try to make a good girl of her.

We recieved a letter from Mary about the first of Sept which had been three or four weeks on the way, which was the first time we had heard from her since April. She then wrote from Boston and said she would send us a paper and let us know where to direct a letter. I am glad she is to remain with you another winter.

We had a letter from Elizabeth about two months ago. I wish they would visit us this fall but do not know that we have much reason to expect them. Mr. Grant has thought a little of taking us to see them, but has concluded not to go. He is very busy and finds but little time for visiting. He does not thinking of going east next summer, if I should go, Mrs Whiting will accompany me and a friend of ours, Miss Fish, from Mass. [*Massachusetts*] She has been in Mrs Hopkins school 3 or 4 years, as teacher. It is of course entirely uncertain about my going.

I suppose you know that Mrs Whiting has a boy near 7 weeks old she is in very good health, and also the Dr. He is now very busy indeed although it is a time of general health here His cases are mostly in the country. Mr & Mrs Hopkins are here now and perhaps will remain, it is still uncertain. We are very much in want of a clergyman.

Wed 31st. I was very much pleased by Marcus' generosity. Tell him and Martha that we will take the <u>will</u> for the <u>deed</u> and feel as grateful to them for the things which they intended to send as if they really came. I talk to Elizabeth a great deal about her little uncles and aunts, and she seems to like to hear it very much indeed. She has now gone to sleep in my arms while I am writing. You mention the princes pine, I have used it a considerable, but never saw that it was of any use. I have never seen but one or two sprigs of it here. I think the syrup of sarsaparilla is the best thing I have ever tried, and would recommend to all who are troubled with scrofulae.
I do not know how it would affect Maria P. but presume it would not hurt her and it is a very agreeable medicine to the taste.

I wish cousin Elizabeth would not wait for me to write to her, tell her when she has as many cares as I have that I will excuse her if she does not write often, but now I cannot. Is she to be married this fall? I was in hopes if I went home next summer that she would return with me. Give my love to them. There are so many things which I wish to write that I could fill several sheets but I must let them go hoping to see you sometime and communicate in an easier way. Mr Grants business is good. The crops are mostly small in consequence of drought. Wheat crop was about as good as usual, Potatoe crop <u>very</u> small. Sugar is 15 cents a pound in consequence of the Ohio being so low. Flour is $8, a barrel. Times are hard, but I am blessed with an excellent appetite and relish plain food.

I want to know Mary's plans for the winter but do not know where to write to her. Give a great deal of love to her & all of the rest of the family. If you see any of my fathers family give my love to them and tell father and mother I wish they could see how much work I have done today, and with how little fatigue. I wish you would try to persuade Mr Hubbell and Henrietta to come and see us. I think they might come.

Mr Grant has not come home and I am afraid baby & I will have to stay alone another night, as it is now 8 o'clock. He may wish to write on to send some message, so I will not write any more until he comes.

Nov 2nd Mr Griswold arrived yesterday with his family. I intend to call upon them this eve. and Mr Grant will finish the letter after we have seen them. Write as often as you find time and you will add much to the happiness of your affectionate daughter

Susan B Grant. [*Susan Boyd Grant*]

Sat. morning Nov. 3. I could add little to what Susan has written, if I were disposed, for want of room. I returned from N Phila [*North Philadelphia*] Thursday Eve. Col. Griswold's family are all in excellent health. Our books and G. Hall Jrs M.SS. came in good condition. Col. G's [*Griswold*] other goods are yet behind and no word has come respecting them which makes him feel somewhat uneasy. A letter was to be sent on their being forwarded from Albany, but none has come.

It is an exceedingly expensive time to support a family here, and while provisions are scare and dear, money is scare also, and collections difficult. Business pretty good.

E. P. G. [*Elijah Phelps Grant*]

Sat. morning Nov. 3 (continued from 4th page.) Since writing a little on the last page of this sheet, I have got some red ink and concluded to add something further. One thing I wish to say is, that our Post Master never takes the wrapper off from newspapers when they are marked <u>paid</u> on the outside, thus "<u>Paid 1 ½</u>"

If therefore you wish to write to write a little in a newspaper, if you will pay the postage there is I think no danger of its being discovered. Our Post Master is one of the best natured men in the world and strictly honest, not withstanding his zeal as a Van Buren man.

He has never yet discovered any writing in newspapers sent to me, or if he has, has never said any thing about it, though Asabel Rice once sent me a paper on which a great deal was written. I mention this that you may avail yourself of it, if disposed, to communicate occasionally some circumstance when you have no time to write a letter.

Canton [*Ohio*] has been all the season remarkably healthy. Out of a population of about 2,000 there have been but two deaths (besides infants) since February last. One of these was an old lady who died of consumption after several years sickness; the other was a young man aged 16 who died of a fever. But all around us, and indeed throughout this western country generally it has been sickly

Your affe [*affectionate*] son E P Grant

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

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

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

My dear Parents,

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

The weather is very warm here now, I think about as warm as any part of the season at home. I usually carry an umbrella to screen me from the sun The nights are pretty cool, & the evenings & mornings, when pleasant or clear are very fine. I have taken one morning walk, but I generally keep my room after supper. I rise with the sun usually, & retire before ten. In this family, we breakfast a little past six, dine about one, & have supper about seven. I should prefer supper an hour & half earlier, but am pleased with the regularity of our meals. – I think vegetation two months in advance of Conn [*Connecticut*]. What time there are the peach & apple tress in blossom? Strawberries began to be red the last of April though not ripe. Raspberries are now in their best state. Mr. Lumpkin has a fine supply. We have them in pies, or in milk for dinner. Peas, beans beets, & Irish potatoes are now abundant. Some of the potatoes are quite grown. A

few days since we had some green apple dumplins [*dumplings*] for dinner. Plumbs begin to be ripe. Peach trees are loaded with fruit. Next month they will begin to ripen. So much for food & vegetations. One thing more. I said something in one of my letters about the variety of meat & bread at out table, I think you might gain an incorrect idea from it. These are all we ever have. I think the difference between this, & other boarding houses is that all or almost all the variety we ever have, is on the table every meal. I sometimes feel tired of hot bread, fresh meats, etc. Of late, we have had some cold wheat bread on the table. A great many live mostly to eat & dress in this state, I think.

May 30 Wednes. eve.

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

There have been 18 deaths in this village, more, many more than have occurred since the settlement of Forsyth [*Georgia*]. This disease prevails in various parts of the state, & in Alabama. Some of the most eminent physicians do not hesitate to pronounce the disease, the <u>real</u>, <u>Asiatic</u> Cholera. Indeed, quite as much alarm prevails as did last summer in New Eng [*England*]. Parents who had sent their children here to school, have sent for them, & some who live in the village have feared to send their children to school. It is thought the number of scholars would have been 50 greater, had there been no unusual sickness. I do not write this my dear parents, to alarm you, but I thought should I have the disease, & not recover, you would prefer I should write just what is felt by the community. I have not been afraid at all, nor do I now suffer from fear, yet I feel, that I know not what a day may bring forth. I have been exposed by being with the sick considerably, but am still well. I do not yet regret coming here, though the prospects of the school are nothing so favorable as they were. Mr. Parsons now assists me three hours & a half a day in my school. I have about 40 pupils. Many of them have been sick, five of them are now so. Some of them are rather difficult to manage, though they generally do well. Scholars here have less encouragement<s> to study than with us. Parents, & other members of families are not readers, particularly the female part of community, & often undervalue education. They feel that they [confer...?] a favor on teachers to send their children [to?] school, & some easily take offence, & remove their children. We must, however, remember that this county has been settled but ten y[*ea*]rs. It is the testimony of all whom I have heard speak on the subject, that there is a gradual improvement in many respects every year. There is less fighting, less swearing less Sab. [*Sabbath*] breaking, (the profanation of the Sab. [*Sabbath*] is now very lamentable) & much less of the vice of intemperate drinking. At a recent meeting of the Tem. Soc. [*Temperance Society*] 20 new members were added. I hope & think our school will do something towards raising the standards of education.

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

June 2. I received a letter from Aunt & Miss H. written by, Miss H. last evening. It was May 18, about 35 miles from Charlottesville, Va. [*Virginia*] They had then been detained by impassable streams about a week within five miles of the private family in which they stayed. Not a word said how Aunt endured the fatigue of the journey, only at one time she was unable to proceed, & at

another she feared the damp weather. I know it is trying to her health to ride to far, but I hope in the end it might be no injury to her health.

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

Mary [*Mary Grant*]

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

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

From your affectionate sister,

Mary

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

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

My ever dear Mother,

Your letter was duly & gratefully received. I have often thought of you, & did not think so long a time would pass without writing you a single word. I study a part of the time this term. Have studied a small work on Geology & Butler's Analogy of natural & revealed religion to the constitution & course of nature, & attend to singing & drawing. These things with the care of my section, with what I teach & visits, walks & necessary writing & reading have so filled up my time that I have deferred it till now. I have filled out a large folio sheet to sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] & cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*]. I received a letter from sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant*] to day. She is very well, better than usual, had a good visit with Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], says she loves him more than ever does not think of returning this fall, & I think I choose she should not. Miss Bridges & Miss Adams the teachers who were with her last winter spent two days here a few weeks since. I was very happy to hear so directly from E. & her school. Miss Bridges left Granville in the latter part of May, & expects to return the forepart of Sept. She is to spend a few weeks here first. Mr. Rose a clergyman from a town joining Granville, is now in New Eng. [*New England*] as an agent to procure funds for a boarding house in G. [*Granville*] He went from Gran. [*Granville*] Mass. [*Massachusetts*] at the age of five years to Ohio, saw the first tree felled in Granville. O [*Ohio*] in 1806. He feels as well as the people generally that the school at Granville must be sustained, though the teachers as useful or more so than many ministers there. Was quite acceptable in his remarks, I wish you could see him. I received a letter from Elizabeth Rockwell this week in which she says she has just heard indirectly that brother Phelps has come home. Is it so? Miss C. Beecher [*Catherine Beecher?*] spent some time here a few weeks since I wrote to Miss Palmer after it, & expected you would hear from me thro' [*through*] her. I hope she will answer mine soon. Mr. Laberce, president of a college in Tenn. [*Tennessee*] next came into school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & gave an account of the state of society, education &

religion, also the productions, face of the country &c, of that state, quite interesting & valuable — great want of educated ministers & teachers. Next Mr. Lewis agent for the school in [Ind.?] which Mr. Twining plead for last winter, & which Mr. Twining is now engaged in teaching. Then Mr. Rose of Granville — & Monday this week Rev. Thomas Brainerd, Cincinnati addressed us, giving us an idea of the vast tide of population crowding into the western states, of the principal periodicals in the Miss. [*Mississippi*] valley — of the state of Catholicism, all these statements were valuable, & suited to lead to self denying action. I have read most of Maria Monk, people generally believe it, & I see no reason why they should not. It seems that the great principle of the papists is, that <*the*> any thing is right which promotes the interests of their church. There are now 600 sisters of charity who have taken vows of celibacy & to teach for life, planted in schools in different parts of the land. They are like nuns, except not secluded.

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

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

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

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

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

Aunt says she thinks it will not be consistent for her to visit Ct. [*Connecticut*] this fall. When does P. expect to be married. when leave for Ohio. I have invited Mr. B. to come to Colebrook [*Connecticut*] this fall, as I thought he might never see Phelps unless he came then. He has been here once to see me. He asked me if you would like him to send you the

Evangelist, as he could as well as not. He heard you speak of that paper, I told him I thought you would. My best love D.J. M&M also Aunt N. Margaret & Desia. Aunt Phelps & all cousins. Has Uncle Phelps returned from Ohio Did Mary Ann Coweles get her bill?

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

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

Marysville, Dec. 26, 1852.

Dear Mother,

Day before yesterday I went to Parks Bar, & was rejoiced to find a letter from Joel & one from John, inclosing a half sheet written by you.

You may well suppose that it was a comfort to hear from home and more as nearly six months had passed since we had received any intelligence.

I do not suppose that it was long between times of writing with our friends at home, but the letters were in some way lost. As you will now direct to Parks Bar, I have strong hopes that we shall receive your letters. So far they are very accommodating at that office.

I was surprised to learn that Joel had gone to Ill. [*Illinois*] again, & to the same unhealthy place he once occupied. I can no more conceive why he has done so, than he can why I prolong my stay in this country. I suppose he has reasons for so doing that I cannot understand, as I have for staying here that he cannot understand.

You must not think dear Mother that because we see trying times that the dangers we escape are greater than we should or at best might have to undergo nearer home. Truly the time of cholera was very trying, but there are trying scenes of the same nature in the Atlantic states. Joel states that “death has been busy” in Lockport, & no one knows but we might have fallen victim if our residence had not been changed. But this is foolish speculation.

*I wish I had something to write that would be pleasant for you to <*hear*> read, but I have nothing except that my health <*has*> is good.

The rains set in this year with a good deal of fury, & continue at the same rate. But a short time since we were very anxious for rain, now we are overwhelmed with it. There have already had two freshets, <*the*> both of which the water was higher than before since the white population have inhabited this country. Today has more appearance that we may have have some pleas-ant weather, than we have seen before for some weeks. Snow is very deep in the mts. [*mountains*] John wrote that he expected to visit home at Christmas, so I presume he is at home today, How I wish I was there too.

I am now at a ranch about six miles from Marysville. I came here from the Bar nearly two weeks since & have been prevented from leaving <*on acc*> by the rains.

All farm or public houses in this country are called ranches, also an indian village is called an indian ranch.

I am going into the Mts. [*mountains*] to make shingles as soon as the travelling will admit.

I went to the Bar day before yesterday & saw Marcus. He is enjoying good health. I dont wish you to tire yourself writing to us. There are enough to write that are better able, if they only will <*if*> do it. Caroline wrote often about the time Ralph left home. I don’t know how often she has written since. I have received nothing since R. [*Ralph*] arrived from her nor but one letter from home.

Heard nothing of R. [*Ralph*] in a long time, have written to him, but perhaps he did not receive it.

Saw James Allen about four weeks since he was well.

Suppose from what you wrote that Abby is stopping with you a-gain. It seems too bad for her to wade through the snow to school, to that old barn of a schoolhouse.

We shall one or both of us go home I think within a year, & I presume both of us.

Don't worry at all about us but remember us in your prayers.

Your affectionate son,
Daniel Grant

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

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

My dear Mother

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

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

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

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

Your afflicted daughter
Abby

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 1, 1854

Dear Parents,

Mother's letter was received in due time, bringing the comfortable news that you were still in your usual health, as also many thoughts and suggestions wh. [*which*] I highly value. I was pleased to receive that fragment of Elliot's letter, it so truly, so sweetly, expresses the proper feeling for every Christian in circumstances of trial. The times through which we have passed have tested Christians' hopes, and the result in general has not been so comforting as we would have expected, perhaps. There was but little of peaceful, hopeful, quiet rest in the hope of the glory that is to be revealed. Christians like others seemed to have a feeling that nothing but a promise of life and health could give them peace. God's promise "I will never leave nor forsake thee," did not sustain them, and of Christ's declaration "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" we might have asked the question "Believest thou this?" for the number of those who derived any thing like stable comfort from it was very small. And yet there were some who did. Of the 46 who have died out of our village there were members of the Methodist Church, one of the Baptist, and one (an English lady) had never united with any church here, but < *an*> had long been a professor of religion, and died in the triumph of faith. Still another on her death had made such a profession of penitence and faith that we indulge a good degree of hope for her, thus making six of whose views we have some considerable knowledge. Many of the rest sank into the grave as they had lived, with no hope, or a delusive one.

But I was thinking of the sustaining power of the Christian's hope. If it is ever to be "an anchor to his soul," if it ever is to help and comfort him during his stay here it seems as if it should at such a time. In my own case I felt that it did sustain me. I unhesitatingly went everywhere that it

seemed best to go. About half of those who died were either Catholics or Germans that spoke a language unknown to me, and I did not visit them. Every where else as far as my strength permitted I went, and felt that I went under God's gracious protection and with his promise, not that my body should be spared, but that even if it died it would live again, while my soul should, even in the interval, be <*the*> permitted to be with my Savior. But there were only a few who felt so – very few indeed.

As you will see by a paper I send the cholera seems now to have left us. There is but little sickness in the place. The weather, however, is astonishingly hot. Day by day the sun pours down his scorching beams until it seems difficult longer to endure them. Every body exclaims "I never knew it like this before!," though this is no very good proof that such is the fact, so forgetful are we of the past. This is certain, however, that the season is unusually hot and is fast becoming very dry. In one thing we are favored, and that is that our winds are from favorable quarters, principally from the North, East, and West, rather than the South. All these winds are regarded as healthy while the latter is not so.

We received a letter from Marcus a few days since. I enclose it so you. For the first time it is possible that the boys may make a little, though not enough to render it best that they should tarry for it. Marcus, I infer, still intends to return as soon as the season is over. We are all, as well as usual, unless we except Willie, and perhaps he is, though we fear not. This chief hope is that his bodily system may get a more complete development and this very warm weather seems to operate the other way, making him less strong and healthy. His fits, though no more numerous than formerly, seem to be somewhat more violent. At the same time he grows in all that is lovely most rapidly. If he does any thing wrong and is rebuked for it, he ordinarily desists at once and expresses a wish to kiss his rebuker. Can it be that he who said "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, thou hast perfected praise," has thus early taught him to <u>feel</u> with David (he cannot say it) "let the righteous smite me, it shall be a kindness and let him reprove me, it shall be an excellent oil?" At the same time he does not seem now to grow rapidly <*in any*> in any thing but sweetness and music. He scarcely speaks a word, though he sings with surprising sweetness, and accuracy. We feel that God is preparing him for service in heaven rather than on earth, but whichsoever it may be our prayer is that he may be well prepared.

I am very sorry to hear of sister Elizabeth's misfortunes. Hers too is a life of sorrow and disappointment, though not unmingled with joy, I trust. I suppose it is still time that through much tribulation we must enter the k. of God. May we all be prepared to achieve as seeing Him who is invisible.

Your aff son
Joel Grant.

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[Addressed to:] Mr. Elijah Grant
Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Ct. [*Connecticut*]
Flemington, N.J. [*New Jersey*]
March 20, 1865

Dear Uncle,

As I have a short vacation now I thought I would improve the opportunity to write you.

In the first place I will tell you about my studies. I study Arithmetic and Latin. I have been nearly through my Arithmetic and have commenced it again.

I supposed you were glad to sell the old stags at the price which which you got for them.

Abbie is down here. She was not able to stay at South Hadley [*Massachusetts*].

The principal [*of Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] Miss Hopkins died a few days since.

I suppose<*d*> you are having a fine time this winter with no one but Grandfather, grandmother and Maria<*h*>.

How many weeks of sleighing have you had this winter.

Please write soon to

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

My dear Grandmother,

I am here in Flemington for a time now. I cannot tell exactly how long. I am a great deal better than I was when I left the Seminary [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], though I was then better than I had been before. Indeed I am pretty well now. I am teaching the children, have a regular little school up here in my room every <*day*> morning.

Miss Chapin <*who*> is to be married some time before long, and Miss Hopkins the associate principal, died since I left the Seminary [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. She was a very lovely woman and they feel truly afflicted. I received a letter from Auntie Burton a few weeks ago, which was a good kind one, as hers always are.

