Subject: Education

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

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

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

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Norfolk [*Connecticut*] July 4 1837

To Miss Mary Lyon <*Dear Madam*>

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

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

institution If making application for only one term first will prevent their being recieved at the commencement of your school we would be all mean apply for a longer time our situation is such that we think it may be more convenient for us to spare them & pay their expenses now than at another time Pupils are requested to bring common school books We have <*of Arithmeticks*> Colburns First Lessons & Sequel [First Lessons in Arithmetic*, by Warren Colburn*] & Dabolls <*Murrays*> Arithmetick [Daboll's Schoolmaster's Assistant: Being a Plain Practical System of Arithmetic*, by Nathan Daboll*] Murrays Grammar & Exercises [Murray's Introduction to English Grammar, *by Lindley Murray* & Exercises, Adapted to Murray's English Grammar*, by Lindley Murray*] & Greeleafs Grammar [A Concise System of Grammatical Punctuation, and Syntax, *by Benjamin Greenleaf*] Blakes Philosophy Chemistry [Conversations on Natural Philosophy, *with illustrative notes, and a dictionary of philosophical terms, by Rev. J.L. Blake*] Goodrich United States History [A History of the United States of America, *by Rev. Charles A. Goodrich*] Whelpleys History [A Compend of History*, by Samuel Whelpley*] Watts on the Mind [The Improvement of the Mind, *by Isaac Watts*] Woodbridges Small Geography [Rudiments of Geography*, by William C. Woodbridge*] of reading books National Preceptor [The National Preceptor: or, Selections in Prose and Poetry*, by J. Olney*] Common Reader & some older works If is <*will*> is not too much trouble should be obliged if you would mention such of the preceeding list of books as you thing they will be likely to need because their little brothers at home will probably want some of them & <*they may not*> it may not be convenient to carry all As they will have Websters Large Dictionary & the first volume of Scotts Commentary on the New Testament to carry & as much more of his Commentary as you wish [...] Should like an answer soon as convenient that they may know how long they can continue their schools & also that we may have sufficient time to prepare them for going <*Hope*> Wish very much they <*will*> may both be recieved but if that cannot be hope you will at least take one Perhaps some applicants may as well go next summer when our girls could come home & <*per*> probably teach Please inform when your school commences & how washing is to be done still wish to have them stand <*as*> candidates for admission the first opportunity

Mrs [*Pamela Benton Burr*]

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs Pamelia Burr [*Pamela Benton Burr*]
Norfolk
Litchfield Co
Conn [*Connecticut*]

Troy Fem. Sem. [*Troy Female Seminary*] July 23rd 1827

Mrs Burr,

Madam,

Mrs. Willard recd [*received*] your letter of the 12th inst in behalf of your young friend Miss Benton who is desirous of entering her school in order to prepare herself for a Teacher — she would be happy to render her the necessary assistance in prosecuting her designs, but finds that she has admitted already as great a number of pupils on the terms you propose as the present state of affairs through out the country will make it safe for her to receive — She thinks however that with the attainments you mention Miss Benton might now teach a <*primary*> school which could no doubt be procured for her among her friends, with success — and perhaps render herself quite as useful as in a more remote <*extended*> place — Mrs. Willard feels that her situation demands sympathy, and would gladly aid her did circumstances allow her to do so —

Respectfully Yours
[MA?] Osterhout
For Emma Willard

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Ebenesar Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Great Barrington [*Massachusetts*] 6th April 1836

Dear Sir

Your communication concerning our school was sent to us two days ago — and I take an early occasion to answer it. We keep a select school in our house and wish to board twelve or fourteen of the young ladies in our family; in addition to them we generally have five or six to attend school who do not board with us; our price for board and tuition is advertised, as you may see in the Litchfield Sem [*Litchfield Seminary*] at $2. per week and one shilling for washing. — we shall expect the scholars to find their own books and stationary and lights. We should be pleased to take your Daughters into our family, and instruct them in those branches which are the most important and useful and in which they may be found most definitely. Our summer term will commence on the first monday in May. For further particulars I would refer you to our advertisements in the Litchfield Sem. [*Litchfield Seminary*]

Respectfully Yours

Sturges Gilberts
Rector of St. James Church

Mr. Ebenesar Burr

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

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

My dear Madam,

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

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

If we should be so situated as to render it practicable, we should be happy to receive her into our family (that is, if she would be pleased with our plain style of living) in which case, she would not be under the necessity of going out at all. The expense of boarding in our family, including every thing, would not probably be more than $2 a week. It might be considerably less, though living as you know, is very high now. If we cannot receive her, we can doubtless obtain board for her at a short distance, but the expense might be somewhat greater. Tuition is at the rate of half a dollar a week.

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

Pupils can be received at any time, but it is generally preferable to enter at the commencement of a term. The next term, you perceive, begins not far from the first of Oct. If she should conclude to come about that time, we will expect her without further notice. She can come directly to our house, & we will see, that she is provided for. And I would just remark, that this

season of the year is perhaps the most favorable for study. Should she conclude not to come, then we shall like to be informed. Mother's return is expected in about two weeks. Should she wish to communicate anything different, will write immediately.

Your respectfully,
Nancy Emerson

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

Thurs. morn Mar 15, 1838

Dear Mrs. Burr,

I did not decide to go to S. Hadley [*South Hadley, Massachusetts*] till yesterday & now I intend to set out by tomorrow noon, to spend the Sab. [*Sabbath*] in Hartford, & to be at the Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] Mon or Tues. I could take any thing to your girls, & should be happy to do so, though father says he does not think he shall be able to go to your house, & I fear you will not get this note in time to send. The terms closes so soon there you may not care about it. I shall be very to see your daughters.
In haste

Very affectionately
M. Grant [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

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

Wellington O}
Sept 24th}

Brighton September 3 '' 41

Much respected Relatives

I have often purposed to write to you but have delayed from month to month till years have passed since I have addressed you. I think it may be worse than useless to attempt an excuse. And yet I hate to have you lay it all to the score of disregard for your friendship, or even any part of it But I will tell you what. Perhaps you would prefer a letter of good length and well filled with interesting matter to a hundred excuses, poorly thought of and clumsily told. and so here is for the trial [*marking*]

And I would thank Cousins Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] for the tokens of remembrance we have received from them, and I hope they will embrace every opportunity to write to us. As for our health I can say I have enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health since I left Norfolk, ~ and Eliza's health I think improves from one year to another. She thinks she can endure hot weather and fatigue much better than she could two years ago. Her finger that has been so troublesome is improving constantly but not very rapidly she does not bandage it this summer, but subjects it to all the exposures and hardships that she does [her?]/others Our family consists of four, one a boy in the seventeenth year of his age whom I have taken till he is 21 and a hired girl, we live in a log house 18 feet by 24 partitioned into two rooms we have a stove instead of a fireplace and this hot summer weather we place it in a shed on the north side of the house where Eliza does her work leaving the kitchen for a sitting room, cool, comfortable, and pleasant You eastern folks who have always been accustomed to houses with more rooms in them than you well know what to do with, have but very imperfect ideas of the

convenience enjoyed by people of a new country, who often have kitchen, buttry, bedroom, parlour, and cellar, all in one apartment of the size I have mentioned the dimentions of my house Now do not picture to yourselves a huge potatoe bin and a long row of musty ciderbarrels as the most prominent objects in such a room. for we have a way of not apt to produce cider till their owners are able to build cellars, but such rooms are placed where the neat housekeeper can display of no small share of taste and skill in so arranging her little stock of furniture that each article shall appear to fill its proper place without being unduly prominent, and in giving to the whole an air of neatness and comfort &c And such little rooms are great places for indulging in the sweets of anticipation for instance one thus situated will think of the time when the dense forest which surrounded the little mansion will give place to cultivated fields. When his little cabin will be exchanged for a mansion of greater size and elegance, when all the inconveniences incident to the settlers of a forest country will be overcome — when the fields and highways will become stumpless and smooth — and when all around, the impress[es?] of art will be stamped on the rude face of nature In Brighton we are thinking of the time when we shall have a meeting house — without steeple or bell to be sure — but commodious for the present, and we even talk of the time when it will require a larger building than 27 by 38 the size of the frame we have erected to accommodate the first Congregational Society of Brighton and it is possible we may then even listen to the "sound of a Church going bell" [marking] Eliza and I attended the commencement at Oberlin the 25th of August The day was taken up with exercises of the graduating class in the Collegiate department, Three young ladies took the degree of Bachelor of Arts Viz Miss Mary Hadford of Oberlin, Caroline M. Rudd Huntington, Conn Elizabeth [S.?] Prall New York City, They have been through with a full course of study — they did not speak in public on that day but their compositions were read by professor Morgan and they appeared on the stage to receive their degrees, I have understood they were all affiance to [...] young men in Oberlin, the next day the theological graduates exhibited themselves we did not attend not finding it convenient to do so We were much interested with the exercises of the first day, the singing was excellent I should like to have cousin M [*Mary*] & C [*Caroline*] come and measure heads with Oberlin ladies

Why cant you come one or both of you, and visit your relatives in this part of the nation, see the country &c We should be extremely happy to have you come and spend a good while with us, Now you have completed your studies you want to travel a while to complete your education and in what direction could you travel with more intellectual profit than to the west you would see some of the noblest specimens of art and some of the wildest and sublimist displays of nature and I may add the most beautiful. If you want to teach school you would find schools in abundance. We want a teacher in Brighton that is something above par, one that could fit young ladies to Enter college

My little sheet contains but little room, I find it requires a larger sheet to write a long family letter, tell Cousin Erastus & Ralph I am raising nine calves and building a barn 40 feet square this summer Uncle Warrens family is well

Sept 23d all well Please write and see if I will not answer it in better season than I have done this time

To Uncle [*Ebenezer Burr*] and Aunt Burr [*Pamela Benton Burr*] and Cousins Mary Caroline Erastus [*Erastus Burr*] and Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] Please accept this Epistle as a testimonial of the sincere regard of D.B. & E.A. Hulburt

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

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*] June 2, 1843

My dear Parents, Sister & Brothers,

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

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

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

I suppose you feel anxious to know about our journey — I will first briefly say we left Albany Sat. noon reached Buffalo in one week from that time sailed from B [*Buffalo*]. Sat P.M. arrived at Milwaukie Thursday Morn 15 days from the time we left home had on the whole a very pleasant prosperous time — what was the most vexatious was being detained in Albany nearly 2 days before starting & then getting along so very slow on the canal boat — suppose we might just as well have been in Buffalo a day or two sooner I do not feel nearly as tired as I anticipated — but about as usual — very well —

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

It was not very convenient for me to write much on the boat, so I just noted down a little now & then on a slip of paper which I will transcribe after writing a little before we left Albany — We just drove up to Mr. Butlers & talked a few moments with Jennette she said Ann Phelps was going to Chicago soon 90 miles from us — called at the school house & <*just*> said "Good Bye" to Desiah — as we passed along a little below Mr. Sam Gaylords Daniel sung Bounding Billows &c. several verses — some quite pretty & appropriate — it did me good — perhaps you can get them of some one — The first day as you probably learned of Joel, D [*Daniel*]. rode with him some leaving me to drive then Joel rode with me a little way saw no pleasanter farms coming to Wisconsin than in Sheffield & beyond — the next morning Joel & I went on to Albany 26 miles had a good visit reached there about 10 — called at a public house where I remained until 2 o'clock then I went on board the canal boat. Brockport, Capt. Chappel <*Capt*> when we reached Albany Joel went immediately to ascertain about a passage for us. Daniel arrived with the goods past 12 — & for some reason I was taken to the boat without looking for any carpet filling — J [*Joel Grant*] said he would get some I want to know about it I did not get any sacking for the settee because I thought we could get it here without the money & Joel said he presume 'twould

be as cheap. Soon after we went onto the boat Jo [*Joel*]. came down & almost immediately word was given that we were to go to the other side of the river — So he bid us good bye & hastened out — an hour or so after Capt. brought from him a note saying that he had been looking at some stoves & thought twould be well for us to get one — D. [*Daniel*] looked & purchased one for $16 — funnel two spit boxes $5. I think it a very pretty stove — should think rather smaller than Uncle Silas' & much handsomer —

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* boat weights 30 tons

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

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

Sab. [*Sabbath*] morn awoke & found our boat going — notwithstanding we understood [...] to stop on the Sabbath — All along the canal [...] & shops were open — if I had not remembered it as Sunday I should not have known it — it seemed dreadful I felt wicked enough — conscience smitten — afraid but I could not help myself — Daniel spoke to the Capt about

stopping — he said a little & went off — [on?] — D [*Daniel*]. staid in the cabin most of the day & we read in the Bible & the Reformation Book & slept some for the first few days I sat down on the Settee & slept an hour or so each day
& slept soundly nights too — so you see I got rested Sab. [*Sabbath*] P.M. we came in sight of a place that reminded us of the gorge between Holyoke & [Tom?] — it really looked beautifully & more — as we approached it & passed between the mountains & saw the ledges of rocks the trees & shrubs on the mountain side — 150 feet perhaps was conscious of emotions of sublimity — I enjoyed it much — very much —

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday — our progress to day is faster than any preceding <...> at 9 in the evening reached Lockport — we sat up waiting to go out & see the locks as there are 5 or 6 together that is we got from one right into the other [...] rise in some of [...] but the banks are very high — [...] a thunder shower came up & prevent — Sat at 12 reach Buffalo — [...] 4 miles on the lake — You have probably concluded before this that we did not go to the falls. If our old Capt. had only [...] in Rochester 1 hour sooner than he was we might have gone from there for 25 cents each! there were 2 boats went out — opposition then did however a [Cat?] go out at 7 in the evening in which we might have gone — the fare was more considerable (dont remember how much) but suppose we might have gone from R [*Rochester*]. that day to Buffalo for 7 or 8 dollars — now I suppose

you'll say, why didn't you go? We did not know what was best to do. hesitated & doubted — the reason of our doubt was, that if our boat went as fast as the Capt. affirmed it should, we might go from Lockport with probably 4 or 5 dollars less expence — be in season there to take the Sat. morning cars — but we did not know as it was best to depend upon him — thought if we went from Rochester we should be sure of it — & might possibly be sorry if we didnt but we concluded to try him once more & went on — & he went beyond our expectations so that we arrived at Lockport several hours <*several hours*> before we anticipated about an hour after the evening cars left — we might have got off & staid over night & taken the morning cars at 9 — but the Capt. declared we should be in Buffalo before that time, said he should wish to unload the boat that day, & we were afraid some of our things would be lost were we not there to attend to them — thought we might get to B [*Buffalo*]. in season to attend to [...] things & go to the falls from there — but we were unexpectedly detained a few hours, after we left Lockport as we met a boat that was very heavily loaded & had struck a ground so we could not pass it

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to:*] Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk

Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

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

My dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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From Box 1 Folder 13

[*Fragment cut from top of sheet*]

Philadelphia, Feb. 13. 1847.

My dear parents & brothers

I received a joint letter from Ma & Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] to day — am very sorry indeed to hear of Ma's illness — but her promise to observe careful diet comforted me not a little — I wish it might not be necessary for Ma to be so much alone — with none of her children at home

Wish I could be there to assist in moving. Love to uncles, aunts & cousins — & every one who enquires —

Aff. [*affectionate*] your daughter & sis --
Mary Burr

Tell Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] I will write soon —
"There is about 30 scholars." That is a rather harder knock on Priscian's scull than my brother Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] ought to give — especially after studying Brown all winter. Priscian was an eminent grammarian of the 6th century — Hence the proverbial phrase of "breaking Prescian's head" applies to a violation of grammar. How I do wish Ralph could continue at school a long

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

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

My dear Parents & Brothers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Little Abby is well most of the time, several weeks ago she came very near having the croup. she was suddenly taken about bed time with a very hoarse dry cough & oppressive breathing so we gave her some lard & molasses & put a little oil upon her throat she seemed a little relieved but continued so bad that we rose twice before morning & bathed her in cold water pouring it most freely about the neck & chest. we then rubbd her off briskly, wrapped her in flannel & laid her in bed — for sometime we kept a cloth wet with cold water upon her throat & chest over this we put a flannel one — we think this method of treatment vey good indeed — it is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to:*] 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 — <u>do</u> <u>be</u> <u>careful</u>. 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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Norfolk. [*Connecticut*] Jan 19th 1850.

Friend Ralph —

I must apologise for not writing you before. For since the receipt of your letter I have hardly had a moments leisure in the Day Time, And I do not like to write by Candle light, as it always affects my eyes. I was very glad to hear from you, and of your enjoying yourself as well, as I think you must from the manner you express yourself. I dont wonder you are contented with your lot & for what I know your Comparison is proper. So for news I think Norfolk [*Connecticut*] uncommonly Dull this Winter. I know of nothing unusual or that would interest you in the least.

Since the middle of December we have had excellent Sleighing just Snow enough and what is uncommon for N. [*Norfolk*, *Connecticut*] it has thus far lain quiet. We had a <u>January</u> <u>thaw</u> which lasted One Day, and the next night plenty of snow to repair it.

You inquire <*after*> about the Sabbath School here, or rather our class. I have not attended there two months. Esquire Peck was taken sick about that time ago, so sick that he was obliged to go home every Saturday. and return Monday a little better but worse at the end of the week. They Say he is soon to be Married, I Suppose he will be if his Health mends, And then 'may be we shall commence again.

The talented portion of community here, have revived their Lyceum, and the School Boys their Club. By the way Mr Rice has a full school this winter All he can well tend to. Quite a number of boys from other towns and one or two whom Rice looks Black at. You have been to school to him and know what I mean. I think your teacher must be behind the times, as it regards Wednesday exercises, though I think with you his dispensing with them is much to his credit Augustus Pettibone, does not attend school this Winter, His Father is going, or has gone, South and he can not be spared. it is just as well for him, he will learn more I presume. He was out here to keep Thanksgiving, and staid a day or two with me. He would not miss being here if he had to come on foot. I presume Uncle Bradley misses his presence as much as any one or two. As for myself I do not go to school this Winter, but farm it night and morning and stay at Doctors between. I take it pretty easy there as it regards them and read six hours in the day on the average.