I am very sorry to hear that you are worse than usual. We had heard nothing about it until father wrote.

With love to all and a great deal for yourself. I am
Your aff. [*affectionate*] granddaughter
Abbie E. Grant.

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Care Mrs. C.C. Chrisman
Westchester, Pa. [*Pennsylvania*] Jan. 29, 1866
Morn

My dear Brother,

A letter written by Mr. Phillips on Fri the 26th, mailed the 27th, has brot [*brought*] me tidings of you & yours. The closing scenes of life bring with them sadness to surviving friends. But to the believer, Christ has "abolished death" (Tim [*Timothy*] 1:10) he saith to him, "Because I live, ye shall live also." In the removal from you of your best in friends the companion of your youth, I trust you will recognize the fulfillment of our Savior's promise, Jn [*John*] 14:3 – "I will come again & receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also." It is his will, & his prayer, "that they also whom the [Earth?] has has given him be with him where he is, that they may behold his glory." & (Jn. [*John*] 17:24.) Having laid down his life to purchase them, having loved them with an everlasting love, & their having been partakers of eternal life, since they by faith on being born again became partakers of the eternal life which God has given us which life is in his Son as the Fountain & in the believer as united to this Fountain it is his joy to put them in possession of their inheritance, reserved for them at the close of their earthly pilgrimage. – This dear fiend lived here by faith upon the Son of God, & she endured unto the end. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Can we not comfort on another in the conclusive evidence we have that she has already entered in to the rest of & will ever be with our Lord.

After her mortal part shall be consigned, "dust to dust," then will be a desolation in your house, exceeding what you felt while her body lay before you, cold as marble. Do not, my dear brother, allow yourself to regard death as a grim tyrant, a monster, watching for his prey, as the heathens do; but rather think of both soul & body as having been bought by our Redeemer with a price, & each as having their habitation, whether in this world or another, appointed by Him, & cared for by Him as long as each shall exist. Let not the room in which she breathed her last have melancholy associations but recognize <*that*> it as the place where Jesus came to take one of his own, came in love, & in the fulfillment of his own precious promise. There he came, only a little while before he will come again & take you also. In view of the past your heart will perhaps say, "Even so, Father for so it seemed good in thy sight. "The Lord gave & the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." In view of the future, considering that our great High Priest hath by one offering perfected forever them that are sanctified, (or justified), you may say "Come Lord Jesus." One Apostle <*tells*> in speaking to the saints says, The father hath made us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Another says He is able to keep you from falling & to present you before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Shall we not choose that unto Him that loved us, & washed us from our sins in his own blood there shall be glory forever & ever.

Your son Joel, away at Dr. Well's Bluff in Arkansas, will weep & rejoice for you & himself, tho [*though*] he cannot be with you. You and each bereaved one, can go & tell Jesus. Assure each of your own family & home hold of my deep & tender sympathy, Let us one & all seek to have this event a means of sanctification to ourselves & others, The Lord be with you, my brother, Z.P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Dr. King of Carlisle who preached here yesterday, said that Jesus Christ had purchased our souls by his atonement Jn. [*John*] 1:29. Those who accept his offer, he will receive to himself. Those who reject it he will cast off.

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

Newburyport. [*Massachusetts*] Sept. 3, 1866

My dear Brother,

I was glad to hear of you by our cousin Rev. Henry Cowles, whom I saw last week at Ipswich. Inquiries often arise in [?] that's concerning you. By something of that resting in the Rock, Christ Jesus, which may be while we are at home in the body, the remainder of your life may be comfortable in measure. By often in the day & night lifting up the brief sincere prayer for your children & their descendants, "O God, save their immortal souls for Jesus' sake," your life may be a blessing on all your posterity, & countless others to the end of time. By your quiet patient endurance, too, you may glorify our Father in heaven & so let your light shine, that others around you may be led to glorify him also. – As for me the constant teaching & power of the Holy Spirit, & the manifestation of God in Christ.

That you may be sustained under all your privations & sufferings, be accepted in the Beloved, & have the light of God's countenance is the desire & prayer of your affectionate sister,
Z.P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Feb. 26, 1867

My dear Brother,

It is a fact of tender interest, that I am permitted to write this address. Caroline's letter, received yesterday, leads me to think of you as near the time when Jesus will receive you to himself, cleansed by his blood, bathed in his righteousness, a trophy of divine grace. The salvation of your soul, saved from your sins, will be the means of making known to angels, the manifold wisdom of God. (Eph. [*Ephesians*] 3:10.) Looking unto Jesus, may be our daily motto while we continue at home in the body. May we not on earth, commence the song of heaven, "Unto him that loved us, & washed us from our sins in his own blood, -- to him be glory & dominion forever & ever."

Yesterday I met with some remarks of C.H. Mackintosh, a Scotchman still living, so adapted to my own wants, that I will transcribe a few sentences for you.

"God has taken us up just as we are. He can never make any fresh discovery to cause an alteration in the character & measure of his love. (Jn [*John*] 13:1. Having loved his own wh. [*which*] were in the world, he loved them unto the end. Jn. [*John*] 15:11. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.) God knew all about us. – the very worst, when he manifested his love to us in the gift of his son. He knew what was needed, & he provided it. He knew what was due, & he paid it. He knew what was to be wrought, & he wrought it. His own requirements had to be met, & he met them. It is all his own work. Hence we find him saying to Israel (Ex [*Exodus*] 6:7.8) 'I will bring you in.' – 'I will take you to me.' – 'I will give you the land.' – 'I am Jehovah.' – It was all

what he would do founded upon what he was. Until this great truth is fully laid hold of until it enters into the soul in the power of the Holy Ghost, there cannot be settled peace."

My dear brother letting go of every hold you may sink down with the weight of all your infirmities, & all your sins into the arms of Jesus. He is watching, -- that he may do all that for you, & work all that in you, which you need. Is it your choice, that he should have all the glory of your salvation? -- & the glory of the salvation of all your descendents to all your kindred – of all whose bodies & souls he had bought with a price?

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," may be our daily prayer. – thro [*through*] our Father which art in heaven, Save my children, my grand children, & my kindred, for Christs sake.

In sisterly love, yours,

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

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Aug. 27. 1867.

My dear Friends at Millbrook,

The Lord be with you, all & each of you personally. When teachable, we may expect the teachings & power of the Holy Spirit, to attend the providences, that we recognize from the hand of our heavenly Father.

Mrs. [Jemshu?] Grant, the widow of James, since 1826, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. [T.?] Parker June 9, in the 78th year of her age. And now that your father has gone, no one of my brothers or sisters, or their companions is remaining. Your father had long been the only person living that had loved me ever since I was born. This world seems to grow poorer, & heaven richer in loved ones. I would heed the lessons from the Great Teacher & profit by them.

That my own & only brother should have with him in his last days, sons, sons wives, grandsons, all respectful, filial, tender towards him; & this, to with most of them as It must in obedience to our heavenly Father, having a choice to do his will shows the wealth of our heavenly Father is love & applies us.

Dear Abbies letter written at 7 am. Last Saturday came to me at 10 a.m. yesterday. (Mon.) Joel's telegram from Winsted [*Connecticut*], Mon. reached me at 10 ½. Mon. morn & his letter, written Sat. eve stating that his father died that afternoon at 5 o'clock, has this moment, Tues. 10 a.m., arrived. The Lord be praised for his favors general & special to the dear departed one & to you all, to us all. What a blessing that sleep towards the last instead of [. . .] agony, & is it precious to see that expression of "perfect peace" on his countenance, as he sleeps in death. How thrilling must have been his welcome by Jesus as one of his purchased ones, & how satisfying [to] see this Jesus as he is, & to be conformed to his image. To be received by Him whence he is to be forever with him, safe from sin, form evil from even the fear of evil, what must it be, Forever safe! Is all this only just before us? See the hymn, "My God, my portion & my love."

The Lord bless you each one. In sympathy & present in spirit tenderly yours,

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

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

Via Hartford.

Poplartown [*Maryland*], March 18, 1838

Dear Brother,

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

poor from their degradation or to enable the rich to keep their rank than a serious effort to keep <*one's*> their children from improper company, and to teach them subordination to parents, teachers and all who are considered worthy of respect. The consequence is that all who come to my school, have been taught such subordination at home that they are very easily managed. There is however connected with their bringing up rather more aristocracy than can be found in Conn. [*Connecticut*] The people here are generally of the old school manners having no mixture of the <*loco-focoism*> democracy which has possessed to some extent all the people of New-England. I do not say that <*it*> this is any thing to their praise, but that it has some advantages there can be no doubt.

I have no particular intelligence to communicate. My health is very good as it has been all winter. I think I have suffered less from colds this winter than I have during the same season of the year for several years. But winter is now gone here. Grass is beginning to start very considerably, the sun shines very pleasantly , birds of all kinds are returning to take their summer abode & all things indicate that warm weather is nigh. I would like to have you notice and record the dates of the blossoming of peach and apple tress and also of any other trees or plants that you may think proper. I will do the same here and thus we shall be able to obtain some more definite knowledge of the difference of the climates. The winter has been very mild here, but I suspect that the spring is not proportionally early.

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

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

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

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

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

Yours affectionately
Joel Grant.

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

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

Ahmednugger
July 3, 1842

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

July 6th This afternoon, I went with my little son Edwin, to visit the grave of her who was so dear. A strange mixture of feelings arose on thinking that that beloved form was only a few feet distance from where I stood, and I could not see it. I can never see it again. Edwin has been quite sick. I have great reason to fear that he will never be well. Should he live he may be a great source of happiness to me. We often conversed about the happiness the dear boy would afford the survivor, should one of us be taken away. Should the Lord remove him, also, the stroke would be very distressing: -- but not equal to the one just suffered in the loss of his mother. My only prayer is, prepare me for Thy Holy will, and enable me to fulfill my course with honor to my Savior. Must dear E. [*Edwin*] go to? The Lord's will be done. If the Lord supports me, I can bear up under it; -- if not, I can endure nothing, do nothing. I regard the experience of the last week as of almost infinite value. Can I doubt that this stroke, which I now feel so keenly, will in the end, prove for my good. For some months past my beloved wife, & I, have often and freely conversed, on the subject of death. The importance of having our house set in order has been particularly impressed upon my own mind; & she has had the same feeling. This was especially the case just before I left home the last time. A gloom seemed to rest upon us. Edwin was quite sick: I was about to leave home on an arduous journey: the season was not the best for traveling; owing to the rains: yet there seemed no good reason for my remaining at home, excepting, fears, undefined fears. So after laboring hard, to have my accounts in as good a state as possible; -- & providing as well as we could against all emergencies, -- I got off on horseback for Jalna, on the 18th of June. I had the two-fold object in view of visiting Jalna, where we have missionary operations, & of preaching, & distributing books in the villages on the way. I reached Jalna on the 23rd. In the afternoon of the 25th I received the following letter from Mr. Abbott, written June 24th 1842.

> "Dear Brother: -- Our dear sister [*Mary Grant*] Burgess was attacked this morning with cholera, & we are all at your house, waiting with great anxiety, the result; & doing everything that can be done. An hour or two will decide the case. She says her Savior is

near to her; still she feels very much for you & Edwin. We still hope for her recovery, -- but you will trust in God, & prepare to hear that she has gone to her rest."

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

Dear Brother Burgess: -- Mr. Abbott's note of yesterday, informing you of Mrs. B's [*Mary Grant Burgess*] illness, & doubtless prepared you to hear the worst. We looked in vain, for a change for the better. She revived a little, but soon sunk under the power of the disease; & about 5 OC. breathed her last. We have this morning, followed her remains to the silent tomb. It is a day of intense grief to us all, -- for she who was the life of our little circle, has been suddenly removed from us. For you our hearts bleed, for we know what she was to you. But we hope God will sustain you. Indeed there is great cause of gratitude in view of the circumstances of her death. Her mind was clear, & unclouded, to the last. It scarcely wandered for a moment. Her hope was firm. Mrs. Ballantine asked her if she had any fear of death! She said -- "No -- not the least" She also remarked -- "How easy it is to die; no pain --" At one time she turned to Dr. Atkinson & said -- "How important is it to be prepared for death" I remarked to her, I suppose you feel safe and happy? She replied, -- "Yes" -- & added -- "I have done but little -- but for Christ's sake God will accept me" These expressions will show you the state of her mind. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar and Mrs. Ballantine had considerable conversation with her just before her death. The stroke was very sudden to us. In the morning we met her out on the road as she took her usual drive with Edwin, & we promised to go and take tea with her in the evening. She remarked that Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar was more feeble that Edwin had had a fevor night, & did not appear to be so well, but she said nothing about herself. We afterwards learned that she went to visit her schools before returning home; but finding herself unable to do anything in consequence of sickness & pain she rode home & took medicine -------

the funeral was attended this morning. Several of our English friends, and crowds of natives, were present. Many were deeply affected. All seemed to feel a deep sympathy with us, & especially for you. The funeral services were very impressive. Mr. Jackson officiated and he has been very kind in giving us much assistance thus God has broken in upon our little circle & who could have been better prepared than Mrs. Burgess? Oh how we loved her! who can make her place good? But she is in heaven & happy in the enjoyment of God. All connected with us went to your house, yesterday, to see her, before her death. May it lead them to think of that salvation which she desired to teach them. I know you will almost dread to come home. The thought of seeing your house desolate will be painful. May you be enabled to endure this, through him who is the source of all consolation. Little E. [*Edwin*] is with us. he appears to be gaining. He is happy in the company of our children. Poor boy! he does not understand his loss. Mrs. B. said several times, "my dear husband." "But God will take care of him & my little boy".

Yours in deep affliction --

M. Ballantine.

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

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

July 9th E. [*Edwin*] is much better to day & I have more hope of his recovery. I have been thinking how Abraham must have felt when his son was restored to him.
July 10th Today I have been filled with joy, by hearing that one of our most promising teachers has expressed a resolution to become a christian. What glorious news! Another Bramin came in this morning as he was about to start for a distant village. His mind has been extremely tender since Mrs. B's death. He often used to call and converse with us in the subject of the Christian religion; and has sometimes manifested concern respecting his salvation. I have never, before, seen him apparently, so much wrought upon, by the spirit. We have strong hope that he will come out on the side of Christ. May he have the influence of the spirit.
July 12th E. [*Edwin*] seems to be growing weaker & weaker. The Dr. has but little hope of him. What have I to do but pray. O, Lord prepare me & the child for thy holy pleasure respecting us. I have often given him to the Lord; or rather, confessed with my whole heart, that I regard him as the Lords, & not mine: & I would not now, retract these conversions. There is something painful in the thought that you it must be two or three months before you and other friends will hear that Mary [*Grant Burgess*] has gone to her rest. How I would like to see you all! but that cannot be. I can only communicate in this poor way. It is a relief thus freely to express my feelings.
July 16th Our letters start for Bombay today; the steamers leave that place on the 19th I have never seen the time when all the powers of my soul were in such a state of activity. I have never performed anything like such an amount of mental labor in the same length of time. We are just making out our semiannual report & our quarterly meeting of the mission is at hand. Much labor has fallen upon me; much care respecting E.; writing to friends in America; all within thirteen days after returning to my desolate home. This is favorable; much better than if I was left to brood over my loss. Even when everything around me reminds me of my bereavement I can turn my mind with pleasure, & efficiency, to those things which concern my labors; can dwell, with the light on the goodness of God, the sureness of his promises, the thousand encouragements we have to prosecute our labors. -- -- My dear wife has left me, it is true; but she has only gone to heaven a little before me, -- & is beyond the reach of sin & pain. How I love to sing -- "Ah lovely appearance of death" -- & that line, -- "No longer a sinner like me". How much meaning it contains! O -- that my mind could always retain that heavenly savor -- weanedness from the world, -- which has pervaded it since Mary's death. It is a painful thought that I must remain & mingle in the scenes of temptation; that I must with such a depraved heart endure the <u>trials</u> <u>of</u> <u>living</u>. Oh how sweet would be the summons to follow my beloved wife! But then my poor boy! The mission, -- the poor brethren! I would if God wills still live & toil & suffer. I wish to be like a helpless child in the arms of my heavenly father. I am as nothing. With out divine support what would have become of me! That support has been granted. But I have not even the poor merit of having prayed for what I have received. I have prayed, & often too, for support, in this trying hour. But I never had an idea of anything at all adequate to what is the reality. Still there is nothing rapturous; only a perfect assurance that God will do all things right. God is a rock, God seems to have given me sober views which look into eternity; which look at things comparatively in all their connections; -- which enable me to see the inconstency of judging of all, where I can see only a part. Spiritual things seem clothed with a reality which they never wore before.