Huggins is at home most of the time, and a good pleasant fellow he is <*most of the time*>, Now and then he gets miffed at me, which is all right enough I suppose he has reason to be, but a great share of the time he is what he ought to be. ready to assist me when I need. He is a cold blooded fellow, and keeps the office so hot that I roast with my coat off — I have the advantage of him though, I make him keep the fire, and he is on the trot after wood all the time. I dont know as he will stay another year but I am sure I hope he will. We have had such fine winter weather that People have gone on with their building to good advantage Lawrence's folks have part of their Hoe Works running and the Ryans have got their Factory mostly out of the woods and have a number of hands hewing They have fairly filled up the village with their timber and wood. I believe Uncle Pendleton has got his works in operation as Levi went along a short time ago with a Bundle of Leather about large enough for him to sit on. Harlow Roys commenced raising his new works yesterday they raised two tiers and have eleven more to raise. He will have one of the largest works in the Country. when completed. He does great things or none. From reading over your letter I see you mention Dancing as common as if I were you and could without neglecting my studies I should learn, When they talked of starting a school here, I thought I would attend, but as for going down to Crowells, five miles once a week for that purpose, it wont pay. they muster up ten couple however who go out at night and come home to Breakfast. I believe in Dancing but not in running the thing into the ground. If they would get home in the proper time the good folks of this town would not oppose it as they do,

You must excuse the good looks of this letter, Ralph for I have had to jump up and leave it a dozen times, Write me as often as you can, and what you please, anything that interests you will me, and I would like to know if you ever expect to come back and live in old Norfolk [*Connecticut*], my mind is made up in regard to that I would like to know yours
Halsey is well and attending school, and wishes to be remembered to you (I guess) I have not seen him Nor does he know of my writing, Your Friends are all well (that I know anything about understand me), and hoping to (see you soon and hear from you sooner) as the Paddy wrote

I remain

Your Friend

J. H. P. Stevens.

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[*In envelope addressed to:*] Mr Ralph E Burr.
Flemington.
Huntington County.
New Jersey.

New York Oct 3d 1850.

Friend Ralph —

I have been walking my room this half hour, whistling & thinking what I had best do with myself. I did not feel like attending any of the Evening Meetings and there is not much fun in walking the Streets when you have no place to go to. I have made up my mind I could do nothing better than to write to you.

You see what a blunder I have made in writing New York at the top of the Sheet, I thought at first I would give it up, but I am afraid I would do no better if I were to try again. of Course you will not care for the looks, for between a poor pen & my dullness this Evening I do not expect a very showy Letter. I have been in New York now one Month, & conducted myself with Propriety No easy thing to do either (that is for me.) attend Lectures studiously Six pr Day. from 9 am. till 1. & from 2 1/2 till 5 1/2. the Lectures one Hour each, and an Evening Lecture at 7 PM. Three Evenings in the Week. That Keeps on pretty Steady whether he will or no.
I Know of nothing to write that would interest you particularly. I see Augustus Pettibone two or three times a week. I Board about two Miles from their Store. Up Town, Camp & I, Room with a fellow from Maine, whom he got acquainted with last Winter, I do not get invited to as many Parties, Weddings &c as you had the luck to be last Winter in Jersey. I Can not Account for it any way unless the People were more Civil with you or else you are more Agreeable, I think it is the latter. The Boarders here are mostly Old Married People & I Do not have much company & <*as*> except Sundays have no time to go to August Pettibones. So you see I have no Chance to Show myself, not that I care anything about it for I cannot Study & Play at the same time & do both well. I intend to do the former & if a Chance turns up for the Latter, why then improve it.

The Weather has been quite Warm here to what it was in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] when I left. I never was so bit & Chewed up by the Mosquitoes, (get a dictionary & look up that word will you) as I was here During the first two Weeks but their Day will soon be over, & besides I have got used to them & their Music. I Suppose You have Singing Schools in Norfolk this Season, Do you attend? I Shall expect to see you in the Choir when I return, which will be about Christmas. You must write me all the news Gossip that has been the rounds since I left, I do not know the reason but I cannot find, anything of it in the Papers here. Tell me also, whether you do to School, what Boys go that I know, how many Scholars &c and I Shall expect a list of all the Marriages, Births & other wonderful Phenomenon that come to pass, in their regular Order. You know North End, is a famous place for them things to occur, but I hope none of them will happen to you personally I Suppose you have had your fill of all sorts of Hunting I think it must have been a good Season. Write any way & let me know, for I Hate to be in Ignorance. I know nothing further to Edify you with at this present time but will endeavour to Send more beauty in my next Epistle
End of Chapter First, Your friend J. H. Stevens.
PS Direct your letter to me, at 409 Broome Street N.Y.

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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.

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] March 20 [*1842?*]

My friend Caroline,

Your sister is going to have us today, and I cannot let such a good opportunity pass without writing a few lines, although my time is fully occupied. I must just tell you that you are not forgotten though you are absent. Often ones memory turn to the scenes of last year and particularly those in which you had a part. I love to think of our little circle for prayer, Was there not often a union of soul as we bowed together to pray to our Heavenly Father? And do we not now though separated still meet at the Throne of Grace? I hope we do and that we not only pray for ourselves and friend at such times, but for a world lying in wickedness. Do you not feel that we have much to do in this work and need to be active?

To be sure we are very sinful and our prayers are unworthy to receive answers of mercy yet the obligation still rests upon us and we should be willing to meet it.

I wish I could I see you now and know how you feel upon the subject of religion. I hope you enjoy the light of the Savior's countenance and are growing rapidly in grace. We may enjoy such blessings if we only seek [aright?] for them. I wish I could tell you that I am thus blessed, but I cannot, for I turn away from the path of duty too often and am too cold-hearted to be happy thus. Will you not pray for me that I may be useful in my situation here?

I should love to see you and converse as we used to upon this subject. — the bell has rung and I cannot write more, now

I shall wish to hear from you and your sister after she returns home. We are sorry to have her leave but hope her health may be better

In Haste

Your aff. [*affectionate*] friend

Susan Reed.

[*Added in another hand*:]
Now <*Rev*> Mrs. Rev. Wm. Howland[s] Missionary in India — taught several years at So. [*South*] Hadley in the Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]

C. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*] –

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[*Addressed to*:] Miss Jane Benton
Or to Caroline Burr. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Norfolk [*Connecticut*]

Dear Friend A letter has been received giving notice that you, and your <*s*> sister and niece can be received into the seminary at Ipswich [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] <*can*> with a request that you be there at the commencement of the term if any thing is likely to occur that will prevent your your going that you give notice as soon as circumstances will permit when Mary made application for your reception she likewise applied for Elizabeth Phelps but she has concluded not to go Mary left Wednesday I think of nothing to write that will interest you and close with wishing you to present my regards to your Sisters and Nieces likewise to Miss Coller if you should see her yours sincerely Elizabeth Grant [*Elizabeth Grant Burgess*]

Colebrook [*Connecticut*] Sab [*Sabbath*] Morn May 8th 1836

Miss Jane Benton

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[*Addressed to:*] Miss Caroline Burr [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Present. [*at Ipswich Female Seminary?*]

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Sept. 18, 1836

My very dear Caroline

I just bid you farewell, the carriages at the door, their rumbling wheels soon will tell that you are far away, but the fond remembrance of these happy hours will remain while life lasts

When your happy home remember Again [dear?]
Levina Moore

[*Added in another hand:*] Niece of Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*]

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

Seminary. Friday Morn

My Dear Caroline

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

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

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

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

I think they demean themselves with the utmost propriety

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

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

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

Good bye

Affectionately yours
Mary W. Chapin.

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

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

Mt Holyoke [*Massachusetts*], March, 1840

My dear dear Caroline,

Sister Mary [*Mary Grant*] is going to leave us tomorrow for her own dear home where she has so long wished to be, I do not need to tell you how sorry we all are to have her go, but still much as we love her, we would not keep her from those dear ones who know best how to cheer the drooping spirit, of a fond sister and daughter.

But stop, me thinks you will wonder, by the time you have read so far who it is that is writing you, if so I will gratify your curiosity by telling you that it is none other than your old friend, who used to sit right opposite you, last summer, at the sixth table.

Yes Caroline I am still at the Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] And I have wished again and again that you were here, that together we might ascend the toilsome passage at the hill of science, for alas! sad experience teaches that the way is not all strown with flowers, I might tell you of the difficulties, but sister Mary knows them all, and it would only be a vain repetition of words. A strange feeling comes over me when I think of poor Mary's going away, I have loved her ardently and strongly and time will not soon dim my remembrance of her. Where now shall I go when I am sad and lonely? For Marys seat is vacant, in the hall at the table and in the section room, and there are now no charms <*now*> to induce me to go to No 40, the one I loved has gone. Oh I do hope you will do something, for the poor girl, she has borne all her pains in silence, though her countenance has so strongly betrayed her assertion, that she was well. I have often wished that I could be a sister to her, for I do think a sister presence would often have prevented the falling tear.

Mary will tell you all about the Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] What vast improvements have been made since last year, also what you are to expect on the coming one

Sister Helen expects to be here, perhaps you will be class-mates, As for me I must stop my story, for the retiring bell has rung Please excuse this hasty scrawl, I would not send it, but I wish to have you know that I remember and love you, will you not write

[*Added in another hand:*] Written by Harriet N. Thompson Heath, Mass. Married 1848 Mr. J.G. Mead — Residence in 1852 Northwood, N.Y. [*New York*]
C. Grant. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

Miss M. Burr.

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

Dear Caroline ~

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

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

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

Yours truly

Catharine L. Leach.

Miss C. Burr.

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

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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 Caroline Burr [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Norfolk
Ct [*Connecticut*]
By Mary Burr}

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] March 20, 1840

Dear Caroline

Your little black eyed sweet sister Mary, is going to leave us this morning ~ I cannot let her go without saying one word to you. And first I wish you had been here to make Mary come & see us more
She has rarely been in our room, this year & forsooth she says because she always finds a room full, which I do not admit. I have just lectured her for it. Yet she is very dear to me & ever will be.

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

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

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

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

Most affectionately yours

Abby Moore [*Abigail Moore Burgess*]

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

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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 Caroline Burr. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

My own dear Caroline

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

But dear Carra. I could not let Mary go without at least a note to you, for I have many things to tell you. And first I must tell you my own delinquencies, and my sorrow because of them. I have been an unfaithful friend and sister to Mary dear, and perhaps she will tell you that weeks have passed away in which she has had no proof of my remembrance. Could she have seen my

heart she would have known herself beloved and cared for — but I fear that now she thinks me indifferent. I will not attempt to exculpate myself — for Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] tells us the want of time is generally equivalent to a want of "character," and this is my only plea.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Julia

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

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

Holyoke April 28, 1843.
Frid. Morn —

My dear Caroline —

With a heart full of love to you I have only a little time to speak of that love — I this morning had a fine ramble — gathered some wild flowers and have sent them as my bridal present to my dear C. [*Caroline*] — With them you will find some other flowers perhaps equally precious because they have been reared within Holyoke's [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] walls.

Another little token of love made by her whose name it bears will be enclosed in this — may it often remind you of Susan and always assure you of her best, her very best wishes for your welfare. O, how I wish I could be with you when you are publicly given to him who has long claimed you for his own. May you not only be happy in each other but in God — the source of all happiness — Do write me when you reach your new home — Will you not?
Yours truly

Susan Reed.

[*Added in another hand*:] Miss Reed taught several years in the Mt. Hol. Sem [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] Married in 1845 to Rev. Mw. Howland Missionary to Batticotta India.
She was a very dear friend of mine —
Caroline Grant

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

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

Dear Lettie [*Alletta Hill Hulsizer*]

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

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

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

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

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

Lewis & I got up before half past six Sunday morning to go for it and we were back before nine. It was cold and windy but we walked fast enough to keep warm. Yesterday it began to grow warm and today it has been quite like spring. I'm sure I hope it will continue so that we can enjoy going after wild flowers. I wish I knew some way I could get that compound microscope. I tell you what it is, I don't want to be a know-nothing. Besides the pleasure of studying botany I want to know something that will make me appear a little intelligent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Copy

[*Addressed to*] Mary P. B. Hill

[*Letterhead*] Oberlin College,
Oberlin, Ohio.

Office Of The Registrar,

H. C. King, Miss M. B. P. Hill.

My Dear Miss Hill

Allow me to impart to you the following vote of the Faculty which was passed with great unanimity and singular enthusiasm.

"In accepting the resignation of Miss Mary P B Hill as assistant Registrar of Oberlin College, the Faculty desire to put on record an expression of their hearty appreciation of the high quality of the service Miss Hill has rendered to the College, in the exceptional accuracy and thoroughness with which the work of the office has been done by her, in the faithfulness and tact shown in her dealing with the students, and in her large and always careful regard for the College interests;

The Faculty wish also to express their recognition of the unfailing courtesy and care with which their own efforts have been seconded by Miss Hill in their dealing with the Registrar's Office."

Written by one who knows it best (Prof. King)

C. B. Martin

Clerk of the Faculty

Oberlin June 11, '91.

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Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
Sept. 1880

My dear Aunt Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*],

It was a great disappointment to us that Carrie [*Caroline R. Hill*] could not come at the beginning of this term. Her cousin Almon [*Almon Burr*] thinks that if she can not be here <u>before</u> the first of Oct. that there is not much use of her coming at all this term, though if she took but two studies perhaps she could make up with out trouble. But whether it will be wise for her to do that depends upon whether or not she can attend the school here any more at present nothing had been settled upon for her beyond this term. I thought that if she could be here and take this full terms work that she would have a years schooling with no expense to you beyond her traveling expenses which were not heavy. And I hoped very much that some money might come in to relieve the financial stress of the school, so that every cent that Almon could spare would not have to be swallowed up in it, and that we could bear the heaviest part of her expenses when we

got back to the School, as well must next [term?]. but no way has opened yet. and I have talked the matter over with Almon this morning. he does not see how he can possibly pay more than two dollars a week towards her board. and her board in the hall would not be less than four dollars a week (washing, lights, fuel included) and there would be ten dollars a term tuition besides mother seemed to think that because Almon was Principal he could let Carrie in without tuition he does not own the school. It is in the hands of the trustees and he has not power to remit tuitions. the only way that he can do so, is to pay [them?] himself. and as soon as she begins to board any where for the purpose of attending school, the city will not pay her bills, as it has been doing. I explained to mother last winter the the action of the board of education as to who should be termed "city scholars" The youth of this place have the privileges of the school free, by the payment to the school, by the city government of $1200 (twelve hundred dollars) a year and students from out of the town who can be taken in to families here as "one of the family" have their board given them – are adopted by the city, but others are not.

I suppose you wonder how we can have her here while keeping house, if we cannot afford to pay more towards her board at the Hall, but we found <*found*> that our house keeping expenses Carries board added <*was*> were just about the same, as the board for our own family at the Hall. and when we go back there come to add her full expenses to our own, and all that Almon has pledged to school and church, it is more than we can afford. I am very very sorry. I do wish we had money enough to take her through without [ones?] break. We love her dearly. and would like very much to have her with us right along, and if we could keep house, could do so, but Almon is obliged to look after every thing at the Hall, and has to be there so much of the time that he can not look after things here in the least. and too it is so very hard at times to get our pay. that it makes the obstacles to housekeeping very great. It is easier <*of*> for them to pay Almon in board than in money, and if we board at the house, we are sure of our living expenses of which we are not sure out of it.

I am greatly troubled about Almon. I <*feel that*> feel that he is working himself to death. And he is beginning to feel it himself.

This consideration together with the miserable condition of Bodoin College [*Bowdoin College*] morally, which makes him shrink from being obliged to send boys there and the continued low condition of the school financially made him feel last year as though he could not stay here any longer. But the trustees said that if he left they would ease their efforts toward the building up the school, sell the property and close up. Which of course was throwing the responsibility of killing the school upon Almon and he didn't feel that he could do that yet so here he is, and I don't know but is likely to be for some time yet. School has opened remarkably well this year. More scholarly than ever before so that is encouraging. I do not give up the hope of being able to help Carrie more bye and bye. But what I speak of is what I can do now. If you can not afford this expense, perhaps another year I might be able to do a little more for her. but you see how it is. I do not know what the future has in store for us.

It is time for this to go and I must not write longer. I wish that I could say that I could pay all her expenses not matter what they were. I do not forget your many and continued kindnesses to me. and wish that I could do something to in some degree repay them.

With much love to you all,

Your aff. [*affectionate*] niece.

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

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[*First page(s) missing:*]

The boats only go as far as Boston from here. Starting about three o'clock in the afternoon and reaching Boston about five next morning. Fare two dollars. Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] and some of her little friends had great fun hanging May baskets last evening. The most important thing to do is to open the door very quickly and catch the person before there is time for one to get away. So when the bell rang last night Harry [*Harold William Burr*] & I rushed to the door and found several May baskets, I brought them in and then saying "how I'm going to catch somebody" rushed out of the door full speed and nearly ran over a young gentleman who was coming to see

Cousin Almon [*Almon Burr*]. I didn't stop to investigate matters but disappeared very suddenly around the corner of the house.

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*:] Miss Mary Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Connecticut
Ridgebury NY [*New York*]
March 4th

Ridgebury Feb. 25th 1839.

Friend Mary

I have to ask you in the first place, whether you and Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] intend to teach next summer, and then if so, what you could afford to take as a compensation for teaching for myself and Stephen. He has taken on academy in Westown, 6 ms from this place. I do not much expect we shall be able to pay you, your price as our schools will be small, and the people here are not willing to pay enough for tuition, to warrant us giving as large a sallery as we should like. You would have small scholars, with perhaps the addition of a class in needle work or drawing, if you would be willing to teach them, from our rooms. We will be quite pleasantly situated 6 ms from each other. Please write immediately on the receipt of this what is the lowest you could afford to take for a term of 22 weeks, with board and washing found, as also traveling expenses.

From our circumstances we do not much expect we could afford to pay you what you aught to receive, but we thought, there could be no harm in writing. If you should agree to come, one of us would come out in the spring to be your company here. Our schools will commence about the last week in April. I have said nothing of your Aunt Susan [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*], for I understood she was going west in the spring with Edwin. You will please make my best respect to her; as also to your Father & Mother. Miss Caroline & Miss Eliza.

Your sincere Friend

[Wm Bross?]

Miss Mary Burr.

March 4th

I intended to have sent this letter last week but could get no opportunity to send it to Goshen as we have but one mail a week. Please answer it immediately or we shall not receive your letter before my term closes. I wish them to hear from you if possible.

[Wm Bross?]

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

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

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

My dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sister Caroline

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

M. Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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

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

Wankesha. Prairieville, Sept. 11, 1847 –

My dear Sister,

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

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

was apparently pleasantly located – he has spent five or six weeks in Watertown since leaving Phil.