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

Yours truly as ever,
E. Burgess

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

"You doubtless have heard of my long confinement at the Makabulishwur Hills, in consequence of feeble health. When I arrived here, June 3rd I thought Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess did not look so strong as when I left. She looked service-worn. As soon as I felt sufficiently rested from the fatigue of my journey, we entered into the arrangement that when she visited the two schools which I left in her case, on going to the hills, she would not stop to hear the girls <u>reading</u> <u>lessons</u>,

but would send them to me, at the house, until I should be able to go to the school. When Mr. Burgess with two of the native Christian brethren set off on the 18th of June for Jalna, little Edwin was not well; but the Dr. did not think that much ailed him; & he expected that he would soon be better. He however continued feeble. [all a mothers anxieties were awakened by the state of the child; -- & she seemed to quite forget herself in her desire to do constantly for him. She remarked -- "I fear this is Edwin's last sickness." Her rest was much disturbed at night, -- & we've all greatly feared that her own health would suffer. No doubt this fatigue & care made her much more easily the victim of the cholera, then raging here] On wednesday night the 22 both mother & child slept well, -- & in the morning, they seemed refreshed. She appeared well, he much better. We went out together for a drive, -- & on our return, stopped & took breakfast with Mrs. & Mr. Ballantine; -- had a pleasant time, -- arrived home, -- & had a quite pleasant day. The next morning, Friday the 24th, on her return from the drive with Edwin, she looked so pale I inquired the cause. She said she did not rest so well as the night before; -- & was not feeling quite well in the morning, she took a little medicine. I professed her going to her chamber & keeping very quiet; -- that I would see that little Edwin had his breakfast -- & was taken care of; -- & as soon as my rice gruel was ready I would send her some. All this was done. Between 9 & 10 OC. I observed the servant to carry her a cup of tea, which led me to think she was better. After a short reading lesson I dismissed my girls, between 10 & 11 O.C. to go up stairs; but from sickness, occasioned by medicine, I was unable to do so, for a little time. On my second attempt to go to her the servant met me, saying that if I was able to come upstairs, Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess wished to see me. I hastened to her, without delay ["from the time of Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar's return from the Hills, she had not been able to ascend a flight of stairs."] The moment I saw her a chill went to my heart. Clasping her cold purple hands I exclaimed -- "O my dear sister, how very ill you are"! "Yes," she said, "& -- I do not know but I am dying." I answered it may be so". To one standing by I said, go quickly for Dr. Atkinson. She said, "I have sent for him, twice, --- & I think he will be here soon. I then sent for the brethren & sisters of the mission, -- & for the European nurse, at the hospital Until they arrived, the two native girls Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess & I had living with us, assisted me, in doing what we could to arrest the deadly chill that seemed fast pervading the whole system. There was not the least action from the stomach, but an apparent cessation of action throughout the whole system. ["Mortification seems to have taken place, in the extremities, soon after she was taken. This shows the nature of the disease."] I asked her if she could cheerfully acquiese in the disposition, should God now in the sudden manner, call her to leave the world? She raised her eyes upward, -- paused for a moment, -- then said, -- "I think I can. Should this be my last sickness, how quick & easy will be my release from this body, -- & from the world! But -- O -- my poor dear husband! What will he do? -- And -- my poor motherless child! What will become of him? But God will be gracious, He will be merciful, I know He will. I can leave them in His hands; I can trust Him. He will do all things well." We spoke of the conversations & promises of the gospel; -- repeated texts of scripture; -- &, alluding to our work among the heathen, she expressed no regret for the sacrifices, she had made; -- but rejoiced that she had been accounted worthy to manifest her attachment to the cause of Christ. She was so composed, -- so cheerful, -- so rational, -- so natural were the tones of her voice, -- & the expression of her countenance, -- that there was no occasion for a tear. Oh how precious the recollection! I love to ponder on the mournful -- sweet -- scene of her last hours, -- her last days Yes -- on the varied scenes of all the days I ever knew her, o, how dear she was to me, -- to us all! & deservedly so. May the savor of her life so far as it savored of Christ, be as holy ointment to chastened souls, Nature weeps, but does not murmur. She frequently spoke of her family with tenderest emotions. She suffered but little after I saw her, except from a painful kind of restlessness which seemed to pervade the whole frame. My feebleness compelled me to retire as soon as those I sent for had arrived. They continued. with her until the last, -- using every means that wisdom or experience could devise, for arresting the process of the dreadful disease. When I was told that there remained no longer any hope of her recovery, I went again, to her bedside. She appeared perfectly rational & composed. As I took her hand I said to her, you now feel that you will soon be with your blessed savior; -- She replied -- "yes, -- & I feel that he is near, -- & precious." I then asked her if she had anything to say to me? She said "yes -- I have much that I wish to say to you but I have not strength." --

Between 4 & 5 OC. P.M. the door of the upper sanctuary opened to her. -- Jesus called, -- she cheerfully answered -- "I come to Thee." She entered in -- & is safe. From that peaceful pensive moment I shall see her no more, until the glorious resurrection of the just. Her remains were interred early the next morning; & at 5 OC. P.M. we had a prayer meeting here at the lonely dwelling; & a most excellent address from Mr. Ballantine from John 11. Here too, nature wept, -- but not without hope. Like her may we be ready; Like her, happy in prospect of our great change. -- Pray for us.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM MRS. BALLANTINE

Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess said to Mrs. Abbott, -- "Well, this is cholera: it is different from what I thought it was. I have not much pain." Mr. Abbott said to her, "What a comfort it is to one, in your situation, to be able to trust in the savior"! "Yes" -- said she; -- "I have lived very far from Him; -- but if I go, I think He will receive me. He appears near to me & I think I can trust in Him. What will become of poor Mr. Burgess"! An hour after this He said to her, -- "what a blessing, that we can cast all our care upon God, leave every want with Him."! -- she replied, -- "Yes, -- it is indeed; yes, -- all our cares; -- yes, -- yes." This we suppose she said in reference to Mr. Burgess, & her little boy [*Edwin*]. Upon opening her eyes, after they had been some time closed, she fixed them upon me & said, -- "Dear sister, do sit down". The Dr. now brought her some soda, & asked, "Do you think you can take this"? "Yes said She "if you think it best." This was her uniform reply to him, whenever he offered her medicine. About 3 O.C. she went to sleep, & appeared to sleep quietly for some time. When she awoke she said to me, -- "I am better," "You have been praying for me have you not"? "I think I Shall recover". The Dr. then brought her some more soda. She looking upon him & said, "I believe I have been wandering; & that made me think I was better than I really am". Then taking the drink she said, -- "How I want you all to take care of yourselves. I then said to her "You feel that you are almost home, do you not"? "Yes" said She. I then asked, "have you any fear of death"? She paused a little & said in an expressive tone, "No." I asked what shall I say to Mr. Burgess for you? She quickly said -- "My poor husband," -- "my dear husband; -- but he is a man of God, -- & he will be comforted. Then after a few moments of deep thought, she lifted her eyes to heaven, & exclaimed, Oh, -- to God be all the glory, -- all the glory, -- all the glory. A little after this she looked up to me and said, -- you will be kind to Edwin I feel that you will. She now began to sink rapidly: & when I supposed her almost gone, I said to her, -- "Miss Burgess do you know me"? She looked up with a peculiarly sweet expression of countenance, & said in a firm tone, "It is dear sister Ballantine". From that time She could no more be roused; & she sank away as quietly as a little infant to its slumbers. -------- She had her reason so perfectly, -- was so free from pain, -- & above all, so full of peace, that we must all feel that she was "let down, to the grave, most gently". I trust it has done us all good. Our native brethren & sisters have seen a Christian die; & we have all of us gained new, & clearer views of death, as it is to the child of God. --------- Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess was with us only a short time; but we do not measure her usefulness by years. We feel that few have done more for this people than she. Her prayers for them were many, fervent , & heartfelt; She had four schools to which she devoted a good deal of her time, energy & thoughts. These schools were in the city; -- & visiting them from week to week she became extensively known to the girls mothers & to many women in the neighborhood. Often would they collect around her in little companies, and she would tell them of Christ, & of his salvation. Since her death these women speak of her in the most interesting manner. "A more cheerful happy person", say "They we never knew." She had many calls from the natives, -- & no one was ever suffered to go away from her without some word of instruction. Often would she say to me, -- "Now speak a word to this person, -- or to that," -- when we might. It was evident from the first that Mrs. Burgess meant to spend, & be spent for this people. She labored with all her heart & all her strength. ---------- the native brethren & sisters loved her ardently: -- & they now mourn & weep. As for ourselves we feel stricken & afflicted. She always came among us with so smiling peaceful a countenance as to impart life and joy to us all ---------- we try to inquire why it has been necessary for God to afflict us so deeply? The harvest here is great, & the laborers are few. We hope we may now say, Lord is it enough; -- stay now & thine hand; -- & spare us to labor on; -- &, o, accept our labors. ---------- The death of Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess will be a shock to you & to all her friends. May an

abundant measure of grace be vouchsafed you, -- & support you all. I know you must all have ardently loved her, -- for she was worthy of your warmest love. She loved her parents, brothers, & sisters, ardently. She often spoke of them with great interest.

EXTRACT FROM ANOTHER LETTER OF MR. BURGESS. JULY 16

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

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[*Addressed to*:] Miss Martha Grant
Mt. Holyoke Fem. Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]

South Hadley
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
New Haven [*Connecticut*], Oct. 24, 1842

Dearest Sister,

I recieved your letter last Friday which though it came late as I thought was very gladly recieved. I thought you would let me know how you succeeded in your examination, &c as soon as you had completed them. I had however resolved to write to you soon even though I did not hear from you, when I recieved your letter. And as there is no longer occasion for blaming you for not having written I only express the hope you will be punctual in future. And here I wish to enjoin it upon you that you write to me often & it is better to have started periods at which to write, & never for any ordinary reason neglect to write at those times. If however you adopt this plan you need not feel that you not write till the fixed time arrives, in case any thing more than ordinary occurs. But I judge from experience that a fixed time in such matters is very desirable. And as the same periods will be adapted by me I propose that you write me as often as once in three weeks at the farthest I also will do the same. I wish to know all about you & the circumstances in which you are placed.

You gave me no account of your situation in any respect, perhaps because you are hardly yet established in your new home; but remember I want to know all about your situation. -- I am gratified with your prospect of enjoyment there as also that you have gained an easy admittance. I doubt not you will enjoy it very much if you are faithful to yourself & companions. I do sincerely hope that you have an agreeable & amiable roommate, & that you will do your part toward promoting her happiness. In your next tell me about her. You must bear in mind that while you are there together your happiness in a great degree depends on each other. You will, you may be assured, have some trials & perplexities. I am so far acquainted with the manner of life you are now purusing as to know that you will meet with much to perplex you in your studies. (that is, if they are as difficult as I believe them to be). But yet even these difficulties if overcome by diligence may be made a source of pleasure. Yet as I do not mean to assume very extensively the character of an adviser I leave these things to your own judgment.

I have not hear from home since I left which is indeed wonderful under the present circumstances. I had however recieved the melancally intelligence of our sister's death through <*an*> Mr Hoyt's people who saw the notice of it in the New York Observer. Two weeks ago this evening as I happened to call there they imparted the information, which was indeed a heavy stroke To think that she is no longer living upon this earth is truly a meloncholy though & that she died in a heathen land far from home & the kindness of friends. How bitterly I grieve when I think of her kindness to me & how little I have heeded the voice of entreaty & the words of warning with which she pressed me to leave the destructive ways of sin & do my duty to my God. When I think of these, I do confess to you, dearest sister, how earnestly she longed & prayed for my conversion, I am overwhelmed with the enormity of my guilt & in gratitude & while the bitter tears flow fast I think I do feel a strong desire even now late as it is to heed that warning voice, & that this affliction which God has seen fit to bring upon us may be blest to me. Will not you dear sister entreat God for me that the prayers of our dear departed sister may yet be answered for me & that this which seems an affliction may be in reality a great blessing to us all. I feel that I can say that my earnest desire is to be what she with you & my other christian friends so earnestly

desired. I find here among my classmates friends who sympathize with me & who also warn me to heed the voice which calls me in this dispensation. Your earnest appeal too was not wholly with out effect on my heart & through the many influences bearing upon I do hope that I shall brought to a different course of life. I do not feel as though our sister's departure. & release from labors & trials was cause for very deep sorrow except for the sake of the cause to which she had devoted herself & of her husband left alone in the land of darkness but I mourn my ungrateful neglect of her advice & counsel much more than that, although it is sad to think that she is no more. -- No particulars concerning our sister's death have yet been recieved, I suppose, & as you will probably hear as soon as any one will you not communicate the same to me at the earliest opportunity --

I rejoice that you though among strangers are among those who sympathize with you that you are among those who knew her & who themselves mourn the fate that took her away in the midst of usefulness. I have no time or room to write more now & must draw to a close I wish you wd write again soon & would propose that you permit me to expect a letter by the last of next week if not sooner.

Your affectionate brother
John

[*written across second page*] You must excuse the numerous mistakes for I have not time to correct them, will try to do better next time. Excuse these blots also. &c.

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[*undated*]

Sunday
MillBook [*Millbrook, Connecticut*] Aug 13

Mr & Mrs. Daniel Grant

Dear Relatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am as ever

Yours Truly
A.O. Finney

Dear Cousins

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

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

Elizabeth

P.S. remember us kindly to Edward and Wife

A.O. Pinney

Tues. morn [ ]

Dear Children,

I have thought that some of these rainy days we might see some or all of you — but dont suppose it is convenient — I think we have great reason for gratitude that we are not all sick such uncommon weather as we have In some parts they suffer with drought — Have word from Abby that she & Arthur "may make a short visit fore part Sept. or perhaps later or possibly not at all" has not been well, "is not fit to visit." & does not want word sent all around that she is coming — If she does come perhaps it will be so that you can come up

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

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

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

Mother G —

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

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

Dear cousin Carrie

Yours of Feb 11 was received & we were very glad to hear from you — thank you for your sympathy in our sorrow [yet?] — we feel as though Marion had gained a heavenly home and is now and forever at rest. She died of Pneumonia — had been with me since about the first of Nov. when she first came I was quite feeble — had taken cold & had a good deal of malaria — so that under the circumstances there was a great many things she could do to assist me, soon my girl left, & Marion thought that together we could manage the work, for a time, at least my health was improving so that I could do a little more than take care of baby — We got

along very well together she only doing the lightest of the work — but she became very tired and thought best to stop & rest awhile. I engaged a girl to come & help me so that she could go rest — she came the 29th of Jan. that being the time M [*Marion*] proposed to go — was going to Davids from here to make a visit & probably would have visited with all — She was getting ready packing her satchel & arranging her things to leave in her room — when she was taken with a chill & her head ached dreadfully — she went to bed, and began spitting blood right away — this was about ten o'clock, before one, we sent for the Dr; when he came he said it was Pneumonia — but thought until Friday that she would get through it – she died Sat. morn at half past eight — she had a cold for some time & coughed some — & the day before she was taken down she [*in pencil* — went out to church a slippery, rainy day &] took a little more —

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I believe you think the letter I promised you when I sent the goods I have been so long about to send has been very tardy in its movements indeed it has been very different from what I intended it will be of no use to enumerate the many obstacles that have come in my way but after all last monday a week to day I went with the barrel well stocked with good to the Depot and I there found John Watson son of Jacob Watson who said he would see it started in the P M I have felt somewhat uneasy since that I did not see the Agent myself but he promised that he would be faithful and I thought he would so I left it with him to do the business and if he does the business as he promised I hope you will receive it ere long when I went with the barrel I carried your sister Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] she and Mr Burton have after so many years made us a visit and it was a great pleasure to me she looks oh altered a good deal since you saw her my son she and I went in our waggon and Mr B in the stage she enquired about you and your family thought she should write to you but she has her hands and her heart full Lavinia is married and Margaret has poor health her children she left well they returned the northern route and had it in contemplation to call on Phelps at Canton I will have mention that the barrel was directed to the care of Mc Clune & Williams Millwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Mr. Allen was buried last

monday I wanted to attend the funeral but felt more that I wanted to go with Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] as far as I could he has been in a suffering condition for a long time I shall mix my letter up in such a way that you will think strange perhaps <*that I am more than usual light minded*> I want to say to you that I fear you will never get your pay for the improvements you make on your Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Wall people always say that improvements never fetch what they cost and people have such different views upon the subject that one man will want to undo all another does I would like to have you sell it and pay your debts if you should have a good opportunity I would like to know about your concerns as much as you think best I should, I went with E [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] to see your father B's [*Mr. Burr?*] family found them all well Mary [*Mary Burr?*] sent you <*her*> a number of articles she will probably write you what Joel sent & a pair of books John a pair of pantaloons and a suit up a pair that I suppose <*give*> was John's and some shirts and one of Marcus' bosoms and a collar he was absent he left Collinsville after his father told him that he disapproved of his grinding axes and engaged in a [coal?] job in New Hartford he came home and staid four days when I was at home [&?] was pretty well but said he worked hard I put up as many apples as I could with the other things I put mine into some cloth that I thought would make you a pair of pillow cases sweet into one and sour into the other but the mice ate one and you can do what you please with them we have no apples this year and last year they were very knotty friends all well your Uncle Luther lives and may a good while yet he may not be the first to die in our family there is a good deal of sickness and a good many deaths in Winter Phinny Root's wife is dangerously sick Abigail [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] is better and has been home and made a visit She does not nurse her babe at all I sent some new calico for [it &] a dress also two breadths of a dress that I thought might make her one but as I understand you may have more family make use of it as may be most for the comfort of your family two pair of morocco shoes of <*m*> Martha's one indiarubber Mary sent a pair of indiarubber I did not send the dress patterns but sent a dress almost new which Martha said she thought you might wear with very little alteration she thought by letting down the [ep?] [...] each of you a pair of mittens and [also] two of the sheepskin mittens Susan [*Susan Boyd J. Grant?*] made for your father she made a pair for Marcus and they suited your father better and so they have both worn them and these have [lain?] by they were too large you will need I guess to cut out a little more than the seam I guess Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] and sew them over but you can contrive that part I shall put a little into this letter and when you receive this write me soon and I shall want to hear from the barrel if you ever receive it I have not mentioned but a part of what it contains much love to dear Abby and from [your?] mother thank her for what she did to write her I was very tired when I commenced and I have written with my paper on a map lying in my lap and you and you will find it somewhat difficult to read may you enjoy the blessing of God and strive to live near to him don't neglect your bible and under all circumstances spread out your wants before the Lord and store that tender mind that is commited to your care with that which is good not burden it be careful that her clothes are not tight [worm?] holes and all that there be no compression may the Lord be your guide & [grant?] help in time of trouble is the prayer of your aff [*affectionate*] Mother Grant

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

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

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

It is 7 o'clock in the morning. My baby taking his morning nap in the cradle, husband in the study, girl washing dishes in the back room & I have one hand on the cradle, the other [grasping?] the pen. We have a pleasant house & convenient, th'o [*though*] some of the rooms are too small. If I ever have sufficient strength shall like housekeeping very much. We had been here but six weeks when Johnny was home. & those were weeks of great care in arranging and getting things comfortably [settled?]. Billah was with me five weeks after the birth of my babe and

could she have stayed five more. I might have been spared a great deal of suffering. But as I can not have room to write every thing will only say that thro' [*though*] the mercy of God I was spared, even after resting for some time [from] the [verge?] of the grave, and am now in tolerable health, tho' [*though*] far from being strong, am able to endure. Our boy's name is John Cowles, is near six months old, weight 21 lbs. is perfectly pleasant, seldom crying if not sick. He takes all his food from a bottle. I was obliged to wean him when two months old, on account of a sore mouth, which is not yet well. We have bought milk & butter all summer, but expect a cow today. Our expenses must greatly exceed our salary this year. There is no end to demands upon the purse in sickness, and little economy in the kitchen, when hired help manages. Our people have been very kind & thoughtful for us, thus adding greatly to our comfort.

We found Mother Grant very sick with Typhus fever, and seen how it may result, tho' [*though*] there is hope in her case. Sister [Parney?] had been dangerously ill with dysintery, but when we were there, was able to sit up an hour in a day. Her beautiful babe 7 months old died two weeks since with the same disease. Ann Elisa Knapp was buried last week Tues. her disease consumption. There have been a great many deaths in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] the past season. I wanted to see your sister M [*Mary Burr*], but there no time to go there, as we were gone from home but two nights. I hope she will spend some time with us this winter. The impression in N. [*Norfolk, Connecticut*] is that she is to be married I did not see her gentleman when we were out. Johnny is in my lap and joggles my pen. I think he wd. [*would*] like to send his love to his Uncle & Aunt and cousin Abby. Do let us hear from you soon, and all the particulars. Joel sends love to you all. I was sorry to send you nothing but that little [neck?] ribon, but did not know that the box still opens- Those little dresses were out out <*from*> by one of my baby's slips. I like them very much. If you name a babe tell us all about it, will you not. I doubt not you had a comfortable time. You got along so well before. I was sick but three hours. Dr. Philo Rockwell is our physician. We had others in council.