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

Mr. Codding is now preaching for us – believe the people are well pleased with him. Mrs. C. is an intellectual, intelligent lady – She [sane?] not long since in Milwaukie Mrs. Martha Leach Curtis & Mary Humphrey said they enquired after me, sent love &c. I presume they learned that I resided in Prairieville from the Mem. Catalogue [*Memorial Catalogue from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] – you have rec'd [*received*] one I presume – Mr. Curtis preaches in Ann Arbor Mich. [*Michigan*]
Mrs. Codding said he looked & appeared well, but she did not think he was a great man – is pro-slavery. They were on a journey to Chicago as Mrs. Curtis' health was delicate she having been confined a few weeks previously & lost her child – Mary Humphrey is an assistant in Sem. [*Seminary*] in Racine. I think her sister Helen (widow Paler) resides [there?] now. & Mrs. Codding was not previously acquainted with them, but they happened to be at one place I was exceeding glad to hear from Sarah Sibley – have not yet written her, but intend to when I have time –

Where is cousin Thankful now & where is Warren. & how is his health? Did he visit Vermont with T. this summer? has just curled up in the rocking chair
13 Mon. A.M. I am in the midst of washing but <*but*> Abby has a chill coming on & wants Mama to rock her, so I improve the time in writing – Abby does not like to be bathed in cold water, she frequently says on [waking?] in the morning & during the day, "Mama, need Abby be washed? Abby don't want to be washed" – Willis Tickenor brought her a pretty Maltese kitten the other day which is a great comfort to her – many remark on hearing her talk, that she speaks very plain for one of her age, but she is not constantly jabbering like some children –

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

We have not made much taking boarders, don't know but we cleared 50 cts. per week. Think it was better to board Mr. Purington than to paid a dollar in or even 75 cts money. he called his board 1.50 & the house rent the same
Mr. Canfield the young man who boarded with us 14 weeks has lately gone home to Vt. [*Vermont*] Are now alone – expect before long to board a mare to pay for some work done on the house –

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

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

I want you should ask Aunt Sally if she knows what it was that Dr. <*Bide*> Welch applied to her Daniel head to check the swelling when he was so bad with Erysipelas – I am anxious to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Millbrook July 26.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please give my love to all.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] niece

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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

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

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

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

Abbie. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

I am going back to Winsted this week.

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[*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 <u>remarkably</u> 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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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Nichols
Clayton, Mass.

Nov. 4, 1879.

Dear Mrs. Nichols,

Pressing duties have caused this long delay in noticing your request and I beg you to excuse this want of courtesy. But if this does not reach you in time, you will lose nothing, for altho' I have a general idea of Miss Lyon's [*Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] character, & teaching etc. but really recollect few particulars so as to put them in shape on paper.

I was then young, took no notes, (wh. [*which*] I have since regretted) was there at the very commencement of the school, the building was in an unfinished state, so that there was necessarily a great deal of planning & arranging of details, "getting the wheels in motion" as Miss Lyon so often expressed it, and her mind & strength were most earnestly engaged in the work – one could but be impressed with her activity, her zeal, her whole heartedness in her work.

Those of us who were then there remember the frequent opportunities for "benevolent work", & there was no lack of cheerful volunteers when Miss Lyon called.

But with all her burden & weight of care she found time to give us words of wisdom & counsel on topics relating to our well being & well doing, on motives, & principles of action that should govern us.

I recollect in her talk on teaching she said the chief motive should be to do good to benefit others – that the pecuniary reward should be the least motive, "the lower most round in the ladder."

She said much to secure a proper observance of the Sabbath & to imbue our minds with a sacred regard for it. She gave no countenance to letter writing on the Sab. [*Sabbath*] – I believe in cases in which she would think it right to do it were exceeding rare.

In one instance where the circumstances & the subject would seem (to many at least) to justify penning a letter home conscience whispered get Miss Lyons approval, <*Miss Lyons*> but her consent could not be obtained – "better to be excused from a lesson on Mon. she said

How much Miss Lyon labored to inspire in her pupils truly missionary spirit. She wanted us to give for the cause, & to receive the benefit of it, & have the luxury of it by denying ourselves in order to do it, "wear your bonnet ribbon another year, your dress or retrench in some way

How strictly were all days of fasting & prayer observed

I now almost feel the stillness & solemnity wh. [*which*] pervaded the house – what rich blessings often followed – Miss Lyon understood the spiritual needs of every one who came under her charge. How lovingly & tender she lead us to the foot of the Cross – I often think how many redeemed ones she has welcomed to Heaven whose steps she guided thither – may we all have the like spirit of consecration & devotion to our Masters work. I cannot speak <*from*> of Miss Fiske from personal acquaintance but we all know of her saintly character & bright example.

I wish I could have written a more satisfactory letter. Hope I shall in some way have a report of yr. meeting. It will no doubt be a delightful & profitable one.

[*no signature*]

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[*Addressed to*] Rev. J. Eldridge
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Prof. Larned about Ralph's going to N. Haven

New Haven Jan 8, 1851

Dear Sir,

I have been absent and did not receive your letter till last night. I have to-day made the inquires. I think he can get board in a club for $1.60 week. I hope I can get him one of the college rooms, - which will be with taking care $4.50 a term: - I have just seen a man who will furnish it –that is will loan a stove – chair – table – bed-stead & Matrass for $2 or 3 dollars a term. He might bring bedding – candles – candlestick from home. He should come Saturday if possible. Let him get his baggage checked – let him leave it at the Depot, keeping his checks – and then go to the Temperance Hotel, in the corner of Church & [Grove?] - & then call on me, or if he does not find me or Mills. Perhaps he might spend the night with Mills – His fuel will be three

dollars perhaps a more. I will attend to the printing of Sun Sermon with pleasure. I write in haste. Regards to your family. I am yours truly

W. A Larned

I left here – Brooklyn

The enclosed is what Prof. Larned wrote about Ralph going to New Haven when he was thinking of attending Prof. Norton's Lectures. C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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[*Addressed to Caroline Grant Burr*]

Jan. 23. 67.

My very dear Sister,

I am sorry & ashamed that your kind letters have so long remained unanswered. But I trust you will excuse me. You know my poor nature, how soon I become weary, & must sleep, & then there is a coat, shirt, vest, pair of pants, stockings, suspenders, or mittens to mend, wh. [*which*] added to the housework, so completely occupy my time as to leave very little <*time*> for writing. (If your mending lags, what may I say of mine?)

Abbie [*Abigail E, Grant Burr*] is a very, very great comfort to us, even about as much so, as Mary [*Mary Burton Shurtleff*] when here. She sees what must be done, & needs no prompting. I think she is less pale than when she came, hope her present discipline will be profitable, & she reelly appears to enjoy it. Her time is fully occupied, helping me, writing & receiving letters, etc.

You inquire etc. I have written to the Probate Judge of this Co. [*County*] He did not answer [*page torn*] questions but said he must forget her maiden name. Her first husband's name was Reed. She teaches her own & husband's children in their own house for $20 per month, has stove furnished & coal I think.

If Abbie sh'd [*should*] get smart enough, P. [*Philander Burton?*] thinks he c'd [*could*] get her a place in the Union in G. [*Grinnell*?]

I rejoice that you can still stay with father [*Elijah Grant*] & that you have kept so comfortably well, under your numerous cares, & that the family have kept so comfortable. I do sympathize with you in the loss of your cows. I think the little dairy can hardly be called such dairy, now still you speak of making many little cheeses, etc. If the family can be supplied with these comforts fr. [*from*] the 4 remaining cows, you will do well.

We only haul our wood nine miles. Wm. [*William Burton*] has been wishing for snow. A little fell last Tuesday. Wm. [*William*] thot [*thought*] he w'd [*would*] try it, but found almost bare ground. Thermometer has been 18 below zero, but weather is milder now. We keep thermometer in the cellar. It stands near freezing point I hope we shall not lose many potatoes, sometimes put coals & hot [water?] [in?] the cellar.

After losing these cows, I think <*Marcis*> Marcus will not be troubled with means to reduce that debt this winter. I wonder if he will not regard it, as a favor, he does hate to pay debts so bad. (I cannot see how he can ever pay, so long as he is bound to expend pay six or eight hundred dollars on the road, & receive only four hundred. But he will say I am meddling with what does not belong to me, & so I am.)

I had a list of things I thot [*thought*] I w'd [*would*] send for, but I have lost it. All for the best perhaps. I did not know what to do about it, I had written down Hammar, Meat axe, 3 or 4 Six quart pans, Foot stove, Old shoes that I wore there, that I left in closet fr. father's bed room, (it is difficult to find shoes that feel easy on my feet). Possibly this list may turn up, but it will be much trouble to you to get the barrel started, & I will say no more about it now. Abbie & I tho't [*thought*] one of those covered boxes you kept crackers in etc. w'd [*would*] be so nice, but perhaps you c'd [*could*] not spare one [*page appears to be missing*]

....see me, that the business w'd [*would*] incur large expense, etc. I do not know when I shall go to Montezuma I ought, soon.

24, Wednes.

As to articles I bought from you, none came [....?]. Even those little, new patches wh. [*which*] I almost thought c'd [*could*] do no good, (you know I am not partial to small <*pa*> patches) are just the thing for mittens, & the black hood, with short cape, is just the thing on the windy prairie, the clothes pins too, woe to the garment that falls upon this black sand. But brief time

<*fails*> does not allow me to say how often I am reminded of yr. thoughtfulness & kindness. The boys think you are a wonderful aunt, & that cousin E. Pinney must be a wonderful cousin to think to send them maple sugar. Please remember me very kindly to cousins Orville & Elizabeth, also Mrs. Allen Mrs. Lawrence & all inquirers. Mrs. [Batcham?] (our nearest neighbor when with you) says, Sylvia Allen was one of her most intimate acquaintances when she lived in Granby, Conn. that she was well acquainted, with Truman Allen's family etc. Whether she knew Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Allen, I cannot tell

I wish Marcus w'd [*would*] write when you write again. What you related of family matters was most cordially received.

That uncomfortable heat in my back is passing off, I hope. My limbs trouble me some. I have fears of the same difficulty father labors under, but hope still.

Only one of your letters is now at hand. I fear I have not answered half your questions. Will write again, ere long.

Mr & Mrs. Shurtleff [*Mary Burton Shurtleff and Giles Waldo Shurtleff*] intended to commence keeping house the 7th inst. Quite new experience for them.

Do you wish to know what we are doing just now. Abbie has just melted snow enough to wash her hair. (She makes bread, pies, cakes, etc, etc,) I made my sons cheese yesterday. Mr & Mrs Jno. [Delahoide?] & Mrs. Edward Brown, with each their only little boy, took tea with us yesterday, P. M. Wm. [*William Burton*] & Thedie [*Theodore Elijah Burton*] have gone to pick a load of corn. Think Thedie & Abbie will go to Grinnell this P. M.

We had a wagon load of citrons fr. [*from*] those seed Mrs. A gave me. Our garden did well but the frost of Sept. 20 melted the vines right down.

Good Bye for the present dear sister.

E. Burton [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

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[*Addressed to unknown*] from Cousin Cornelia Benton to Caroline Grant?

New Haven March 12th

My Dear Cousin,

Jennie & Husband and Bertie have just made us a visit, was glad to see them, it brings to mind days that past, that I spent with my dear Aunt O how much like a dream my life appears as I look backward. I have thought of you and Edward in your affliction, although my silence would not indicate it. I am glad he is able, as Jennie told us to be about and do a little work, he has had a <u>long hard siege</u>. I do not wonder he feels discouraged, and yet if we fully trust, and believe that "not a sparrow falls to the ground without His is notice," and that He <u>is</u> leading us <u>every step</u>, although the way does seem dark, and mysterious. <u>He cannot make a mistake, trust Him</u>, some good must come out of all this, I think there is contained in this poem a beautiful thought.

My Father God, lead on!
Calmly I follow where Thy guiding hand
Directs my steps, I would not trembling stand,
Though all before the way
Is dark as night; I stay
My soul on Thee, and say
Father I trust Thy love, lead on.

I have not heard from Aunt Susan [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis?*] in a long time, for the reason that I have not written to her, I shall write very soon. We have had company this winter most of the time, it so happened, but as I have been able to entertain them I have enjoyed it, a number of Mr B's relatives have been here. Brother David is keeping house alone a good deal of the time this winter as Eunice likes to be away with her children. D. is as well as usual. Ollie is keeping house in N. York [*New York*] she is daily expecting another heir, if she has it not already, her little girl is 2 years last Sep. a pretty child name Viola. Fred Benton had a son born last Jan. an only one. There is nothing special to write about my children only they are well and seen to be prospered to a small extent. Raymond has two children, son and daughter. Fran has one son three years old Fannie still remains with us keeping house on our 2nd floor. Bessie is in school she could have graduated this year, but we thought it would seem to crowd her to much, so we deferred it until

next-year, she has always been to Mrs. Cady'[s] private school. She is not very strong, but expect she will be more vigorous when through her school. Gracie's eldest daughter is through high school, is now a book keeper for her father, so cannot help her mother much, all the others are in school the two youngest go to a private Kindergarten. Emma and her family are in very good health the three children are all in school. Alonzo's family have some of them suffered with what they called the "La Grippe." I think the little girl is not very well since but they expect she will come out all right. We were not troubled with "Grippe" or any such thing.

I would like to hear about the Flemington friends. I do not hear only when I hear from you. Your husband must have had a lonely time the past year. I suppose he learned to take care of himself while in the west. We attended the Stodard course of lectures this winter it was very interesting as well as instructive, two of the lectures were upon the life of Napoleon, while that was fresh in our memory, we had an opportunity to attend a play, <*of the*> entitled 'Life of Josephine' it was very fine.

Mr Baldwin's health is very good, he is able to attend to business every day and has had some one building in process of erection for the last – fifteen years, but now he has none, and is helping Mr [Braly?] about his moving business when he feels like it. He has caused to be erected 20 brick buildings on this little square of land, and still there is room for more. Mr. B. [*Baldwin*] thinks we will visit his friends in Iowa and Minnesota next summer we went to Ocean Grove last summer, and other places.

Now dear cousin I would like to hear from you, and please tell me about all of our relatives. Nancy too, do you know where Cousin Warren is? We supposed he was to spend the winter in Georgetown, with his wife's relatives, but we fail to get an answer from there. Frank Benton is in N. H. [*New Hampshire*] working for Fred Benton in the box manufactory, has Jessie gone west again? We would all be very glad to have a visit from you, and would it not be the best thing for you to have a change from your ardious duties of the past year, and so spend a few weeks with us, it would be convenient now as any time come right along.

Yours with much love
Cornelia [*Benton Baldwin?*]
22 Whalley Av.
N. Haven, Ct.

[*Written in pencil on the bottom of the last page, is the following*]
would like this returned please CG [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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926 Broadway
New York. Oct. 13, 1837.

Dear Brother --

We received in due time your letter and were glad of it -- brief though it was. We received the same day letters from Mill Brook [*Millbrook, Connecticut*]. Were sorry to learn that Marcus is getting no better. His case is hard indeed. We are anxious to see you all, and shall probably do so at no very distant day. You are aware of the state of our business affairs Every body is failing -- and nothing is doing -- Never was such a time before. And yet never was there such abundance the country through of the necessaries of life.

The prospect for the thousands thrown out of Employment for the winter is forbidding indeed -- Already is our city full of suffering and beggary to an unprecedented extent --

As my relations to the school do not hold me here I think we shall flee from this center of disaster and gloom to spend a few weeks at last in the society of our friends in the country. I do not yet know where we shall go -- but before very long I think.

You speak in your last of any garments which I may have worn all I can -- Particularly of my overcoat -- Whatever I have I shall be glad to put in your hands. My overcoat is not exactly worn out, but is too small for me -- So I shall need a new one for that season if for no others -- Especially in the country -- So if you still think you would like it, I will get it to you in some way.

All kinds of goods are being sold [now?] by one merchants at reduced rates -- Every thing for ladies wear can be bought at cost or less -- for cost -- the great want being money -- If you or your family need -- you can buy cheap by sending to us.

Everybody <*has*> not broken, is trying to sell his stock on hand in order -- to stand it through -- You have no ideal how sad a fix things are in -- and I cannot tell you.

Our school has opened unusually well -- but I am afraid it will not grow as usual. It now numbers 20. I do not teach much -- Have one private pupil.

Gertrude [*Gertrude Day Grant*] will be glad of the letter we are daily expecting from Sister Caroline. She wished her thanks sent in return for the assurances of your last -- and sends love to you all. She is anticipating much in visiting my friends in [Conn?] and her Uncles in Mass -- Boston & [Westfield?] --

Remember us to all relatives and friends who you may see. Write ere long -- Love to all your little circle --

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

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Oberlin [*Ohio*], Aug 1st 1876

Dear Cousin,

I was very sorry to part with you in the manner I did. I counted so upon seeing you at the Art Gallery, that I did not even provisionally bid you "good bye", I was a few minutes late to my appointment, but haunted the neighborhood of those pieces of statuary so long, that I am convinced you, for some reason, did not try to meet me there. I had counted on a fine time looking over those grant works of art with you, I know nothing of your movements after you left Phila. [*Philadelphia*] but suppose you have long since found your way back to Ct. [*Connecticut*]

I am now attending Commencement exercises here. Have seen the Theolgues & Ladies graduate & tomorrow expect to see the gents do likewise. All seems passing off very pleasantly.

Mr & Mrs Smith came to day from Ill [*Illinois*], Mrs S. & Prof. Cowles are sister & brother to Mrs. Corbin, If you see her you may say they are very well. We are all well here, I saw Miss Hill your Cousin this morn. in usual health. Has been pretty warm to day but we have no such excessive heat as about two weeks since, I suppose Theodore is now at Phila. [*Philadelphia*] Do you know Cousin John's whereabouts? I got here the eve of July 6th, Shall start for Grinnell, Iowa Aug 3rd I think. Hope to hear from you there at your earliest convenience, I was a good deal worried about you But had made all my arrangements for going on the evening train & thought it extremely doubtful about my being able to find you if I waited over, I had a very pleasant ride through Penn'a [*Pennsylvania*] I thought the mountain scenery very fine, & there certainly were never more beautiful views than the Susquehanna & Juniata, When did you reach home? How have you found the friends? When you write Cousin Abbie tell her, I shall not much longer neglect her very kind & pleasant letter. Give love to your Mother, Uncle Auntie & the others when you see them, In great haste

Affectionately your Cousin
Wm [*William*] Burton

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[*Transcription: original not in collection*]
[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Savannah [*Georgia*], Jan. 19, 1832