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

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr Daniel Grant
Waukesha Waukesha Co
Wisconsin

Millbrook
Ct March 3d

From Mother Grant disapproving of Daniel going to California –
March 1849

late *Feb. 1849*

My Dear Children [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

I have for a long time wanted to write to you but I have never been very well since I was sick last fall and now for several weeks I have had a cold which has made me quite unwell but I now feel quite well. We received your letter along time ago which was a great relief to me I felt anxious about the barrel I felt that we did not know how to lose the contents and it rejoices my heart to hear that you had a dear little son which I hope will prove a blessing to all the friends and to learn about Dear Abby and that Caroline had been carried through her confinement so comfortably I was sorry that Daniel was home with his wrist and that he was troubled with Dispepsia but if it must be so I want to know it I do not hear from you near as often as I should like to but yesterday we received a letter from Joel stating that you Daniel was thinking of going to California which was to me inteligence of a very unpleasant nature and I thought I could delay writing no longer but must say to you immediately that I cannot endure the Idea your health is poor <*and*> and for you to think of going to California in pursuit of health I think you will be disappointed should you do it your Physician may recommend it and so I might think favorably of it if you <*was*> were in circumstances to go there and live at your ease and have a Physician and nurse to attend to you <*and*> but under your circumstances I feel that your prospect is nothing

more than an increased state of suffering and then how can you be separated from your Dear family dont indulge a thought of any such thing Joel seems to think it might do but I feel that he has incorrect views he said to me that he did not know but it might be well enough for Marcus to go but I shall never give my consent to have any of my children go and your father is very much opposed to it I understand that you have sold your place and are gone to live with Mrs Root I am glad you have kind friends there but I hope you will make arrangements to return <*n*?> in the spring to Conn [*Connecticut*] should I live it will be pleasant to me and I hope that I shall be able to contribute to your comfort I am in the decline of life but should the Lord see fit to continue my life and give me strength I shall always want to do what I can to make my children comfortable I think was you here you might enjoy better health than you do <*there*> where you are but if you must be sick I had rather you would be sick here than abroad There are a great many gone and going to California <*and many that are gone*> Chauncey Canfield and <*Albert*> Alfred Cooper and Samuel Seymor Erastus Seymore, son of Lewis <*an*> Andrews Daniel Andrews' son is talking of going Mrs Andrews died the winter past so that he has no mother to feel bad about his going and if you should live there will be no hurry about your going there is such an extent of territory that is called the Golden region that it will not be exhausted for a great while to come now I hope that whoever says go that you will not regard it _____
Marcus has been teaching this winter in Danbury Quarter and I hope that he may have health and strength <*be able*> to labor and with the blessing of God he may be made happy I have not seen any of father Burrs people this winter I have not been able to go out myself but very little and your mother and Mary [*Mary Burr*] I suppose have been very busy I expect Mary is to be married about this time but I do not probably know as much about it as you do I hope that when the weather is warmer we shall see them more I hope that Mary and her husband will call on us before they leave but perhaps they will not I do not think of any special news of Joel and his wife and and babe but they are now better John is tutor in [W?] Haven yet he had another tumor removed from his back the forepart of January but he was able to return to his duty in about three days after the term commenced he was well felt no inconvenience from the tumor but knowing there was one commenced he thought he would have it removed while he was well____

Your uncle Luther is much as he has been though rather finding other friends usually well Martin has taught our school this winter I hope you will not set your hearts on glittering dust I want you should be comfortable I hope you will cast all your cares on Jesus and not forget to pray. I want you should not neglect to to pray God to bless your dear children both spiritually and temporally Kiss them many times <*to*> for me and tell them them that grandmother thinks much of them I have had grandmother Burr's letter to read and I love to read about Abby my dear children I want to have you write to me immediately and let me know your plans may the lord bless and direct us is the prayer of your affec mother Ely

Dear cousins,

As I am spending a few days, with Aunt, and there is a little space here, for a word, to assure you of my kind remembrance, I gladly [improve] it. Though you have so long resided at the West, presume letters from <u>home</u>, and news from old friends – are ever <u>acceptable</u>. Norfolk [*Connecticut*] seems much as usual. There have been several deaths among children recently from <u>croup</u>. Nothing particular has occurred that will interest you. Please accept my love and best wishes – Cousin Margaret

.

Hope you will be able to train those dear '<u>little ones</u>,' in the good and right way, and that they may prove <u>continually</u>, a rich blessing.

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

Indian Ter. [*Territory*] 480 miles fr. St. J. [*St. Joseph*]

June 24 [*1849*]

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I entirely forgot to send a lock of my hair to you. I am very sorry. I will put a little, in this sheet, but I fear it will never reach you. I found I could send from Ft. <*Lara*> Kearney [*Ft. Kearney, Nebraska*], and I left my last letter there. I expect to leave this at Ft. <*Kea*?> Laramie [*Ft. Laramie, Wyoming*], and I suppose it is uncertain when it will leave there We have met no return teams for a week, if we should I will send it on. I did not know there was a Ft. on the road between Ft. Laramie & St. J. [*St. Joseph*], when I left St. J. [*St. Joseph*] There are many things that I want to write but I cannot, I tried to write by running on before the team and gaining a little time in that way, but I found it difficult and I suppose it is rather dangerous now in this Indian Territory, though we have seen no<*ne*> Indians or next to none since we started, yet we have seen their traces and leavings frequently. Night before last we camped near the graves of two Indians, or what was so. They were wrapped in buffalo robes, & other skins, and raised about 6 feet from the earth, supported by poles. Their poneys were tied to the poles that supported the bodies, and there remained till they starved. The tainted carcases were there partly destroyed by the wolves. One of the graves had been destroyed and the body torn in pieces, probably by wolves provisions and tin pans and other utensils were scattered around.

We are getting along finely, but it is not so with all, and may not be with us all the way, through. We passed a grave a few days since, that gave us the only information we have received from Mr. Cone and his party, since we left the river [*Platte River?*]. It was inscribed, Mr. Conover Waukesha Wis. [*Wisconsin*] Aged 27, died June 14. The same day we saw some who saw G. [H?] Cornwalls grave, he died the 10 inst.

It will be hard news for Mrs. Conover but I suppose not very hard for Mrs. Cornwall. Mr. Dillon one of our mess says she told him Dillon she never should live with him again unless he returned rich. It was Mrs. C's [*Cornwall*] sister who told him so.

If Cornwall knew that, I doubt whether he would ever return if he had lived, I know I would not in like circumstances.

There are so many things to write I cannot tell which will most interest you, but I will try to give a description of our party.

First then I will take our own wagon, you know already that there are 5 of us, viz. myself, Elliot, Woodworth, Dillon, (these you know) and Wm. A. Olin, a brother of Hannah Olin, and cousin of G. [H?]. Olin, a poor man about 34 years old, he has been sick a great deal and had a good deal of sickness in his family since he came to Wis. [*Wisconsin*], has a wife and three children. Next I will take the wagon that stands by ours, 4 men, one 55 years old, another 40 or upwards, another 34, another about 28, all very accommodating & clever, but very profane.

Then there are 2 wagons of Seymors, from Kaskaskia Ill. [*Illinois*] 2 brothers they are taking 6 men with them. One of them <*makes*> call<*e*>s it home in Unionville Ct. [*Connecticut*] has a wife and 2 children there, been engaged in making clocks, has been selling clocks and doing other business in Ill. [*Illinois*] for 2 years, and started for Cal. [*California*] about the same time he had intended to go to Ct. [*Connecticut*] <*T...*> Both the Seymores appear to be fine men,

There are 2 wagons <*laden*?> loaded with eight persons, one man has his wife, don't know but she is a very nice woman but don't like her appearance very well, have never spoken to

her. The rest are <*very*> decent I believe, one man I should think between 50 & 60 years of age very clever.

Two wagons belonging to Stevens I have sp[oken] of them before in a former letter, 7 in number the father 3 daughters <*very*> fine girls, 2 sons (one of the sons owns the teams) and one man with them. Two Dutch wagons an old man and his wife and a young man and his wife, and I dont know how many children. Ten wagons besides a buggy that Mr. Seymore has to ride in himself. I have given a hasty sketch of our party hope it will do. should like as much time to write every day but that is out of the question, cannot write again before I get to the Mormon settlement [*Fort Bridger?*] and probably not there, I don't think I can write again till I get to Cal. [*California*] Promised to write to Dr. [Slye?] from ft. Laramie will add a few words at Ft. Laramie. Remember me Dear wife before God

Respects to all
Your aff husband Daniel [*Daniel Grant*]

July 3 Just crossed the Larammie River all well – good luck so far. The most of the danger is yet to come, a very barren country here. The Rocky Mts. in sight; cannot get time to <*wright*> write. do not expect hear again. Farewell.

Your affectionate Husband
D. Grant. [*Daniel Grant*]

[Thursday] morning Pa got this yesterday Heare all well, Pa is gone to meeting & Ma is going. Kiss [Eddie] for me half an hour & send Abby home. We came home friday night

Ralph E. Burr

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

Marysville [*California*], Dec. 9, 1850.

My Dear Wife,

It is a long time since I wrote home, longer I think than it will be again. You may expect a letter every mail after this, or twice a month. I am now in Marysville [*California*] & have been for some time. As long as I remain here, or where I can get to the P. O. [*Post Office*] I shall send by every mail, & I would be glad to receive by every mail.

Have had no news from you since M. [*Marcus Grant*] arrived because I suppose, I have not sent for any or have sent but once & then the express did not return. I shall send to Sacramento city by the next mail, to have letters forwarded to Marysville [*California*], if the P. M. [*Post Master*] will regard my request I have no doubt I shall hear from you, but it is very uncertain whether he will, Post Master are either exceding careless here, or else exceeding indifferent.

I have been searching for a piece of land for M. [*Marcus Grant*] & myself & for cows that we could buy but both are very difficult to find or at least it is difficult to find land at the present time that suits in quality & location, six months ago I could have found it.

There is a place about two miles from here where I think to go & build a small cabin & if I can get a few cows, & keep there I will, & when M. [*Marcus Grant*] comes we will decide whether it is best for us to stay there, or not.

M. [*Marcus Grant*] is still on the Yuba river & I suppose doing pretty well, I have not heard def<*f*>inite from him since I left him, some six weeks since, suppose he has had no opportunity to send.

Marysville [*California*] is a flourishing place, & I think will continue to grow for a time yet, the city as it is called is regularly laid out the streets crossing at right angles. It is a very pretty location, & I think healthy there were two or three cases of <clol> chol[e]r<y> [*cholera*] when it was so bad at S. City [*Sacramento City, California*], but I can see no reason why it is not healthy.

The buildings are mostly made of cloth & almost every house is a store, tavern or some other kind of shop. A great deal of gambling is done every day, every tavern is furnished with cards & tables for the accommodation of visiters, & loafers many is the game played for a drink & even for money, the monta bank [*montebank*] is the principal bank here, there being many of

them, but Faro is common & Rolet, [*Roulette?*] Ronda & all other kinds of games are always to be found.

The stores are none of them furnished with stoves, but the weather is considered warm enough to throw the doors wide open & admit all the air.

There are but few women here of the right sort, but plenty of bad ones. It seems that bad women & gambl<*ing*>ers are good associates.

Yesterday I attended church, meeting was held in the court house. The minister is a young man, & <prety> smart enough for this country I suppose, he told us that he wanted us to contribute enough to enable him to live, said "the laborer is worthy of his hire," & "all he asked was enough to live," & I am sure it [will] not cost him but little more to [live?] here with the high prices, than it <*is f*> does most of our ministers at home. You must not think that it is for want of talent that he will live cheap, it is the absence of false pride, & a sense of our wickedness in this country, & a desire to do us good, he is some like that man we liked so well in Wis. [*Wisconsin*], I have forgotten his name.

Do you think I thought of home while I was at church, ah! you know I am thinking of home nearly every moment, but the impressions were more vivid when there.

I thought to write a full letter this time & give you a good deal of information about myself & other things here but, I think I must cut it short & see if I cant do it next time.

The last letter I sent home <&> contains ½ an oz. gold dust M. [*Marcus Grant*] wrote in the letter, he stated that I was going to packing, so I did, & succeeded in getting the load to the place, but on my return I lost both of my mules for which I paid $165.00 I then gave up doing any more packing. Send your letters to Marysville pay no postage unless Joel continues to be postmaster I am pretty well. Your aff. [*affectionate*] husband
Daniel

<There is something of a revival here I hope you & Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] will remember & pray for us all that we too may be blessed I went to meeting last Friday there was a very full prayer meeting Halsey Stevens & Ralph Cressey and others have hopes think Erastus & nor Ralph haven't been awakened R. could not very well attend meetings, I believe it began among the Methodist

Mrs. Rebecca Sexton Canfield has a son 6 days old we had never though of the thing till Mrs. Welch told of it yesterday Elmore Canfield's wife has one 3 weeks old we heard for the first time today There was a man killed yesterday in Capt. Duvals shop by the burtsing of a grind stone

P. Burr [*Pamela Burr*]

Jan 25>

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

Oneida Bar opposite Bartons Bar [*California*]

Sept. 6 – 52

Dear Wife,

I have taken my pen to commence a letter to you, but my hand trembles so that it is difficult to write. You will not wonder, that my <*near*> nerves are affected, when I tell you that I have just begun to get my strength, after a relapse of my former sickness, of which I made mention in my last, and of the sweeping pestilence, that threatens to depopulated our bars, viz. the cholera.

Nigh before last, (saturday night) six men died with Cholera on the other side of the river, & yesterday five more were added to the number, last night & to day has swelled the number but I know not how much, <*two*> two of our neighbors breathed their last on this side the river last night, & another is at this moment almost gone.

Great numbers have fled, I say great numbers, I mean proportionably, the whole population on both sides the river, I presume <*will*> would not exceed 200, when the disease broke out. Now there are not enough, to take care of the sick, <*or*> and bury the dead.

We hope the plague is stayed. The only question now is are there any new cases? we don't stop to count the dead.

Not a case has been cured.

It is now six o clock, about three hours since I wrote the foregoing. I fell better than I did then, my hand is a little more steady.

There are no new cases of Cholera that I hear of. Not a man that feels well, & about half the men on both sides of the river are quite unwell. All that have shown symptoms of the dread disease have slept their last sleep.

I hope we may all rest tonight.

Oh! that I may never witness another such a scene.

To go from house to house & prepare bodies for the grave, some of which had been lain for six or eight hours, was almost too much for me in my weak state, but I have been thus far sustained.

Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] is with me, which is a great comfort. He has been here one week

Tuesday morn. nine oclock. No new cases that I have heard of.

There has been some change in the weather which is favorable. How delicious a little rain would be, yet rain enough to raise the streams would do an immense amount of damage to miners.

There has been no warmer weather this summer than there is every summer, but if I have not strangely forgotten there has been a great deal more of it.

Almost every day for nearly three months, the thermometer has been more than 100 above zero. The highest I have known is 115 in the shade. It sometimes is 120 and more, but this season the weath- has been more uniform than usual.

It has been very unhealthy as far as I know. Nearly the whole population in the low country, either have been or are sick.

Half past six. Two new cases of chol,- are reported but not severe. Oneida & Barton's Bar [*California*] look very desolate. The sick & ailing are generally getting better.

Business which was entirely suspended has been commenced by a very few men today. It must be sometime before the number of men that have left will be replaced. I fear it will be a great hindrance to our getting in to the river. Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] has been to work to-day.

Wednesday morn. The cases of cholera reported yesterday were slight, & I have heard this morn, that they are convalescent.

Everything is quiet now, the stillness of the tomb appears in this usually bustling place.

The air is more bracing than it has been formerly. I have no doubt that many of us owe our lives, to the change in the weather.

I heard this morning that there has been some rain in the mountains, which confirms my opinion of the cause, of the change in the atmosphere.

I have not heard from Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] since he was here, & wrote a letter to Erastus.

Letters from home are becoming almost as scarce as showers, in this now parched country.

After you receive this you may direct all your letters to Parks Bar, Yuba Co. besure to write Yuba Co. Cal,

I think all is not right at Marysvill P.O. [*Post Office*] Let Marcu's' [*Marcus Grant*] letters be sent to the same place. It may not be long before we shall give other directions, but until we do direct as above.

Our prospects are discouraging again this year. They were some what flattering before this plague broke out. A few days may improve appearances, but at all events there is, & will be a [delay?].

Do write often.

Your affectionate husband

Daniel Grant

P. S. Thursday morn. Sept. 9. one of the cases of cholera reported yesterday as convalescent has proven fatal, the other is still better.

Another case reported last night has proven fatal, & still another has been attacked this morning.

Sept. 27 My Dear Wife

I wrote the above for the last mail but as we were so unsettled at that time & as the letter would have a tendency to create unnecessary fears I did not send it.

There have been several cases of cholera the opposite side of this river since writing before but it has not been very prevalent in this neighbor At [Bevre's] Bar a mile above here for some days past it has been severe but is growing less At Marysville & some other places it is pretty bad but does not cause the fears it did at first.

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Hamilton [*California*] Sep 24, 1854

My Dear Friends

I cannot on the present occasion write to you as I wish, for various reasons, but partly for want of time.

You can bring every means of consolation before yourselves, that it is in my power to bring before you, relating to the melancholy accident, that has led us to mourn. Long before this reaches you, you will learn the sad inteligence, but how long after the occurrence before you can know. You may even now be writing for the next mail, to one who is in his grave. I have received a letter from him & written one to him, since he died. How I often tremble when I write home with the thought that time enough has passed since I have heard, for more than one of those to whom I am writing to be laid in the toom. Last Tuesday just as the sun was setting I took from the office a letter with the sup<*p*>erscription in an unknown hand. I did not open it till I reached home when I learned of what seems to us the untimely death of brother Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*]. It is hard for us to at all times reconcile ourselves to the ways of Providence. How can we see any wisdom in taking away a promising young man from us. Here is a mystery.

Dear Mother,

Do you feel that you cannot reconcile yourself to the calamity that has befallen you or do you take a beter view of the case & think it is as the Lord would have it that your children have been spared to you for a long time & now the Lord wants your youngest perhaps to make him more happy & perhaps for more weighty reasons. We can often reason better for others than for ourselves for our feelings often get the better of our reasoning faculties & lead us astray.

Try not to let it be so in your case I would be very glad to comfort you in this trial but you can do it better yourself.

Dear Father [*Ebenezer Burr*]

How is it with you? Do you feel that a pillar is gone that was one of your principal supports? It is even so but it was found to be a support that was necessary to be removed or was not needed in the place where it stood.

It seems to me that it will be hard for you to reconcile yourself to the removal but you will succeed.

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

What shall I say to you Our brother is gone a journey from which he will not return We shall go to him we know not how soon but we shall never see his smiling face again on earth.

How I want to be with you now. Rs. [*Ralph E. Burr*] letter showed that he felt cheerfull when he wrote it. He spoke of going home I mentioned to him that M. [*Marcus Grant*] thought of going home in the fall. He says "So Marcus is going home lucky hombra (umbra) "lets all go, what do you say to it."

Mr. Pendleton did not mention any remarks of his during his last hours, perhaps he did not make any. I have anticipated great pleasure in the hope of meeting him this fall but it was not to be.

Mr. Pendleton wrote that he would settle the business & send the money <*to*> home. perhaps that is the best way

Sept. 25 I fell asleep last night writing & was obliged to go to bed before I had done
The letter must go in a few minutes & I must close.
We have good health,

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Grant

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

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

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

It is some time since I received the letter containing the news of your fathers [*Ebenezer Burr*] death. I have no excuse for permitting so long a time to pass without writing & I believe It is not best for me to make any calculations about writing often. I wish I was with you to comfort you in your afflictions, but it is not to be you know the true source of comfort. If the Lord spares us a few months longer we shall meet again on earth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It seems that not more than 25 years ago the indians were pretty numerous in this valley. <*Tthe*> The old sites of indian vilages here shows to some extent that such was the case I saw a statement in a M.ville [*Maryville, California*] paper in 1851 purporting to come from an old Californian He said he traveled through this country from the south part to Oregon in the summer

of –4[2?] & returned in –43 When he went up the valley was thickly populated with indians but there was very high water that winter wh. [*which*] caused it to be very unhealthy the following season & great very great numbers died so that when he returned the valey was almost depopulated & dead bodies lay st[. . .]d over the surface of the ground The account I thought was not to be credited & it was but about a year ago that I succeeded in getting any clue to the matter. At last I learnt that at that time or rather 10 years before for it was in –33 instead of –43 the Columbia fur company were trapping here & the indians being troublesome they inoculated two or three with the smallpox & it came near exterminating the whole race but they are fast dwindling away now & the same ratio followed back for 25 years would find a pretty large population

Yours entirely
Daniel Grant

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

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

My Dear Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thine, Dear Wife,
Daniel Grant

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

My dear beloved husband [*Daniel Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

<*I sent out to you*>

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

Write to me when I shall look for you.