My dear Parents,

You probably have received a letter which I commenced writing Jan. 14 which was finished by cousin Roscana. That informed you of my sudden departure from Ipswich. Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] accompanied me to Boston Wednes. P. M. to assist me in making arrangements for my passage to this place. Then I expected to go on to Providence [*Rhode Island*], & from thence to N. Y. [*New York*] & set sail for Savan [*Savannah*]. But on arriving in Boston, I found a ship was

soon to sail from there & it was judged best for me to come in it. It was expected then that it would sail on Fri. so I was full of business Thurs. Miss Lyons advised & assisted me in making necessary purchases which we nearly completed at one o'clock. We then prepared to accept an invitation to dinner at Hon. Samuel Hubbard's. I enjoyed this visit much. It is a remarkably well regulated family. Mr. H. [*Hubbard*] has seven children, five by his former wife, & two by his present one. Miss Eliza Hubbard, his eldest daughter, is now here. She has been journeying with Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] for many months. Thurs. eve. the Capt. the ship Olive Branch in which I was expecting to sail came & spent the evening at Capt. Lovett's. No. 19. Hancock St. where we were boarding. We sent an invitation to him the morning previous. He, Capt. Dyer is a plain, but sensible man, & I shall ever feel grateful to him for his kind attentions during the passage. I was the only lady on board. There was one passenger besides myself. Mr. Herring lieutenant in the U. S. army. He was a Virginian educated at West Pt. [*West Point*] He was intelligent & rather gentlemanly. Sabbath morn about 11 o'clock we left Central wharf at Boston in the ship Olive Branch. The ship was well built, about 120 ft. long & of 400 tons burthen. The day we set sail was mild & very warm for New Eng. [*England*] Not a wave but small ripples were to be seen. About four miles from the wharf we passed between the islands on which the forts are situated. Fort Independence on Castle Is. [*Island*]. is west & Fort Warren the old fort east of the place where ships enter the harbor. About 100 men are stationed at Fort In. [*Fort Independence*] Walls of brick are raised 30 ft. I should think, on the east & south sides of it. These walls are white washed almost every summer. The earth is raised some higher than the wall, & there appear to be some fine buildings upon the island. We passed on pleasantly. About 6 miles from shore the pilot returned. I spent most of the day on deck hoping by that means to be less sea sick. I felt rather lonely. The crew were remarkably orderly, there were about 18 persons on board, including all, a cat, & about 14 fowls. I was sea sick only the first three days. After this, I relished our food as much as ever, which was wholesome. On an island, eight miles from the wharf, is the light house to guide eastern vessels & about a mile further is one to guide vessels into the port of Boston. The quarantine is on Painesford Island. Vessels are not detained there now. Capt. Dyer stayed there 10 days last Feb. on account of the cholera. There is a hospital, a surgeon's house, & some buildings on the island. I took some beef soup for dinner, thickened with rice & a few slices of turnips boiled in it. Soup was our first dish every day on board made either of beef, mutton or fowl <*beef*>. I suppose I could not have had better accommodations, & nothing more could I wish but a companion. I mean some lady's company. I had a state room, in which were four berths to myself. Saw the towns of Hull [*Massachusetts*] & Hingham [*Massachusetts*] to the west of us. Scituate [*Rhode Island*] meeting house was in sight most of Sab. [*Sabbath*] P. M. I took a cup of black tea & retired to rest about six o'clock, sea sick. After this we saw no more land till the next week. Fri. morn, a period of 11 days.

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

[*Seamen's Friend Society*] & almost 100 for a Theological Sem. [*Seminary*] in Jefferson Co. Ohio. Miss Lyon mentioned four reasons why the seamen had a claim on our benevolence. 1. Because they were exposed to great hard ships in this life. 2. Great exposure to a premature death. 3. The salvation of their soul. 4. Their instrumentality in converting the world. These increase in importance the last outweighing all the others. Mr. Hubbard of Boston thinks no society more in need of assistance now, than this.

Wednes. morn. Was rejoiced to find the wind abating. I went on deck the sea was high. The spray often rose so high as to sprinkle me. It repays for some suffering to see the ocean in such a situation. I do not think I have language to describe it to you. At one time the waves were from 30 to 40 ft. high & they were several times from 15 to 20 or 25 ft. Sometimes a hill of water would be moving towards the ship much higher than we were & it seemed as if it wd. [*would*] soon bury us, but the ship wd. [*would*] rise, or the wave die away. It is wonderful how the ships do avoid them so much. I saw a great number of porpoises darting through the water. They would weigh 100 pds. [*pounds*] are chiefly valuable for their oil, & are caught with harpoons. I suffered very little more from sickness. Friday I finished reading a tract "The Backslider" which I think very good. Wednes. P.M. The Capt. & mates kept trying the heat of the water to ascertain of we were in the Gulf Stream. At four o'clock the thermometers rose to 76 degrees so that the Capt. had no doubt but we were in the G.S. [*Gulf Stream*] He hoped not to get so far east as the stream, but the wind was unfavorable, & it cd. [*could*] not be avoided. The Gulf Stream is from 60 to 80 m. [*miles*] wide, & extends to the coast of Newfoundland. Sea weed is floating about it in great abundance which resembles ground pine. The air here was peculiarly soft & warm as May days in New Eng. [*England*] Wednes. night the rain fell in torrents. Squalls were frequent all the time the ship was in the G.S. [*Gulf Stream*] Thursday stayed below because of the rain. Spent most of the time reading Memoir of Felix Neff. The gale I mentioned on Tues. night, should have been Thurs. night. This was much more violent than the first. During the evening there was much thunder, & sharp lightning. After this, the wind blew from the N. W. One of sails was taken away. The Capt. thought it very fortunate that the sails were furled, otherwise he thought the whole might have sunk. Fri. I went on deck before breakfast, & remained there about five min. The ocean was indeed a grand sight. I did not go on deck again till Sat. We saw three vessels sailing most of the day. Sat. P. M. was very mild & Sab. [*Sabbath*] very pleasant I read the book of Hos. [*Hosea*] When on deck saw large collections of sea weed. At a distance it appeared yellow. Its color depends in a measure on its situation in the water. If two or three ft. [*feet*] below the surface it was a beautiful green. When on the surface, not so lively. Probably this is in part owing to the age of the weed. About sunset on deck I witnessed a scene which I fancy had I been blessed by the muses I should have seized as favorable to write poetry. The waters were gently undulating, & on every side of each [.... ....] hill of waters were numberless ripples. The horizon was skirted with broken clouds. The light of the fading day still lingered in west for some time only one gem twinkled in the heavens then one & another peeped out. The wind was soft & refreshing. I silently enjoyed it till the Capt. asked me down to tea. About poetry.....Abigail & John would learn to love poetry. When I was in Taunton [*Massachusetts*], Mr. Reed's children I thought had a pretty way of amusing themselves by capping poetry as they termed it. One would repeat a line, then another wd. [*would*] repeat one commencing with the same letter which ended the previous line, as if one should say, Deep in the waves is a coral grove, E is the last letter. The next line might be, Eye hath not seen it, my gentle boy, the next line begins with Y I think. Martha & even Marcus would like to it sometimes Mr. Joseph Emerson said at I. [*Ipswich*] last summer that poetry ought to receive 1000 times the attention it has yet received. Repeat poetry proper lines if you repeat at all. Mon. morning the waves were quite high but the motion was pleasant, no rocking but resembling swings, the head of the ship rising & then the stern. the waves usually break to the leeward that is if the wind is N. W. they fall away to the S. E. Tues. & Wednes. we were nearly in the latitude of Savannah but 300 miles from the coast & the direction of the wind such as the render the prospect discouraging as to what time we shd. [*should*] arrive at Savannah, but Wednes. night the wind changed & continued favorable the remainder of the passage. We were soon wafted over the Gulf Stream & Friday morning the land was in sight & a pilot was received on board. Sat. about ten o'clock I arrived at Savannah & sent to the P. O. for a letter which Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] had lodged there that I might know where to find her. About 11 I found her & now am pleasantly situated in a boarding house with Aunt &

Miss Hubbard. Coming up the river the scenery was very pleasant. Flocks of duck, crows & rice birds were flying about in all directions – Aunt & Miss H. [*Hubbard*] are expecting to accompany me to Forsythe [*Georgia*]. They will probably remain there about one month. Aunt expects to be in Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] next summer. We expect to go by steam boat to Augusta [*Georgia*], from thence by stage to Milledgeville [*Georgia*], then to Macon [*Georgia*]. Forsythe [*Georgia*] is 24 miles beyond Macon [*Georgia*]. I do not know what my school is to be yet. There are two departments male & female. Mr. Parsons the principal has a general superintendence of the female department though I suppose they are principally committed to me. You may direct your letters to Forsythe, Monroe Co. Ga. [*Georgia*] The accent of Forsythe is on the last syllable. The th has the aspirate sound. I expect to remain there a year. My dear father have you though that you have not written me one word since I left home, though I doubt not I have your best wishes & parental regard but will you write me one letter this winter. I suppose you are not so pressed with business as in summer. I wish you wd. [*would*] describe to me the state of the church & society in Colebrook [*Connecticut*], also the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school. Brother Daniel will you write me a minute description of our house? Abigail, will you write me about the school & our friends. Give my love to our cousins, aunts & uncles. Aunt received a letter containing the news of Aunt Pettibone's death last Sat. the day I arrived here. We sympathize with them & hope they will be comforted.