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

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

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

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], May 5th 1856

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*]

I wish to address you not only as a brother by the tie of humanity but as a brother through sympathy with one to you the dearest object on earth and I wish to speak to you upon one particular subject and ask you forbearance if anything I should say seems to you more than I have a right to say – C [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has told you of the changes that have taken place of her sorrows, and her hopes, and I have seen through your last letter your failure to realize those fond wishes for which you "have endured" so much and your wife also. Let me entreat you to take one hours calm consideration of the subject of your return home, look upon it in all its bearings, consider that those here now need the comfort of your presence more than ever, and though your

lack of sympathy of some of whom you have a right to expect it. You are certain of the sympathy and confidence of others, and above all if any one resolves before God to perform a duty which they have solemnly decided to be a duty they are sure of strength to perform it. Though it require much self sacrifice; and its burdens seem impossible to bear. (My " strength is sufficient for you saith the Lord") ("God is truth") With assurances like these before you let the troubled waters of your soul grow calm, think of the joy of reunion with those you love most, and that more than half our troubles come from anticipation of evil. Decide then and act before the hour of weakness has time to come again and my word for it you will find less to bear and more strength to bear it than you anticipate. Here you will be almost sure of enough of the things of this life for comparative comfort and though you would have to sacrifice much of self in returning be assured that Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] would have to sacrifice as much in doing that which would be her duty did you positively command but which love for you and her children, and past experience otherwise forbid.

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

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

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

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

Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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Newark N.J.[*New Jersey*]
Thursday Eve

My Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Aff. [*affectionate*] Sister
Gertie D. Grant [*Gertrude D. Grant*]

Our address is Mt Pleasant Newark NJ

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

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

Dear Brother,

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

As to St. Paul, or lots in it I know nothing whatever about it or them, and if I did, it is now too late to give you advice. This letter cannot leave till Mond. the 7th and and will not reach you before the 12th, or a fortnight from the date of yours. As to the lots in W. St. Paul [*Minnesota*], so much depends on this situation that no one could tell whether they were worth little or much without seeing them. You need to sell your farm well <*to*> if you take them. One annoyance connected with them will be the taxes, for in a city or growing village (as I presume W. St. Paul may be) the authorities lay taxes almost as often as the months come round for some purpose general or Special. How ever, if you have become the owner of them you must, I suppose, do the best possible with them. It is a place much visited by travellers in summer, and by some of them we may be able to learn something. It is a good ways from this – about 330 miles from Chicago, in <*in*> a straight line; probably 375 <*in*> by any of the ordinary routes of travel. At present real estate is very much depressed in Minnesota generally, & I presume in St. Paul also. If these lots are not now sold for taxes, and you can keep them free from that kind of incumbrance for three or four years, they may prove of value, but I should rather have $300 than both of them at a guess. I presume you think so too.

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

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

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

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

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

I am not certain where I shall go at last. I am engaged here till Oct. next, though not so but that I can probably leave previously if it should seem best. I do not quite like the place, though the people are kind and appreciative & give me $800 salary. I go home to Lockport once in two weeks or thereabouts -- am going to day.

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

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

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Lockport, Ill. March 25, 1859.

Dear Sister C [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

You have probably known something of the situation of our family the past winter -- Mr. Grant went directly to Bristol [*Illinois*] in this state, where he is still laboring, with more encouragement than in any other place -- The town village is not as large as this, but spiritual things are valued more. Meetings are better attended, church members more active, indeed every thing more encouraging -- The location is fine, on Fox River -- it is three miles away from the R.R. [*Railroad*] station of the same name, which seems a great way, for now we are only a quarter of a mile from the depot -- I hope Mr. G. [*Joel Grant*] will think it best to remain then -- I spent a week with him recently, leaving my family of seven in the care of a girl, that makes [Flora's?] place good -- I have the four teachers of the public school, & [Tom?] Hubbell (formerly of E. Avon) in my family -- John, & Isabella (the girl) -- Willy is taken care of near by -- shall leave him for the summer, in the same care -- Mrs. Spenser does more for him than I could -- He grows, but those dreadful fits have taken so much of his reason, that he cannot take any care of himself -- not so much as to go & get a drink -- he asks for it -- but would empty a cup all over himself if let alone -- we think him a little better just now, but I cannot feel much encouraged as long as he has them at all -- The discipline of someone in his care, is more than every other trial --

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

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

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[*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 '<u>not far from his head.</u>' Phil<l> 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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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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Newburyport. Aug 10, 1864.

My dear Caroline,

Thanks for your letter. Every day I have been wishing to write to you & could not. Last week I was so [prosnate?] with heat & being tired, that it seemed plain that I must not attempt to take a trip to Conn. before Sept. I am often [north?] year all in spirit. My love to your father, mother, husband & children.

The rain of a week ago, revived the vegetable and the animal world here. The red sun & floating dust shows the dryness now. Three children have died of dysentery within a few days more children are ill with it. It is said that 150 children have been carried off north it in Cleveland, Ohio within a month.

Our daily prayer meeting fr. 4 to 5 p.m. began the first of May is still continued. It is a means of grace & have made it a point to rest beforehand and attend. Tho I have not attended much the last [...] weeks. I am better & have to be present to day. It is held in [Cong?] Pres. Back North & 2nd Advent churches [around?]. This week it is not the Whitfield ch. in State St. very near. Asa & [Joshua?] that felt, that help must come from God alone. In him alone, is there help for you & for me, & for our country.

Abbie wrote me a pleasant & good letter from Winsted, Ask her to write again. In love.

Z.P.B. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]
Ms. L G. Hill is at Cleveland, Ohio. She goes then to see Licencta.

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[*Susan Jenkins Boyd Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

Canton March 16, 1866.

My dear Sister

Through the Winsted Herald we some time since learned of the death of our dear mother, and have been waiting hoping to learn some particulars of her last illness but I can well see that among your many cares it would be no easy matter to find time to write to so many friends It is very sad to me to think that I shall never see her again. I feel that I am a better woman for the influence of her example and the many precepts which she has impressed upon my mind, but how far short I fall of what she would have me be and of what I might be How very very lonely father must be without her. I am very glad that Elizabeth has been permitted to spend this last winter with them. It must be a lasting satisfaction to her, a comfort to father and mother and I hope a relief to you with so many cares. I hope we all fully realize our obligations to you for all which you have done for our father and mother to make their last days comfortable and happy, and may you be rewarded both in this world and the world to come.

We often look back with pleasure to the pleasant visit which we had from Abbie and her cousins, and I hope we may see her here again at some future time. I am anxious to hear of the result of Daniels visit to Missouri. I hope when he comes west again you will accompany him to make us a visit.

We were much disappointed at not seeing Cousin Orville and Elizabeth. we looked for them for months thinking they must be on the reserve somewhere and would yet come to see us. I am afraid now that they will never come. How is Marcu's health. Poor Marcus how much he will miss mother.

Mary has at last returned home from the west came 180 mils by stage with the thermometer 26 below zero. was upset once and were obliged to lie by 2 nights and one day on account of the violence of the storm of wind & snow She however came very safely left Libbie well, with a daughter three weeks old. Mary will probably be married and go back there this spring or summer as Mr Wallace has settled at Omaha

Jennie is teaching some 18 little boys and girls and enjoys it well Boyd is studying at home this winter. He is not much inclined to study and I can keep at it better than his teacher can. We have had a large family this winter but our boarders are all gone but one now. Mr Grant is very well indeed. I am truly glad that he was able to see his father and mother so recently. The visit was a very pleasant one to him, and he will always look back to it with satisfaction.

Our neighbors Mr & Mrs Lester have just buried a little daughter just the age of Boyd. they have been always playmates together and it is almost like losing one from our own family. Our pastor too, Mr Buckingham buried his wife on Sunday. She had been feeble for a long time. Julius Whiting is quite out of health and much depressed in spirits, we hope however that the return of warm weather will restore him to his usual health.

Give much love from us to father Marcus Elizabeth, your family the cousins, and kind remembrances to any friends who may inquire for us. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your aff sister

S B Grant

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Aug. 27, 1867

My dear Caroline & Marcus,

Your kindness, your faithfulness to your aged father & friend, have not been unnoticed by Him, who loved this suffering friend, better than any of us have the power to love. The great question as to a preparation for an exchange of worlds is doubtless occupying the minds of each of us. I make a few extracts from <*th*> a letter of a modern patriarch, who had passed more than

half a century in the faithful service of God, & in great usefulness to man <*(for more than half a century.)*>

"When I attempt to think distinctly, of what my views & feelings shall be the moment of his death, I feel lost in the obscurity of the subject. I seem to dread the awful surprize that will burst upon my mind. But my only relief is, that the Great Shepherd, who accompanies his sheep thro' the valley of the shadow of death, will be their guides afterwards, or will furnish them with a convoy of angels. We need not trouble ourselves about the particular circumstances of our future state of existence, if only we are found among the number of Christ's sheep. For all his people he has provided suitable mansions in his Father's house. Some will occupy much higher places than others; but if we are admitted into the very lowest, it will be enough.

I have often resolved to begin to make special preparation for an ascent so certain & so near, but I find I can do nothing towards it by my own exertions. Dying grace is commonly reserved for a dying hour. The best preparation is to be found watching, & actively engaged in our Master's service. In thinking what will make death easy, it has occurred to me, that a lively faith is all that we need. To have a humble, confident trust in Christ, will bear us up, however the waves of Jordan may swell around us. Let us not torment ourselves with unnecessary fears & scruples. We must trust entirely to the mercy of God, & the merit of Christ & if we do so sincerely, we shall be safe."

At the time of exchanging worlds, perhaps your father had no distinct consciousness of leaving this state of being, no consciousness of dying. What must have been his emotions on waking in the likeness of the man Christ Jesus, our Almighty Savior: on first seeing Jesus as he is in his glorified state, conscious of sympathy with him of union with God, of being accepted in the Beloved, of assurance of having communion with Father, Son, & Holy Ghost forever, & of serving & glorifying our Creator, Redeemer & sanctifyer as long as they & he shall exist. Must not this be a heaven worth living for, worth dying for? Unto Him that loved us, & washed us from our sins in his own blood be glory & dominions for ever & ever, Amen,

In tender sympathy, Z.P.B. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Norfolk March 5. /68.

Dear cousin Caroline,

I have thought very many times of late, that I would write you, for, I knew you would be interested in hearing of the last days of our dear mother, and that you would remember us, in this time of our bereavement, and loneliness.

We cannot tell you, how much we miss that calm, placid face, how changed our home seems, our work, taken from us. In her weakness, and dependence, she had become so dear to us, we had, for so long made our plans with reference to her comfort, that she had become as it were, a part of our life, and the care of her seemed necessary, almost to our happiness.

Yet, while we mourn our loss, we rejoice in the glad hope, that, for her, the conflict is over, the victory won! that to her. The happy time has come of, endless peace, and rest. And she looks back upon the path, by which she was led, and says, 'It was the best.'

The memory of her sweet patience, and cheerfulness, during all those weary years we have to cherish, and with gratitude to Him, who, while He chastened, graciously sustained her. During the weeks preceding her death, she had very little appetite, and gradually lost strength, on Sat. Jan. 19, D. and I, assisted her in walking from her bed, to the lounge where she lay for a short time, then, with our help, she walked into her bedroom, which she never left more. During the day (Sat) and Sunday, she was able to take but little nourishment, seemed very weak, said but little, in the afternoon of Sunday, she was attacked with vomiting which soon exhausted her little strength, and at a little before 4 o'clock on Monday morning, she passed gently and peacefully away.

We trust the dear Saviour in that last hour, was her support, and comfort. Nearly her last words were – 'I can only trust in Christ.'

Thus our 'dear ones' are being gathered home, 'one by one.' How precious the hope – that, through trust, in that same Saviour, who carried them safely through, we shall meet them, in His blest presence, to 'go no more out forever.'

Mr. Eldridge is nearly well again, preaches as usual. We have fine sleighing all the time, cousin Marcus, has been out for us once, this winter, and we passed a day, or two, with him. He is really quite a housekeeper, but, I think he feels very lonely. Shall you not be able to take care of him one summer more? I am sure he hopes you will. It is the only pleasant arrangement for him, just now, perhaps in time he can make some change.

What do you hear from husband – Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] and Eddie [*Edward Grant*] Is Eddie where you see him often? I know you have many anxieties. Try to leave all with 'Him who cares for you.' Write us when you can find time. [Dise...??] desires to be remembered to you. Please remember us very kindly, to sister Mary and family –

With love, and best wishes of cousin Margaret.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Oberlin, Ohio

Bristol Ill. Oct. 28, '69.

Dear Sister,

Yours of Oct. 22, was rec'd to day. Am very glad to hear from you and Abbie – also from Mr. Burr, and Prof. Shurtleff and Edward. I write at once, not because I am able to suggest any thing exactly suited to his desires, but to suggest a possible release from his anxieties. I am not without hope that I may hear of a school for him, though I know of none now. What I would suggest is that he apply at once to his father to secure him a school in Kansas if possible. Perhaps you have pulled on his this string already - perhaps it will yield no results in any case, either because there are no schools, or because his father has no patronage in connection with them. But if the matter has not been tried I hope it will be.

Schools here are usually taught by young ladies the whole year round, and are largely already engaged. I will make immediate inquiry, however, and hope to secure one if he needs it.

I was in Chicago yesterday returned today. Abbie is well – though much burdened particularly because the Home is in great disorder – the carpenters & masons having failed to get their work forward as far as the unusual cold weather requires. She is looking for you, though she did not know exactly when.

Presume you may have heard of the death of our poor Willie. He died Oct. 16, AE. 17 "the child of misery baptised in tears." It was a blessed release to his spirit, which for 15 years had been locked in his tortured body as in a Bastile. We were all present at his funeral – and together stood at his grave and by the graves of our two others, three living by the three dead.

I remember with great pleasure my visit at Oberlin. Am hoping to repeat it some day. Was glad to make the acquaintance of them all – please remember me to Mr. Burr and Abbie also to Prof. & Mrs. Shurtleff.

My scrofulous affliction is at last removed. The final blow seems to have been given it by the use of red clover blossoms during the past summer. I made a beer of the tea, and drank it constantly – scarcely tasting any thing else, after my return from the East.

Your aff. brother,

Joel Grant.

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Norfolk, Conn. March 18, 1871.

Dear Sister,

I received your letter in due time. I see by your letter that you had not heard of Eben's death. Eben fell on the ice Monday Feb 20. between three & four in the afternoon -- he staid out about one half <*an*> hour played as usual.

he then came in went to his Mother said he fell on the ice and his head ached. We did not think him badly hurt until the Dr. came, which was the next morning about ten oclock. he staid twelve

hours. Called it severe concussion of the brain he was unconscious most of the time until he died Thursday morning about two oclock, he suffered terribly. It was hard to part with little Eben but it seems to me that it is for our good we have two little angels in heaven.

Ralph as been to the Center to School this winter Frank Phelps has taught the school.

Mary went to New Haven and to Groton this winter.

Aunt Sally was well the last time we heard.

Charles has rented his farm is going to pedling lightning rods for a company in Philadelphia Aunt Sally and Cha Wife are going to stay in Del.

Hattie and Martha have gone to Eldred Nebraska I think they have a small store Mr Collar is a very good neighbour is doing very well. they have a little Boy about 5 months old.

Plumb and his family are well their youngest childs name is Plumb Brown,

Aunt Eunice is not very well this winter. Uncle Parton has visited us this winter is very well.

Uncle and Aunt Wallace have been here this winter. Uncle and Aunt Collar are well. Russel and Jane have taken Uncle Collar's farm. they live in separate families.

Jane has a little boy is is about 5 months old.

Horace K Knapp has sold his farm to Abel Stevens. Knapp is going to live with Mrs Theodore Hall. this is where Frederick Porter used to live. Theodore Hall died last summer. Mr Samuel Seymour died this winter he went to bed well as usual was found dead in the morning.

I wrote you last spring not hearing from you would like to know if you received it. The taxes are dues April 1st 1871 I will pay yours. I am afraid you are so taken up with your little grand daughter you dont take as such time to think of Norfolk friends as you ought. Let us hear from you often. All send love to all.

from you

Aff. Brother,

Erastus Burr

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

[*Addressed to*:]

Caroline Grant

Clayton

Mass.

[*in pencil at top of page # 2*: letter fragment, probably Abigail G. Burr to Caroline Burr Grant, ~ 1876]

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He is to have thirty five dollars a month.

You know Mr. Emery is dead. Died the <*2nth*> of Sept. The Heirs will sell the board yard when they can but Father will be needed for two or three months to receive the payments of old bills and may have the situation all winter, but probably only two months. But this will be a help. The Emery house is to be closed this winter Cousin Annie goes to Julius in New York, Fred goes to Columbia College, New York City. They will sell the property as soon as they can. It will seem strange and sad to see strangers in that house. Cousin Annie asked if father would accept one of Mr. Emerys overcoats It is new he only wore it two or three times. It is a light weight coat and father is glad to have it.

Aunt H. gave Allie a good black worsted dress and it makes her a very nice dress indeed. So you see the Lord helps us and I do hope to pay a little of our debts

Sam has helped us this summer some beside sending us away but in my mind it is only a loan and we want to pay it back.

The Sutphins pay one hundred dollars pr month and furnish fuel for Mrs. Sutphins room. But we have had to buy a new small furnace which cost $55, beside a <*of*>small expense in putting it up.

You remember we had a small furnace but it was worn out. The new one is a very good one and they ask at retail ($125, but as they have no agent here Father and Chalmers insisted on their taking off all the “per cents” possible.

Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] and I have moved into the 3rd story room and we are all cleaned and straight up there, and I wish you could see how nice our room looks we shall put up a small stove and in coldest weather have a fire In ordinary weather, the room will be warm enough from the heat in the Hall .

Oct. 14th

This is the way it goes two weeks since I began this. I went to New York as we planned altho’ it was a rainy day we chose the carpet a [body?] Brussels best quality. We had it made in city Did not come until last <*Mond*>Wednesday Got it down Thursday. It is light ground but well covered Has brown terre cotta, & Persian blue in the figures and we all like it very much I wish you could see it for yourself. The Sutphins are here came Oct. 2nd They seem pleased with their rooms, paid one hundred dollars in advance. We paid for furnace, also bought 5 tons of furnace coal (27.50)

I have finally sold my safe. Received fifty dollars cash for it Paid twenty dollars on our sixty seven dollar

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Dr’s bill, ten dollars on carpet, ten to Miss Kate Nevins for making or rather remaking summer dresses. The remaining ten will go for repairing winter wardrobe. Mrs. Higgins has helped us with sewing It does seem impossible to get through with every thing. We are trying to get a girl but we have so much work to do that girls are afraid to come We certainly do not expect any girl to do all our work. Have our washing done out of the house. We have a good strong woman who comes Fridays to clean This week beside the regular cleaning we gave Father’s room its regular fall cleaning. I [. . . ed] our Father’s clothes brushed and sponged them And there is a blue coat that he does not need any longer. It is old but still in pretty decent condition and I wonder if either Uncle [Lennie?] or Ed would use it. We have a few articles to send Lucy can you tell us what sizes stockings the children wear. Wish we were able to help them It would be a pleasure we often speak of them How very little to spare in the way of winter clothing. Do the children need flannel skirts? If so give me the length of skirt, I think we can spare some flannel, enough for one any way.

Aunt H. gave Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] on her birthday some beautiful flannel for a skirt also gave me some at the same time. I needed mine very much and am very thankful for it. Had a new <u>heavy</u> one last winter.

I hope Ed is really improving. It has been a very hard time for him and he has our sympathy in his trials. Answer as soon as you conveniently can the questions about the children.

Last eve, we were all down to [Leygui?]’s to tea. We gave the Sutphins their tea early and then we all left the house to take care of them until our return a little after nine.

Thursday Eve, we young people were at a party given by Mrs. A.H. Rittenhouse. Had a very pleasant evening.

They have sold the board yard so Father does not have to go back after tea. Does not yet know how long he will be needed We are making about forty lbs. of butter a week. Have found sale for it at 25 cts pr lb. up to Oct. 1st Since then have 30 cts pr lb. Have a fresh cow last week just fresh in Sept. Hope to sell cream this winter Sold twelve qts care of mills last week. This, of course adds to our work.

Now I must go to bed. Refrigerator to clean in morning, churning, etc. Oh Abbie is going to Phila.. [*Philadelphia*] to make a long promised visit to Sophie Hill, leaves the children at home, Have we . . .

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[*Printed letterhead*:]

Belleville Avenue Congregational Church,
Newark, N. J., July 5th 1878

Mrs. Daniel Grant [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

My dear Madame

I am deeply grieved to be the bearer of evil tidings. Mr. John Grant was seized suddenly with acute pleurisy last evening at about 5 o'clk. and died this morning at 8 o'clock. We are all greatly shocked, as I know you will be. He was unconscious for some time before he died. We take the body to Colebrook Conn. [*Connecticut*] for interment, on Monday morning.

Yours in haste & sorrow

Geo. M. [Bryceton?]

for Mrs. Grant.

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

[*Note on envelope:*] Aug 3, '78

Speaks of Edw's visit & of the Burrs (Almon's family) & of her fall.

Cushing Me [*Maine*]
July 31st 1878

My dear Mother,

We have been in Cushing nearly two weeks now and have been enjoying ourselves very well. Celia and Nettie Burr came a few days ago, and Austin Willard and my brother Edward came today. Edward appears well. I think him a very fine looking young man. He is to stay but a few days, not so long as I hoped he would be able to. I feel proud of him beside those Burrs he looks and acts so much more gentlemanly. I dont see how my husband came to be so different from the rest of his family. I am proud of <u>him</u> too. I sent a pair of shoes to you this morn I beg pardon for being so long about it. I put them all up in a little box before I left Hallowell and was going to express them to you But when Almon [*Almon Burr*] came home he hadn't time to make any enquiries, about rates and thought perhaps we would better wait, and not send them immediately so we took out a pair and brought along to send as soon as we could.

I fell on the stairs last Sunday and hurt my back quite badly. I think something as you hurt yourself at Uncle Erastuses once. It quite laid me up, until today I am getting about a little more, but I havent got full control of my legs and arms yet. I am sorry on Edwards account that it happened just now. still I hope to get about a good deal before he goes away. Now dont worry about it. I think I shall do well. I am using sea water and hops and wormwood and mustard, and Almon has been to the doctor and brought some alchohol, and I am going to have a [cat] spruce plaster, and I dont know what else, so if there is any virtue in doctoring I <*dont*> think I shall get it.

Edward and Almon and one of the other boys I think have gone out fishing for mackerel. The rest are down at the shore some where.

Uncle Johns death has saddened me very much, dear kind Uncle John, it doesnt seem possible that I cant see him again. I did love him very very dearly. When you have time please write me something about it. I had a letter from Aunt Elizabeth Burton a few days ago. I dont remember that there was any especial news in it except that William is in Los Angeles Cal. [*California*] but what doing I dont know.

I hope that you are well. Please give my love to Uncle and Aunt and take a great deal for yourself from your daughter Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

Aug 2nd My back is very much better. I think it will soon be quite well. My birthday yesterday.

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[*Note on envelope:*] from Abigail Cowles Grant
Dec. '78 -

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

[*Printed letterhead:*] Chicago Home for the Friendless,
911 WABASH AVENUE,
Chicago, Dec. 16, 1878,

Dear Sister [C?],

I am always glad to hear from you, & especially so now, for it has been so long. Am glad you are in usual health, & that you hear from E. [*Edward Burr*] & Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] & family often. I hope the funds will be raised for the school, for the sake of the pupils, as well as Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*] – it would be unpleasant for them to change, where all seems going so well.

I fear, as you do, that either one or the other of you will die before you & Daniel meet, but I do not know as it can be helped, tho' I think the survivor will feel very bad – Life seems more uncertain to me each year, & day:

I do feel brother John's death, very much indeed – he was very dear to me, & to all of us – I pity Gertie [*Sarah Gertrude Day Grant*] & [Lilly?] O. so much – there can be no loss so great as husband & father or mother – I hear [Co. J?] to be at brother Marcus, & for a time G. is to visit in Winsted. [Loni?] G. & Harriet have just gone to housekeeping in their new house –

J. L. & wife Susan, have a rented house, furnished, a small cottage, his early in Jan: then the owners return, & they will probably board, - as it is cheaper, & takes less of John's time, & gives me more of his time.

Mr. & Mrs. Wallace, & Jennie Grant from Omaha spent last week in C, we saw considerable of them but not nearly enough – all [well].

Remember me to your Aunt Collar - & to [btokice?] & to him you write.

My eyes will not let me write more tonight, so goodbye. Love to each & all the friends & a large [share?] for yourself,

from yr aff sister Abby – [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Five years ago now, my precious husband was with me. It has been so lonely since, but the years shorten & I shall ere long join him in the Bethel Land –

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[*Minnie Hill to Caroline Burr Grant*] Office
Jan 11, th '81.

Dear Aunty

Mother received your letter this P.M. We are all very sorry indeed to hear of Uncle Erastus' sad accident but hope to hear still better news than you sent us, Hope Mary is there to help Aunt Nancy and be a comfort to her Father It was too bad I forgot to send that bundle I send it tonight Hope Ed has not his expectations raised with regard to it The contents are only some cloth gloves pretty color but too large for any of us but Father & too small for him Miss Bethel gave them Hope they will fit Ed The reason that I forgot to send them before is that we are so busy Sophie Hill has been with us two weeks & Paddie Morrison was also with us between Xmas & New Years and with the work & Carrie trying to study some Latin & less Algebra and the office work keeps us stirring round only mornings I dont get up much before half past six & I am the first after Papa Carrie does not know that her back is much better We try to spare her & hope she will be better sometime Allie is going home with Sophie next week and will have a chance to rest up We think she is pretty well Father better than he was but is very stiff sometimes Mama well & so am I. Will Allen was buried today Allie Sophie & I attended the funeral He was in bed but two days How he felt with regard to the future no one knows I did not hear all your letter so perhaps leave out something I might write, kind remembrances to Uncle and Aunt & Ed

With love
Minnie

Shall be glad to hear further news of Uncle Erastus if you have time to write

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant

Care of Bea J. N. Collar
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
Flemington N.J. [*New Jersey*]
May 8. 1881

My dear sister

Your letter was gladly recd. Had been anxious to hear from Aunt Emeline & you all. What great cause for thankfulness that our dear aunt is granted a cheerful & a comfortable "passing away". I hope she may <*be*> welcome us all in the Happy Land. Have thought much of you all to day & wondered if her Spirit were still with you. How is aunt Jane? I would like to see her. I hope Uncle Collar is in comfortable health that he may be able the better to pass through this season of affliction

About cashmere shawl. You ask whether I would prefer it or the petticoat. I would like the New Haven [*Connecticut*] people to have their choice. I should be perfectly satisfied with either or neither.

Regarding the "Turkey red" & green quilt aunt spoke of giving to Aletta. I dont see <*ho*> why there should be any hard feelings. If aunt Emeline were living when Aletta was married & she were to give her that as a bridal present no one would think of saying a word I presume.

I have no doubt they do value that old fashioned comfortable more than either of the others. There is such a craze <*now*> in these days over antique things. If any of aunts underclothing is left -- please keep it rather than send it here -- it would fit you so much better & the stockings also would no doubt <*be*> suit you better.

How events are crowing upon you. Aunt leaving, Daniel coming, Edward married &c. As your day is so will I hope be your strength.

Love to all & aunt Jane,
Your aff. sister
M.B. Hill. [*Mary Burr Hill*]

We are all pretty well -- Mary not very strong -- but better than she was.

[*written across first* page] If the Cashmere shawl were to fall to me I should let you have it -- & I say that I think you must ought to have <a> one of the good shawls to wear in place of yours that is so much injured by that tear -- Being constantly worn the one side out -- it will soon become rusty. I <*think that*> have fared well & I think the New Haven people have fared better than you in the division --

I would not do any thing myself nor have you do any thing to make hard feelings -- But as you asked about the <*shawl*> shawl -- thought I would speak my mind. I only think you need not be afraid to take it -- that's all -- However it goes -- do not feel badly.

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
(Care of Bea Collar)
Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
May 21st 1881

My dear Mother,

I want to write you a few words this evening but cannot find my pen. and do not feel quite energy enough to go to the study for Almon's [*Almon Burr*]. so will you please excuse me if I use a pencil.

The card telling of Aunt Emmelines death was received. Of course after the messages that I had received from you and Edward, I was not surprised to hear that she was gone from us. and I sympathyse most sincerely with the large circle of friends who have lost in her one ever kind and helpful, thoughtful for their interests, and interested in them as people rarely are in one another even though they be close of kin, and dear Uncle, my heart is especially sore for him in

his loneliness. May the dear Lord comfort him, and be company for him. I hope that you are all in reasonable health.

I read in the *Chicago Advance* of the death of Aunt Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]. Have you heard any thing more of Aunt Gertie [*Sarah Gertrude Day Grant*]?

We are in our usual health. though Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] does not seem strong. and her eyes are troubling her very much. I have been having one of my bad headaches. and am not quite over it yet

With much love to you all

Your aff. daughter.

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

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Bolton, Aug. 25, Thurs, 81

Dear Carrie -- I was very glad indeed to get a letter from you & was thinking of writing you fearing that your much work & many cares would prevent you from writing for some time. I was glad to hear that you were getting along so nicely & that Mr Collar was getting along so well with his farm work I have thought of you both very often this summer of the loneliness, How you must miss sister! no one to go to consult as you have been accustomed to do, & so many things to constantly remind you of her. She is on my mind a great deal & it seems hard to realise that I am to have no more letters from her but it is a great consolation to me to feel that she was so willing to go, and that she could speak of it so calmly. I am greatly impressed with the shortness of life. a few years at most left for me. I dont know why I should want to live but I have a great clinging to life. I have felt since I got home this summer that my end might not be far off I have felt great languor. It has been a great effort for me to do my work & would want to lie down in the day time I had no sickness, but I am feeling better now especially as the weather is some cooler I hope you are well over your billious attack. almost every one is subject to some poor days I suppose Jennie has not been to New Haven as you said nothing of it I have not heard from there since I left neither have I written but I have a letter begun

I was very glad to know that Caroline Mead had written Mr Collar & to hear something of her Electa has not written me at least I have not received any letter from her I should like to hear of her & her circumstances as I was more acquainted with her than with Caroline whom I never saw but once I think

I must forget to tell you that I said to Mary when I was in Flemington that I had given you some green veiling & I thought you intended to color it & send some to them Oh she said green is just in fashion so perhaps you will not take the trouble to color it I should like to tell you a good deal more about my pleasant visit there <*but*> to New Haven but I cant now Do give my love to them when you write I intended to <*to*> have written before now but I could not very well & I knew they would be very busy & perhaps would not think of it.

Give my love to Samantha & the boys I am glad she gets up to see you occasionally It must be very lonesome to you to have no women in the house to speak to I know how it is for when I was in Topsfield I had no on to speak to but men & could seldom get out to speak to a woman rember me to Mr Collar & Jennie & write when ever you can. We are all well here. O I will tell you that black dress of sisters that I brought for Mary we find very tender indeed & Mary thinks she cannot possibly get a dress out of it for her It was not so full a dress as some of them were She feels quite disappointed but she will get along without it but she depended on that. Our children have been berrying some & between them they have got over $20. but I guess not $25, & they have used & carried what they cared for They got from five to 10 cts a qt

S.J.W. [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Flemington N. J. [*New Jersey*]
Mon. eve. Mar. 24 – 84

My dear Auntie

Your letter came this morning, we were very glad to hear, we were afraid it would be a great shock to you, but please Auntie don't blame us for not letting you know before. We did not telegraph to Sam until Friday eve. poor fellow, he did not get here until all was over. The doctor had spoken very encouragingly of Mamma, and we had great hopes of her going right on improving. When the doctor came Friday morn. he said Mama was not so well that she has not fair, square pneumonia, but it was the rheumatism that had gone to her lungs, the left lung was affected, that was about ten o'clock in the morning, he said he would call again <in the> toward eve. I had no idea then, that the end was so near, neither had the Dr. After dinner Mama seemed so much worse, that when Papa went up to the Office, he sent Minnie at once for the doctor, but the Dr. was not home & would not be until six o'clock that eve. When Minnie came home, Mama said Dr. Ewing would not get here and she wanted some other doctor, so we sent for Sullivan he came a little after six o'clock said Mama was very dangerously ill – pneumonia in both lungs that, he said might be relieved but he did not like the looks of here eyes and lips (by this time her hands and arms up to the elbows were cold) we telegraphed to Sam after Dr. S. had been here, so you see the end came upon us very suddenly. Carrie was with her in the afternoon. At 2 o'clock I was obliged to go up stairs to my baby, who was very wakeful that day, I came down again at five, and was very much alarmed at Mamas condition. Mama was perfectly conscious that she was dying. She was not afraid, though I think she dreaded the physical suffering – When Minnie was by her in the evening once (Mama), she told her not to cry, it was all right it had to come sometime. Mama said a great many things that I know you would like to hear but I can't write them to night and I hope you can come and make a visit and we can tell you all about it. One thing I must tell you, Mama mentioned you, said "my love to Aunt Carrie" and then afterwards "my dear sister" She left her love to all her friends in Connecticut.

She said "Tell Dr. Mott it must be hard to die <u>without</u> a Saviour" said "I know the Lord Jesus is all sufficient" her mind wandered more or less all through her illness. She did not talk after 12 o'clock , excepting just yes or no, and about the hot flannels we're were using, yes – she did say one or two things but her mind was wandering – Mrs. Bullock was with us all night and was such a comfort. When the Dr. went away at 1 o'clock he said that we need not fear that Mama would die that night, he though her better, he said if she could live 24 hours, she would have a chance for her life, but do not think he expected her to last longer than Sat morn. It did not seem to me that Mama could live through the night, I am so tired dear Auntie that I can't write much more, we will try and write [soon] again. Sophie Hill came up [Sunday?] [afternoon] and is the greatest [comfort] to us. Everyone is so kind and <take> everything is that can be is taken off our shoulders. Chalmers is taking charge of office has John [C....?] & John Bullock to help him. Uncle Erastus came to night and I wish you could be here too. I dread to morrow very much, but I know you will be thinking of us and praying for us. It is very hard to let Mama go, although we feel assured that she is far happier. She needed so much care that we still feel that she must need something and often think we here coughing or pounding (she had a cane to pound on the floor, if we were not there) I think Mama <said> for us, felt that <I had> she had good care – Papa was <u>so</u> good to her Mama often told him, that she could not live without him, she thought no one else could fix her for the night like papa. The services to morrow will be short. Mrs. Nerius and some others will sing "Asleep in Jesus and perhaps one other hymn. We are all quite well, but of course tired. We all try to keep up, for Papas' sake and for each other. I feel so sorry for Papa, he is all alone now, of course we are left but it is not like his wife. I think he was very glad to have uncle E. come.

Well good night dear Auntie write and ask questions, if we do not write enough. There is so much we can't write, so I hope you will come and make a visit

Very lovingly your niece

Allie

All send love.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs Caroline Grant
C/o Rev. A. W. Burr
Andover

Mass [*Massachusetts*]
From Wm. Hill after Sister A's death Apr. '84.
Bittersweet April 6/84

Dear Sister

I have passed many lonely hours since the sad event so unexpectedly came to pass. It was only on Friday Morning when Mary thus spoke "I would like to stay a few days longer, but if it is God's will <that> I am willing to go. Yes I want to, that I realized the probability of what happened.

She was wonderfully patient & cheerful all through her long weary & painful sickness, and thankful for all that was done for her comfort. We miss her so much every day in so many many ways. Yet we try to say even so Father for so it seems good in thy sight. And we pray that the faith that sustained her in her departure May be ours when our turn shall come to bid farewell to all things here below.

It was the most beautiful day of the spring when we laid her down to her last rest, but even its brightness, would have been darkness except for the shining of the Sun of Righteousness. We rec'd words of Sympathy & deeds of Kindness from Many friends far, and near and it was a great comfort to have all My dear children with me and to know & feel that there dear Mother still lives in them.

Sophie Hill staid with us until Yesterday afternoon being a great comfort to us all and especially to Allie, so kind & good to the baby – so helpful & thoughtful in many ways. We miss her sadly and begin just now to feel more fully our great loss. –

I have been pretty well though tireing very easily with my daily duties and feeling as if I never could get thoroughly rested again.

We were very glad that Erastus came and we made him stay over Wednesday with us The girls feel more acquainted with him than ever before and think he is very kind & good and we all sympathize with him in this trouble. His trial I think is greater than mine.

We shall be glad to see you whenever you feel able to come and am glad that you have had such a pleasant time with Abby – Give My love to Almon & Abbie [*Almon Burr & Abigail E. Grant Burr*] and hope they may find some pleasant & profitable place in near future.

Our spring weather comes along slowly the grass has started a little and we have the birds with their morning & evening songs but very high winds and cold weather prevails

How many of our friends are past now called to part with their dear ones – When Sam was here he took the baby's picture and for one so young it is really good –

Sam has left Lewis and [engaged] to work for a [Mr...?] of Waterbury getting much better wages than Lewis could afford to give him We are glad that he is going to do better as he was quite low spirits over his slow advancement –

Farewell with much love

Yours

William Hill

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[Addressed to] Caroline Grant
Bolton, May 15, 1884

My Dear Niece,

Mary and I were anxiously waiting to hear from you & often spoke of you and were glad to hear of your safe arrival in Flem. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] where you must be a help and comfort to them

What around about way you took & accomplished it so quickly you must have been quite courageous. I hope you will not long be disabled by the accident you met with & trust you will be careful not to over exert yourself in that warm climate. It is time for <to> you to have some rest. No doubt it will be a great comfort to all the family to have you there even if you cannot do hard work. You will all help each other bear the sad loss of the dear departed one I was glad to hear how bravely they were bearing their sorrow and striving to do as their dear mother would have them

Please remember Mary and myself to Mr Hill and his family and assure them of our deep and heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement. We feel that the character of our dear relative was one of singular worth and loveliness.

Her own beautiful example of resignation forbids the murmur we could hardly repress that one so fitted to live should be taken away so soon. But she is gone up higher.

I am glad I went there when I did and saw her once more and her dear family (with the exception of her son who was not at home.) It is a pleasant remberance.

You did not tell me how long you intended to stay there nor what were your plans for the future, I shall hope to hear from you again soon when perhaps you can write more particularly Thank you for all you did write & think you wrote a great deal in the space you had to write on.

I dont know as I have any thing of particular interest to communicate in regard to our families. Not much change since I last wrote you I may have mentioned that Sam went to Waltham to see if he could get a chance in a machine shop & could not at the time but one man said he might want him some time and would let him know if he did. He has not heard from him and we did not think he would but Sam still has hope. He helps his father on the farm & his father is grafting some for people & he sometimes takes Sam with him and teaches him The father has $2.00 a day at that work Sue is taking another term of music lessons of the same teacher who speaks very encouragingly of Sue's progress She says not one in ten of the scholars she has taught would learn as fast as Sue does. She reads notes readily. She usually practices an hour in the morning before going to school & an hour after school & plays any little piece when she feels like it for her own amusement. Mary, Bessie, Sam & Mollie practice any leisure time they can spare & they have really made considerable progress. Mary intends Mollie shall practice an hour a day half hour at a time but she little rather play out with the little girls. We are getting along slowly with our sewing. We are about finishing off the seventh dress since you were here and now we only have two more to make & then they will be fitted out for the summer.

I have had only one hard cold since you were here & it passed off in less than two weeks Mr Wallis has been very well. In pleasant days when he feels like it he gets out and does little jobs on the farm but spends most of his time reading the papers. We are all in comfortable health not very strong. Amory has to lie down almost every day an hour or more. He works very fast & then needs to rest.

It must have been hard for your daughter to have you leave her, but I presume she cheerfully acquisced under the sad circumstances I shall want to hear about her & Erastus & Edward & Daniel & all the friends Mary joins in love to you & all there S G [.?]

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[Addressed to] Mr. Daniel Grant
<Mill Brook> Canaan
Litchfield Co. Conn. [*Connecticut*]
E. Law On back of envelope [Care of Edward Grant]

Arkansas City Kansas
August 30th. 1884
Mr. Grant

I seat my self to rite you a few lines to let you know of our situation I am hardly able to go and Charlie has the typhoid intermitent fever and the doctor is tending on him I had to loose My dear husband he died on the 12 of this month and I am left to get a long as best I can with my little Children I cant tell when I can pay you any thing for it Will take ever thing I can make to pay the doctors with I get a dollar a day for my team when it works but we have to live and that costs a rite Smart Mr Law is in the territory and he is going to move down there and he cant see to enything for me and I have to trust to most enybody to get things tended to I would like to hear from you so I may know how long you Will Wait for your pay this from Mrs
Ellen Law
to Daniel Grant

Recd by Mr. B	$215
Grant	487
Grants surplus	272

Payed by Grant Slandleys bill 262

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

Dear Aunty

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She would go out so much and was so unwilling to do her work that it did seem a relief to have her away We have the washing done and have a good women to come two days and help iron and sweep and clean. Have had girls room cleaned this week and 3rd story stairs down and

so third story is done for the Fall except of course we must look over things The Attic is in first rate order and clean as can be

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

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

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

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

Sept. 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thus you see it is all the time something on hand

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

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

With love from all

Affectionately

Minnie

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

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[*Draft of reply* :] New Marlboro', May 30t, '91

Dear Miss Bardwell,

Your letter was rec'd some time since, but sickness in our family prevented my replying before -- hope you will excuse --

Altho' I enjoyed the society of "Sophie Hasen" when a classmate, I can say but little by way of "reminiscence." I remember her as bright, intelligent, & thoroughly Christian, yet in those days rather retiring & timid -- ^I knew that Miss Lyon *[Mary Lyon]* appreciated her qualities of mind & heart. You are <*already*> acquainted with her work, the responsibility of her positions at the Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary]* & how well she filled them -- & of her usefulness on mission ground --

Your letter was the first intimation I had of her death -- I would be glad to know more particulars -- How much her presence will be missed at the coming reunion of our class of '41.

Instead of meeting with a few friends here, we can think of her as being in the "home about with many former associates & loved ones, and mingling with them songs of praise & thanksgiving to their Redeemer.

I had a very pleasant interview with Mrs. Stoddard when at the "Semi-Centennial" -- it was a great joy to me to be there -- so inspiring -- so many precious memories came thronging <*in*> to my mind -- particularly those connected with our beloved Miss Lyon. May her spirit rest upon all of her successors.

As I have told Mrs. Mead, it would be very pleasant to me to be present at the coming anniversary exercises, and to meet with the remnant of my class of '41. but I regret to find that it will not be <*consistent*> practicable --

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Daniel Grant

*What cause for gratitude to see the enlargement and improvements the beautifying of any thing <*connected with*> belonging to that dear Institution.

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[*Photocopy*] Oberlin, O. Dec. 10th 1891.

[*Original handwriting*] Dear Aunt Caroline,

[*Photocopy*] We were greatly shocked about noon of Dec. 1st to receive a telegram announcing my sister Lavinia's death, which occurred that morning at her home near Grinnell. She had not enjoyed usual health since an attack of "La Grippe" a year ago last winter. To save her from the exposures to the next cold season, her son Marcus and his wife sent for her a year ago, to spend the winter in Salt Lake City. She was with them from the first of December to the latter part of April, but even there did not escape a second attack of the dreadful disease. She however rallied, and I was with her a few days on her return. She looked more delicate than I had ever seen her, but seemed cheerful and enjoyed talking of the strange things she had seen and heard at Salt Lake City. I hoped that warmer weather would bring a return of her wonted strength, but some references to her health in letters received during the summer and autumn, gave me serious concern. On Sep. 22nd after hearing that brother Theodore had been suffering from an attack of rheumatism, she wrote: "I am sorry you and Theodore have such a heritage of pain, but Dr. Safford used to say that "Pain was one of God's blessed ministers,' and though it seems hard to think it so, when tortured almost beyond endurance, yet I know from personal experience that it is <*so*> true, and I have never felt Him nearer, or his presence more consoling

than at such times. Earth loses its charms, and Heaven seems something to be longed for, as suffering increases, and our strength grows less."

Her son Lynds is spending his second year with us, a member of the Senior College class. It has been the plan for some time, that his mother should be here next summer, when he graduates, and that Kate Cowles and Margaret Starkey should meet her. We were anticipating it as much, for Lavinia had not visited us for more than twenty years. In writing her last letter to me Nov. 5, she is looking forward to it, saying "If I am no worse, when Lynds graduates than I am now, I think I should venture to go. It will be a great disappointment if I can not, but I shall try to bear cheerfully, whatever the Blessed Master has in store for me."

I felt hopeful that the right sort of medical treatment would relieve her difficulties, and wrote to her recommending a Sanitarium, where some of my friends had been successfully treated. She returned word, writing to Lynds on Friday, Nov. 27th with her own hand, that she was not able to leave home at present, though feeling better at the time of writing. Her physician, she said, did not encourage her to expect a return of health, but assured her that she could be made more comfortable. This word was received on Monday and news of her death on Tuesday!

Lynds started for Grinnell on the first through train, and has written particulars of her last days, and the funeral services. I am greatly surprised to learn that the cause of her declining health was a cancer. She was herself aware of the fact but with characteristic heroism kept it a secret from every one except her husband. The immediate occasion of death was congestion of the liver and though that brought dreadful pain arriving the last three days of her life, it no doubt saved her more prolonged sufferings from the other disease. Her physical exhaustion and distress were so great that there was no opportunity for parting words with her family, but when her husband raised her in his arms, that she might breathe more easily she said: "Don't hold me back Father. I want to go Home." Her letters as I read them now, show that she had anticipated the worst that came to her, and faced it calmly. She had lived such as consistent, faithful christian life that we have no shadow of doubt that she is now tasting those joys "which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man."

She was the life of her family, dearly beloved and honored by all her children, who are proving the influence of her wholesome training. The youngest of them is now twenty years of age, and there is not a frivolous or wayward one among them all; seven sons and one daughter! Marcus came all the way from Salt Lake City to attend the funeral, which occurred at their home last Friday, her entire family being present.

The day was cold and there was snow upon the ground, but the weather did not prevent many near friends from gathering for the last sad services. The hymn "My Jesus as Thou wilt" was followed by remarks in the same strain, and a most comforting prayer by Dr. Magoure. Prof. Buck gave a sketch of her life, and the song "I know that my Redeemer lives" was sung at the close. -- As seemed fitting her sons bore her body to its last resting place near the grave of my mother.

Her relatives who have known of her abundant labors and self denials in bringing up so large a family, had hoped she would enjoy an easier life in her later years -- reaping the fruitage of so much toil and care -- but in the sight of Him "who doeth all things well," she was ready for the kingdom above. "The Lord's appointment is the servant's hour."

Only the sweet and inspiring memory of her life remains to her loved ones, but we take comfort in the thought that her influence will continue to be felt in the lives of her children, and all whom she helped to aspire toward the best things. In our time of supreme need may we look, as she did, to the great Consoler and find comfort and strength.

[*Original handwriting*] I thought you knew enough of her to be interested in what I have written of her last days. Mother's family all feel her death, deeply, but the loss seems greatest to me, because, being the oldest, I remember her, very well, as she was before her marriage. Since Margaret's death, thirty one year's ago, she has been my <u>only</u> <u>sister</u>, and the bond between us was very strong. Heaven ought to seem nearer and dearer, now that she is there! Truly, I am coming to have as many friends there as in this world.

We saw Carrie on her way home, and have heard from her since her arrival. I hope she has been really benefitted by her stay in Castile, but she told me she never expected to be strong. She is a dear sweet girl!

Hoping you and uncle are both well, and with much love, in which the family join, I am,

Your affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff

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Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*
Dec 23rd 1891

My dear Mother,

We send to-day some felt shoes for you. I wish I had asked before hand whether father would have liked some. If he would tell me & I can send him something Tell me about what he would like if he wants something in that line. I send him a little book that if he has not read, I think he would enjoy.

Carrie is home & I will write you about her as soon as I can she is not yet greatly better, strength improved in some ways.

Almon goes to-morrow if he is able -- he is suffering from a severe cold -- to Oberlin to see his Father, who is very feeble just now. we hope it will not prove serious, but are quite alarmed. I dont know as I have written you since Austins death. He was buried two weeks ago to-day. His family remain in Mystic till April next the neighboring ministers supplying the pulpit & she receiving the salary. It is probable that she will then go to Oberlin to educate the children. $5.000 life insurance. His age was forty two. Papers & money that you sent received. I can not write more now as we are terribly busy but will try to write again before very long May Christmas be a pleasant day to you. God bless & keep you both.

With love,
Abby.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant,
New Marlborough,
Mass.

[*Printed return address*] Return to HOLMES & GAY,
WEST WINSTED, Conn.,
If not delivered within 5 days.

RUFUS E. HOLMES. HENRY GAY.
OFFICE OF HOLMES & GAY, AT HURLBUT NATIONAL BANK.

West Winsted, Conn.,
Jan'y. 7th, 1892.

Mrs. Caroline Grant,
New Marlborough, Mass.

Dear Madam:-

We have your letter of the 6th inst., and replying would say that there is in the Bank $100.70 to the credit of Daniel Grant, and $10.60 to your credit.

We are sorry to learn of the death of your husband. The influenza is very prevalent here, and we think that there are three or four persons who have died within twenty-four hours, and two or three others not expected to live.

Yours truly,
[*Signature*] Holmes & Gay

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[*Note at top of letter*] Mary Shurtleff writes in this of Mary Grant Burges.

Oberlin, O. *[Ohio]* Jan. 7th 1892.

Dear aunt Caroline,

The tidings contained in your letter of the 3rd ought not to have surprised me, and yet, as some time had passed without my hearing any thing, I had begun to hope that it would not come as a result of this illness. – Grandfather's family are all gone now, except Marcus. The circle of

our older relatives seems rapidly contracting. If it were not for our interest in the generation just coming on, there would seem to be little left to us, to make it worth while to live. Let us rejoice that there is so much of promise, so much to look forward to, with hope and confidence, among the younger portion of our kindred!

I have thought much of the sad trip to Colebrook on Tuesday. Was it taken in carriages or by rail? I hope the weather was not unusually inclement, and that you were not altogether prostrated by fatigue! – I should be glad to know how you found uncle Marcus' family.

I can not endure to think of your living all alone, in that large house! Surely some arrangement will soon be made by which you will be assured of congenial company. I have thought that you might have Mrs. Pinney with you, or perhaps you will think it better to dispose of your present home. and be with Edward's [*Edward Grant*] family or Abbie's [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]. If you come this way, we shall want to claim a long visit from you.

I think you will be glad to hear of something I have lately heard from Mrs. Harding, a returned missionary to India, with reference to aunt Mary Burgess. Mrs. Harding is one of the loveliest of women, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ballantine who were associated with Mr. and Mrs. Burgess at Ahmednugger [*India*]. She has often heard her mother speak of aunt Mary, whom she dearly loved. Mrs. Ballantine was with aunt Mary *[Mary Grant Burgess]* when she died, and always spoke of her death as a great loss to the mission. Mrs. Harding says she has often seen her grave, and that of little Edwin *[Edwin Burgess]* who lies by her side. The cemetery is well taken care of by the English people resident in Ahmednugger. – I know you would enjoy meeting this Mrs. Harding. She and her husband came with their family, for a year's rest in this country, and decided to locate in Oberlin, for the sake of the school advantages. Beside Mrs. Harding is our own cousin of the President of the College, Mrs. G. Ballantine. The Hardings expect to remain here till next September, when the parents will return to India, with part of the children. Mrs. Harding gave a very interesting talk to our missionary society, yesterday afternoon. – It was on account of preparations for that meeting, that I failed to give earlier response to your letter.

We are all usually well here, except Mr. Shurtleff, who is somewhat affected by a cold, though he keeps rounds at his accustomed work. The family all unite with me in expressing their love and sympathy in this time of sorrow.

Your affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
New Marlboro
Berkshire Co.
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*

[*Printed return address*] RETURN AFTER TEN DAYS TO
<WILLIAM HENRY SMITH,>
<DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW,>
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.
LINCOLN.

[*Note on envelope*] from Theron Crissey 1892

Lincoln Neb. Jan'y. 24, 1892.

Dear Cousin Caroline:

I heard recently, through a letter from my brother Ralph, of the death of Mr. Grant, and have had it in mind to write you ever since, but this Sabbath afternoon seems to be my first opportunity. I am not surprised to learn of his death, as he seemed feeble, when I saw him last June, and this winter seems to be unusually severe with persons advanced in life, where they have become somewhat enfeebled. I realize somewhat I believe your bereavement and loneliness, now that your companion is gone, to return no more, and that your home must seem quite desolate, if you find yourself there, all alone. As I advance in life I realize much more than formerly the greatness of the loss to the one who remains, when a couple who have been united for many years are separated by death. But there is such a comfort in the thought that the

separation is but for a little time. The one who has "passed over unto the other side," has reached the end of his journey, and is at rest, at home. "Tossed no more on life's rough billow,

"All the storms of sorrow fled,
"Death has formed a quiet pillow,
"For the faithful Christian's head,
"Peaceful slumbers, guarding o'er his lowly bed."

"Fixed in an Eternal State,
"They have done with all below;
"We a little longer wait;
"But how little, none can know."

What a comfort it is, when our friends are removed from us by death, to feel assured that it is well with them; - that they learned the great "lesson of life;" – that they were prepared for the great change, and are at rest.

I know a little of how hard it is to feel resigned to God's will sometimes, when our dearest earthly friends are removed. When my dear sister Olive was taken away, it did seem as though I could not have it so, and that it was a mistake in some way, and wrong, and that it must not be so: - but I have felt comforted many times by the thought that she escaped many of the trials, disappointments and griefs which come to nearly everyone, in one way or another, whose days on earth are lengthened.

May the blessed Comforter, who knows the burden and grief of every heart, be very present to you, dealing tenderly with you, and sustaining you every day and hour, helping you to "lean heavily" upon His sustaining arm.

Did Mr. Grant have a severe sickness at the last, or did he fail gradually? I should be pleased to hear from you and learn the particulars of his death.

I called upon Hattie Burr, Kilburn, thinking she had not heard of Mr. Grant's death, but found that she had seen a notice of it in the Winsted Herald.

She said she had thought of you a great deal since she heard of his death, and would have written you, if her eyes would have permitted it. She wished me to remember her very kindly to you.

Hattie's health is pretty good now, except that her eyes trouble her very much, so that she cannot use glasses at all, and cannot see to read, write or sew. She has a very pleasant home, but there seems to be a serious drawback to her happiness in the trouble with her eyes. Charlie Burr's oldest boy, (Frank Daniel,) boards at Mr. Kilburn's, and is Clerk in a Savings Bank here, of which Mr. Kilburn is a Director. Charlie lives in Gove Co. Kansas. Martha (Burr Stocking) lives now in Creighton, this State. She has a nice family: three boys & three girls. As for myself, I am feeling much better than when I was East, last June.

From Ralph's letter, I judge that there is a very un-usual amount of sickness in Norfolk and vicinity, and he mentioned several deaths there recently. So the old acquaintances and friends are one by being "gathered home." My wife heard quite recently of the death of an Aunt, a sister of her mother, in Boston. She had been in poor health for years, having at times severe attacks of asthma;

I shall hope to hear <*f*>how your son's health is. We heard from him several weeks ago through Dr. Hartwell, who stopped over a day with us on her return to Colorado, and understood from her that he was somewhat improved. Ralph wrote that Mary, Warren's wife, had been quite sick with "la grippe." I have not heard directly from them.

You told me last summer when I saw you where your daughter's home is, but I have forgotten. The thought has been <*possibly*> in my mind that possibly you will go and have your home near or with her.

My letter has reached great length b<*y*>ut I do not seem to have said much. You and Erastus, and Uncle Silas three children are all the cousins I have remaining alive. Albert Norton, William Norton's oldest son (He lives in Waterloo, Iowa,) is only a little younger than I am and always has seemed quite near to me, as have also some other second cousins, especially Halsey Hulburt's children.

I shall hope to hear from you if you have the time and feel able to write. Give kind regards to Edward and his family, as I suppose you see them frequently.

I am Your cousin
Theron [M?]. Crissey.
Lincoln Neb.

Direct, P. O. Drawer 1493.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs Caroline B. Grant –
c/o Ewd B. Grant Esq.
Southfield –
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*

5 Forest St.
Oberlin Ohio
Feb. 15th 1892

Dear Aunty:

Have been thinking much of you lately and in Father's letter received this A. M. he writes that you have sold cow and chicken & rented house This last item must be in one sense a blessing, and yet it will make you much work if you have to give possession very soon How I wish it were possible to divide myself into three persons then one part of me would go to you and one part would go to Flemington *[New Jersey]* Allies nurse was obliged to leave having another engagement, and the third part would stay here where I am still needed to look after these patients

My husband did his regular work last week One morning Thurs. I think he felt so much worse that I went for the Dr. When he came he wanted to keep A. in bed that day but finally told him if he would go in a carriage & return in the same way, he might be allowed to do so But it is very hard for him to properly estimate his strength He was in the house four weeks the longest time he was ever away from his classes because of illness Well am glad it did not come last year when I could not have seen him, or done anything for him Mother Wright has been sick six weeks is now able to come down to all her meals gains strength but slowly As for myself am well but of course feel somewhat tired We had a nurse for Mother W. three weeks constantly and the fourth week the nurse was here at night I took all care of A. night and day but he needed but little care at night after first two weeks

I had a sympathetic attack of la grippe Should have been in bed several days if it had been possible The nurse did come down and take care of Albert and me too for two days I was up but not able to do much but I came up again very rapidly. Am very thankful it was so

Mrs Shurtleff was in Sat. eve spoke of writing you within a day or two I do greatly enjoy her friendship

I think I have written you since Uncle's death but have no recollection of what I said I am glad that Providence brought Uncle D. thr[u]' all his wanderings into a quiet home for several years And I am glad too that he is laid to rest in Colebrook I remember the last time I was in Conn. *[Connecticut]* that I saw the beautiful spot where "They who have gone before" were sleeping. It was in such neat order and seemed such a peaceful spot Mary Sage I think took one there

I do hope you can rest some but how can you at Edwards where so many things will walk right into your hands to do But really it is your duty to spare yourself if possible after these weeks of unusual strain. My mind would be easier about you if you were at Abbys tho' I know how you feel about it I suppose, but, dont overdue I do want to see you very much Oh dear me the truth is I do get home sick for my own [Jobber?] sometimes Not that I am not happy I am but I just ache once in a while to talk things over. Dont worry about me one bit They are all just as good to me here as they can be. And I do enjoy and trust my husband more and more

How sorry I am for Emma [Penton?] It does seem dreadful that people should be burned to death as he Alonzo Townsend was. Some ladies from Flem. William H [Fullers?] widow & daughter were at the same hotel that night and barely escaped with their lives I do not remember to have heard a word about Aunt Jane Wallace What do you hear from her Wish you might visit

her sometime I send a newspaper with acct. of celebration they gave Almon's Father on his 80th birthday

Do you remember that Saturday was Father's birthday Seventy years and the oldest of the living Hills. I sent him a birthday letter It comes to me that next Monday is your birthday I wish for you years of comfort and quiet happiness It does trouble me that I have had nothing to send you this year Believe me it is not that I do not think of it and long to do it But it has seemed impossible But I love you and shall never forget all the loving kindnesses that have come to me from you Nor do I forget how dearly our Mother loved you and how close and near you were to each other. Oh! I do long so sometimes just to see Mother and hear her speak once more. But she has been spared much that would have been hard for her to bear For that I am thankful Will you be seventy two or three I do not seem to remember just how much older Mother was Now I feel that I must close Give love to Ewd. and [Lucy?] Keep the largest share for your own self

From your loving niece

Mary [P. B Sh.?] Wright

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
New Marlboro
Massachusetts
U. S. A.

14 Struve St.
Dresden, Germ. *[Germany]*
Feby 25, 1890

My dear Uncle,

Some time ago my sister Mary wrote me, that a letter had come to me from you, which she had opened and answered but did not forward to me, because my movements were very uncertain and I did not then expect to remain aboard very long. Afterwards I decided to spend the winter here and have had it on my mind ever since I settled in Dresden, to write to you.

I do not remember that I ever saw you, but since my mother's death I have thought of you and uncle Marcus very often and am always glad to hear from you.

My trip to Europe is a thing I have dreamed of for many years, but I shall always be glad that I did not take it before mother's death. I came over with a lady friend who had spent some years over here and spoke French and German, so that we had no trouble in travelling alone. We made short stops in Liverpool, Oxford, Kenilworth & Warwick, spent a week in London, two weeks in Paris, two in Switzerland, stopped to see Heidelberg, Cologne, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, the Hague, Brussels, Antwerp, sailed a day on the Rhine and then my friend had to return to America. The time we spent in seeing all these places might easily be filled in any one of them, and of course, we saw them very superficially. I did not at all realize how much there was to see or I would not have attempted to get over so much ground in so short a time. After my companion sailed, I went to Wiesbaden, a delightful health and rest resort in Germany, where I spent a few weeks and then joined a party of friends and took a trip through Italy. By this time I had decided to spend the winter in Germany and Alice Hurford, sister Libbie's oldest daughter, came over to be with me and study drawing and painting. I suppose she could learn about all she cares to in any of our American cities but her coming over here gives her an opportunity to see a great deal that is novel and interesting, and, as living and lessons are somewhat cheaper than in our large cities, it will not cost any more, probably, than if she were in New York or Boston. Besides we are learning to talk German, which is the only acquisition I expect to take home with me. We board in a German family where there are a few American and English ladies and try to hear and read as little English as possible. Alice is very much occupied with her lessons and I spend considerable time in the galleries and museums which are very fine here. I look over the German paper every morning and read occasional items but always feel vexed to find columns devoted to the news from Bulgaria, Rumania & Servia while the United States has only a few lines or more. I am beginning to feel that our country is not as important a factor in the world's affairs as I had formerly supposed – but this does not make me any less satisfied with my own land. On the contrary, I shall go back rejoicing that destiny made me an American. What I find

we need particularly is a name for ourselves. When I tell anyone I am an American they generally take me for a South American and talk about Brazil and if I explain that I am from North America, they very likely suppose I am from Canada or Mexico.

I like the German people and their ways (except their excessive beer drinking) very much. They seem to be generally honest, friendly and very well read & educated. But I am glad that our country is not so surrounded by hostile lands as this one is. So large a part of the means and men of this country have to be devoted to the army that I wonder the nation can sustain such a burden. They are very proud of their victory over the French and of their new empire, however, and of their young Emperor, whose heart and interest are all tho<u>roughly German.

In spite of this, the socialist party has just had something of a victory in the recent election, which is thought to be quite a blow to Bismarck

I hope Edward and his wife are quite recovered in health. Mary wrote me that they had both been sick and I had heard before, indirectly, of Edward's illness. Please remember me to them both. I saw Edward once but have never seen his wife.

I do not know how long I shall stay over here. Now that I am here, I can live quite as cheap as I could in Omaha and there is nothing to hurry me home. My sisters and their families were well when we heard last. One of the greatest annoyances of being here is that it takes so long to communicate back and forth. Our letters have been sometimes nineteen days in reaching their destination.

I suppose you heard of the sad death of my cousin Thos. Clarke, last November, on one of the ocean steamers two days before it reached New York. It must have been very hard for his poor wife as well as himself.

I hope you and aunt Caroline have been as fortunate as Alice and I, in escaping the influenza.

Give much love to Aunt Caroline. I hope it is not necessary to say that I shall always be glad to hear from you both.

Very affectionately your niece

Jennie M. Grant

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

Tells what she does – what her work is at Oberlin – also tells about Mr.Emory's

Oberlin, Ohio
May 16th, 90

Dear Aunty,

Possibly you have given up all hope of hearing from this quarter of the States. It has taken me so long to get at it.

I have been careless, intending every day to write, & then letting my feelings or some trifling matter interfere Never feel quite so energetic at this time of year.

First let me answer one or two questions of long standing Mr. Emory was in good condition financially had not lost any money that I know of His disease was disintegration of the spinal column & that affected his brain & he <u>thought</u> he was growing poor. He did commit suicide which was a trial to his children What he was worth I do not know Father probably could tell approximately He was wealthy. Mr. Emorys mind had been somewhat affected for six months before his death but Cousin Annie did not seem to have apprehended what finally came Some of the others had feared it I believe

Mr Emorys Father & Grandfather & one Uncle died in a similar way.

This winter Mary Studeford has been very much depressed & the last I heard had been taken to a private Asylum in New Jersey out far from Philadelphia. In spite of their wealth their heritage is a sad one. Cousin Annie & Will are more like Cousin Nancy Their home has been rented to a Dr. from Philadelphia Father looks after their rents & what other business there is & receives fifty dollars per year for doing it Not much but it helps

The plaid flannel sent to L. would be perfectly suitable for a dress for one of the children. Your cape can be suitably worn to Church if you need it, also to call on your neighbour but of course one would not make state calls in it but with you state calls are seldom made. As far as I can think now, whenever you need it you can wear it

We have no President yet & it looks as though we might wait another year The right man does appear & it would be much better to wait than to make a mistake & call the wrong man

There has been some talk of J. G W. Cowles of Cleveland son of Professor Cowles of commentary fame But I think the feeling now is that his would not be the best appointment.

Now as to what I am doing, I enter in books made for the purpose a record of what each student is doing in each study he is pursuing. I do this for all students in College, Preparatory Deprtm't , & those in Classical Course in Theological Seminary. I send to all College Students once a year a card showing what studies they have ahead of their class, & in what studies they are behind. I prepare the names for the Catalogue. I am Secretary of two standing Committees that of Entrance to College & "Committee on Substitution" To this last Committee come all the requests to make up work, to have one study count for another, I give out all certificates for private Examinations. I give out certificates to all boys who enter for Field Day showing that they have the required grade in their studies.

I make out copies of Students marks for them to use in obtaining schools Besides this there are little matters coming up all the time that naturally belong to this office

I mean to make myself so useful that they will not want to do without me.

I am not expected to do more than I can & I am careful. I am treated with great kindness & consideration, and am coming through the year's work in good condition tho' of course begin to feel that it will soon be vacation time My title is "Ass't Registrar"

I am sorry to say that I do not have so much faith in "Microcosm" [Ext..?] as you and Uncle Daniel have. Doubtless it is owing to my natural depravity. I think any individual who has discovered such a blessing to mankind is more sharp than benevolent when he requires four dollars from poor suffering humanity for the revealing this same wonderful discovery

However I may be mistaken so you must not mind my foolishness Time may give me better sense

I see Mrs Shurtleff quite often Feel welcome there whenever I can go in. Their house stands in same yard with Talcott Hall I do not know Mrs Nichols I have no

How is Uncle Erastus Ralph & Julie & Mary Sage & her husband Give them kindly greetings when you see them

Father has the selling out fever again & we do not know what is best to do May the Lord give us light to do the right thing

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Daniel Grant
New Marlboro
Mass *[Massachusetts]*

Speaks of cemetery lot

Millbrook *[Connecticut]* <Aug> Sep 7th 1890

Dear Cousins,

I am just last night returned from a four days visit at South Norfolk with Mrs. H. Pendleton, who goes soon to Penn. for the Winter, - heard on the way home of your cousins, (in Barrington) affliction, by lightling. - What cause for gratitude that there was no loss of life – Give Lester 2. dol. for taking me over. Mrs Pendleton says we are two lone women, & true enough. She has buried all of her family, 5 chil, and husband, her loss is great, all mine the same, All – I feel that it is right, but do not see it.

Have not seen Marcus's people except at church since you was here. Was glad to hear by yr. letter of Edwards family, & also of your own condition

Do write me often & confer a great favor

I find by inquiry that there is a vacant lot in Cemetery adjoining Uncle Grants lot on North side not sold. I said, about what price? was told probably about 15 dollars. Luthers Tablet not up yet but the foundation for his & his grand mothers is laid.

It is indeed pleasant to be remembered even by your neighbors. I often wonder how the Barn progresses, was glad to hear the wood was prepared, very sorry to cousin D. was no better, please let me know often just how you both are, think of you & of my pleasant visit often.

Do you hear from Mr. Shurtliff? any thing definite yet? shall hope to hear when you do. Does the Choir prove a comfort? think it may & without will. I find Vinegar is in greater demand that I supposed as there is so great a scarcity of Apples

It seems I cannot turn over the leaf properly, but think your careful eyes will find what there is worth finding.

Received the package you sent by Mr. Burr's meat pedler, for which accept thanks he seems a very kind man.

Wish you & D could come & stay a week can't you contrive it so that you can

Cousin Elizabeth

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Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*

June 3rd 1889.

My dear [Mother?]

Your letter was received a day or two ago. Was glad to hear of you all. though surprised that I was owing a letter. I thought I had written, but presume that I planned writing & than thought that I had. I received a letter from [Sue?] Saturday in which she speaks of the death of Mr. & Mrs. Hartwell in Col. How glad I am that they could have gone to their children before their death. I am glad that the children are home for a little while for your sake. I do hope that Edward may improve faster than he has done here before. I am glad that the children are fairly provided with clothes for I have been worrying about it for I Have some material from Carries old things. & have been trying to do something about them I am too weak to do any thing of them myself & am rarely able to have a woman in the house to sew & we <u>have</u> to have a little sewing done so there has seemed no chance to get anything started for them. I hope it may be different in the fall. We have no present prospect of finding a house. We have to be out of this the <*middle*> twentieth of July. How Carrie & I are going to do our part of the moving I [cannot?] see. Carrie doe snot improve much

Mr. Burr seems very well. So does Arthur Harold about a usual. We have had an unusually cold wet Mary. More cloudy showery weather than I have known since coming here

Mr. Shurtleff & Laura were somewhat improved in health by their Southern trip. Laura is studying a little now.

I wish you could see some of my pretty pansies out under the window. I wish I could keep a dish of them in Edwards room. I know they would cheer him.

With love to you all

Abby.

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Boston Apl 23, 85 Thurs. PM.

Dear Carrie,

Your letter containing the check lay in the office from Sat. night till Tues. morning after the Express had gone <*So I wrote to*> I usually get them in proper time which is next day after being mailed from your place or rather evening but this time it happened not to be handed out. So I wrote immediately to the Charles Town Bank asking if the business could be done by writing & told them I had the check & would send it if I knew it would be right. I also asked if it was necessary for some one to go with it. If I should write underneath the order you gave me Pay to Mrs. Mary Glayrus L.J. Wattis & the answer was I could mail it and by endorsing on the back pay to the order of Ano. Thom Treasurer of the C. Bank & he would send me the Bank book by mail or I could send the Order by my daughter endorsing it. I told him of the delay of the letter in the P. Office & asked if I sent it the 23 if it would not go on in trust as though it were there the day

before. His answer was it would not. I will send you the letter. I don't know now whether this Book would be made out in my name or yours. I had supposed that when the first deposit was made the person must be there to sign their name to some article &c but after words could make any additions.

The Franklin Bank is the only Bank in Boston I think that deposits commence drawing interest after the third Wed in April until July. If deposits are made by the first day of May, they will draw interest from that time. Dividend days first day of August & February at four percent. It nearly $4,000 000 on deposit & is considered a sound Bank. There are only two Banks in Boston that those are the Charles Town which has over $2 500 000 on deposit & the Eliot which has over 1,600 000 on deposit, The Provident has over 25,000 000 & Pays but 3 percent. The Suffolk has nearly 18,000 000 & pays 3 ½ per cent. Thre are 168 Savings Banks in Mass & only 20 pay 5 percent the highest they are allowed to pay by law. The amount of Deposits in the [S. Ben] Mass is $262. 720. 147. I see by the Commissioners report on Savings Bank that the Springfield Institution for Savings has over eight million on deposit & pays 2 per cent semiannually was incorporated in 1827, dividends declared in Jan. & July. It does not mention what days.

I write you about the Springfield Insti for Savings thinking you might prefer to have me endorse the check back to you & you send it to the Spring. & have the Book made out to you direct. Now there is time for you to write & tell what I shall do under the circumstances. We will be sure & send to the office morning & evening.

We have money in the Banks in Boston I have mentioned $ consider them safe. Now if you still wish to have the check sent to the Charles town S.B. & have it go on interest the third Weds in July I will either send it by mail or Mary will go in with it & will give you the four dollars for the loss of interest for the three months. If you wish to have it deposited in the Franklin in just one week from today we will get it there if possible. The Banks that pay the best interest are considered the safest, generally Franklin pays 4 percent. It was quite unexpected to receive a check to be deposited in a Bank. Now I will give the reasons for net getting it in due time. It was delayed in the office so long that we should have to start the next morning as we were not sure that it could be done by writing. I wrote by return mail hoping that one day would make no difference. I was not feeling very well & it seemed to me that I could not go to Boston that particular Wednesday. Amory's father's and mother's Golden Wedding occurred. Mr. W. & myself were invited & all other family & they staid till after 11 Oclock at night. I did not feel like going up there, I felt great langor & lay on the bed a good deal. Mr. W. concluded not to go & so happened that particular night our evng mail was left in Boston. So if the Treasurer had written that we could make the deposit on the 23 instead of the 22 could not have got the letter in time to send it in the morning as the evng mail was left behind & did not arrive till too late to go or send. I am sorry things worked round so. Now I think there will be time for you to write & say what is best to be done. You will recollect that that the last day for depositing in the Franklin B is the first day of May. Now after all I have written invest your money as you think best ,

SJW

[*added sheet*]

I meant to have got this in the afternoon mail but failed. Perhaps I can have time to give you some reasons for my lack of confidence in Western investments from our experience. Edwin came on from the West in the summer of .39 with the purpose of collecting up what was due him in Milford & vicinity & intended to go West the next spring but he found it very slow work to collect & could not & did not collect any considerable. He was not well but was able to attend to business till about two weeks of his death. He left out in Illinois or Indiana with a man he used to be acquainted with & in whom he had confidence $200.0. & over I think I do not now remember just the amount & took the note of two men in partnership doing a large business & living in good style & left $30.0. or more with another in business & in good standing. Mr. W. went on from Mass. To collect it. Sheets & Grover were worth nothing. They were doing business but had no property of their own. He could not get one cent nor even a nights lodging or meal of victuals. I think he made out to get $100. of the $300. Edwin lent $500 & took a mortgage on some property New York State which a Lawyer professing to know all about assured him was perfectly good. We could not get one cent of it.

He lent $2000 or more to a very clever industrious man who had a rich partner & had a right to give a partnership note & beside a well off father & father-in-law. He died but I think he settled up with his partner making provision to have that note paid. That partner went to scheming how he could get out of paying. It was quite expensive to us but he got somebody to go & testify wrongly & he managed around so that he got out of paying of f & that man united with the church at the same time I did. Mr. W. left some [demand] with a man we considered perfectly honest to collect as he had opportunity as he was in a store & would be in the way of seeing people & he was to have the use of the money without interest for doing it. Mr. Went clear up from Maryland to settle up what he could & to get what was collected. That man had money collected but would not pay it over to him without a bonus. I don't remember how much . He was Deacon of the Church to which I belonged. I know you will say it was not on real estate security, but to have real estate securities collected costs & it has to pass through various hands who don't work for nothing. I don't suppose I have given everything exact.

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

My Dear Aunt,

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

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

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

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

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

She has made herself responsible to the publishers, for the entire first cost, and desires us to send our money to her, soon as convenient, drafts <*to be*> or postal orders, to be made in favor of Eunice C. Cowles. I suppose your books would be sent to West Winsted with those to be distributed by Uncle Marcus and Mrs. Phillips, and perhaps, to avoid sending too many drafts and

orders to Mrs. Cowles, it will be best to send your money with theirs. Of course we all have the book at cost, which Mrs. C. thinks will be $1.-- If any of us do not care for so many books as our money would call for, we can leave them in the hands of the Tract Soc. *[American Tract Society]* to dispose of for Miss Guilford who is not likely to have any adequate return for her labor of love. So you will need to specify whether you wish the full value of the money in books.

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

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

Your affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff

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

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