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

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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 real, Asiatic 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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[*Transcription: original not in collection*]

[*Addressed*] Caroline Grant

Forsyth [*Georgia*], Nov. 22, 1833

My dear Parents,

Some time has elapsed since I have addressed a letter directly to you, though I believe I have written to some member of the family as often as once in six weeks. I have received no letter from Conn. [*Connecticut*] since I last wrote to brother Phelps. My health has been uninterruptedly good, & it is a time of general health in this region of country – I received a letter from Elizabeth & Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] three weeks since. E. [*Elizabeth*] says "Mother has not written me for a long, long time, & I sometimes almost think she has forgotten me." I have been gone so long, I fear it will be so with me, & that you will hardly know me. No. I do not think so, you think enough about me, & I am afraid you are sometimes too anxious. I know I cannot keep my self from danger, & that if left to myself I should run into sin, but I still feel that if I do my part, I shall be upheld. I have many friends here, indeed all of the people are kind, but still I do not exactly like to stay here. I wish you to remember me at a throne of grace. I do not know where I shall spend the coming year. I have been in a state of suspense which you know is unpleasant. I do not suffer myself to be anxious. A merciful Providence has thus far caused my cup to overflow with blessing, & I can trust for the future. My school closes in three weeks, the 13th of Dec. The trustees of this school called on me to know my plans & wishes for the coming year. I thought it would not be best for me to remain here, & I told I intended returning to the north in the spring, but that I should like to occupied in school till that time. Some families are anxious I should stay next year. About four weeks since I received a letter from Liberty Co. with an invitation to assist in an academy there. My business there would be mostly teaching the management devolving on the gentleman & lady, who have the charge of the school. They offered a salary of $400. Board from 100 to 150 dollars. Liberty [*Georgia*] is about 40 miles from Savannah. Dr. Law, the physician of this place was raised there. I consulted him about the healthiness of the place, he thinks it very healthy on sand hills, where the academy is situated, & he thinks it would not be hazardous to health to go there in the winter season, & stay a year. They want my services Jan. 1. In my reply, I stated to them that I did not feel at liberty to engage till I had consulted my friends &c. Last Tues. I received another communication from them wishing me to give them a decided answer to their proposal – stated my labors would not be great – that they were surrounded by a religious community that Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] had many acquaintances there who would give me a kind reception & be interesting friends &c. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] had previously written me that Miss Eaton wished me to cooperate with her next year in her school in Philadelphia, & that she had rather I would be with her than in almost any other situation. I had not heard from her. I answered it in the negative. Mr. Lumpkin says, if I stay in Geo. [*Georgia*] he thinks I can do better than that as to compensation. I have a note against Mr. Parsons of $100 due Jan. 1. The law of that state will not allow me to collect it under a years & I may never get it. Mrs. P. [*Parsons*] resides in Lib.

Co.[*Liberty County*] & I think I should be more likely to get it to spend a year there than otherwise. I have sometime feared I should make some engagement which I, & my friends might in after time <would> regret. I feel willing to go where I can be most useful. If I am not engages in teaching school long I shall study geometry & algebra. Write to me what you wish me to do, I wish to do something to remunerate Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] for what she has done for me.

They have engaged a music teacher here for next year – Gov. [*Governor*] Lumpkin is reelected to the grief of the nullifiers. The legislature is now assembled at Milledgeville [*Georgia*]. The majority of the <Union> members are Union or Submission men.

I suppose thanksgiving time is coming soon, perhaps it is even now, if not you have many things to do. I presume I should like very much to be with you. I have looked over some papers to find when it was to be, but have not been able to ascertain.

Were the meteors which were seen in this state on the morning of the 13th of this month seen in New Eng. [*New England*]? Did you see them? The night was clear, calm & cool. An unusual number of them were seen in early part of the night. About two o'clock they began to appear in every direction. Mr. & Mrs. Lumpkin rose about three, & most of the negroes. They were much frightened. About five a servant called me, & told me to look out at the window. I did, & saw the meteors falling in every direction. I was reminded of a snow storm. Some of them emitted light resembling lightening. I went into Mrs. L's [*Lumpkin*] room & found them almost dead with fright. Many of them thought the day of judgment had really come. The barn helper & negroes were crying. Lord, have mercy upon me. I told them I had read such things, that they <had heard> were not stars, & that I did not feel afraid. It seems to <to> comfort them a good deal, Tom, a negro, said this was a warning to the sinners here. Some say now, the wise may explain as they please, they shall still believe they were stars. The appearance was very beautiful, most of them moved in an oblique direction, though some over head moved horizontally. One in the east, particularly brilliant, moved ten or twelve degrees leaving a line of light which continued for a minute or two. I thought from ten to twenty five might be seen in every direction at a time. The family & others say there were a hundred, some say thousands at the same moment. The[y] grew fainter & fainter till the light of day drowned them entirely.

Sat. morn. Nov. 23. The weather is cool [*a piece of the page is missing*]...that at night & morning good fires are comfortable. At noon & during the afternoon they are not necessary. There has been but little rain, this month the weather is altogether milder than in New Eng. [*England*] during this month. I perceive by the public papers you have had snow. – Christmas is a noted day in this region. It is the time for removing, settling accounts, & for amusement. The negroes, have that week mostly to themselves. The whites would call those masters cruel, that would keep their slaves at labor during that time. The slaves are proud of having rich & respectable masters & mistresses, also of fine carriages & horses, & houses. I am sure in their present condition, it would not do to set them free. They are exceedingly superstitious & ignorant.

Ms. Goddard expects one of her sisters on to spend the winter with her. I received a letter from her a few days since.

I have just learned that the meteors were seen in Charleston & Savannah, & should think from the descriptions more splendid than here. The mail closes soon. That you may have wisdom to discharge all your duties, enjoy the presence of God, & be wholly devoted to this service, is the desire & prayer of your daughter, Mary. [*Mary Grant*]

Love to my brothers & sisters, cousins, neighbors & all. Write soon after receiving this, very soon. Direct to Forsyth [*Georgia*]. Abigail should write me all about school, Sab. [*Sabbath*] School, etc. Farewell

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

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], March 22, 1834

My dear Brother,

Most sincerely do I thank you for your affectionate letter, mailed the 18th & received yesterday. The evidence, that it proceeded from a heart filled with fraternal tenderness, was most grateful to my feelings. As the number of my relatives diminishes, I seem to cling with increased ardor of attachment to the few that remain. Doubtless my heart too much resembles the vine by seeking support from near earthly objects. While I prize these blessings, may I always keep in mind their author.

It is painfully pleasant to me to mingle my sympathies with yours in behalf of those entire orphans, who are bone of our bone & flesh of our flesh. I rejoice, that the one among them now entering on manhood, proposes to take a course, that can keep the little children together, at least a little while longer. These tender lambs are by no means prepared to sustain the chilling blasts, & piercing storms of this tempestuous world. I hope it will be possible to have them in safe harbor, till their good moral habits can become established, & their right principles deeply rooted. Amanda, the little one, is probably from her childhood, in less imminent danger, from taking a misjudged course, or a wrong step, than Lovina. At this day, it is hazardous in the extreme for a female of Lovina's age to go any where among strangers unprotected, & to go thus into a city is almost certain ruin. Many from good families who have been induced to go either to <*either*> Boston, to Albany, or to New York for the sake of being in a better situation to procure their own support, have come in contact with society, unprincipled, corrupt & corrupting, & have been imperceptibly led to deviate widely from the moral rectitude of their parents, till they have eventually classed themselves with the vile. For together, less desirable, less respectable, & less safe than to be situated as a domestic [a servant] in a family. Should Lovina or any other of my neices be offered $10. a week or any other sum that could be named, I should not consider it the least temptation to have her place herself in such circumstances. I feel, therefore, that the plan for L. [*Lovina*] to go to the place proposed must not be executed. Could I see her one hour, I am sure she would be convinced that it would be best for her to relinquish it without hesitation. I am so situated, that I cannot immediately see her face to face. It seems, therefore, to devolve on you to be an active agent in the case, & I shall depend on your taking measures that will prevent her going forward in the way proposed. When you have done this, I will take charge of her for a year or more. It is very important she should attend school some more. I could probably obtain a situation for her in the family of my dear friend, Mrs. Briggs, where she might by her own efforts do something towards defraying the expense of her board, & <*attend a good school*> be treated as a sister, watched over as a child, & attend a good school. I should choose that situation for her, rather than that of a pupil in our large Seminary [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] at present. Mrs. Briggs has three children an aged mother, & a domestic about 60 years of age & a little girl in her family. The little girl will attend school next summer, & cannot render Mrs. B. [*Briggs*] much aid. Mrs Chickening, her aged mother, needs much of Kezia's time. <*And*> Mrs. Briggs is under the necessity of devoting much of her time to her wearisome babe now almost 3 months old, that she would probably highly value having some one with her, who could get the breakfast, & do some sweeping, & sewing, or aid her in any way she should need. She does not, however, think it best to employ any one wholly. <*Her*> Lovina's tuition, & the remainder of her expense for board, through the summer, & her traveling expenses on I will defray, without charge to her, [or] any one else. I will also come to Con. [*Connecticut*] about [the] first of May, & take her back with me. As I shall not be able to stay long, it is desirable she should be ready. I will aid her to a light calico dress, & to a white one if necessary. Her other clothing, it will be desirable she should have made, before she comes from home. Probably she may now have nearly as much as she will need. When I come to Colebrook [*Connecticut*], I will confer with you about the course to be pursued after this summer. I very much wish you could be guardian both to <*Almira &*> Lovina, & Amanda. It would be much more convenient to me to co-operate with you in relation to these children, than with a stranger. I know your cares are many, but I believe you would be sustained in your efforts to secure paternal care for these dependent children. My cares are almost overwhelming now, <*but*> should they become greater than they are, it would be my duty to care for your children, if they should become orphans.

Elizabeth is in good health. She will probably be able to make you a visit of a few days the last of April & first of May. I do not know precisely the time in May Mr. Hull will leave Andover [*Massachusetts*], but as soon as the middle & perhaps before.

I have unavoidably been prevented from finishing this in season for the mail today. hope it will reach you next Tuesday.

Did you receive from me a No. of the Religious Magazine? I suppose Almira can keep house with [Y?] As soon as any thing is decided will you write. With love to each member of your family individually your very affectionate and only sister, Z. P. Grant.
[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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

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

My dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is to be a protracted meeting here next week.

This week Thursday is fast.

Much love to all of you

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

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

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

Was the letter mostly written by Miss Cowles [*Abigail Cowles Grant?*] duly received? I suppose you perused it. Aside from one letter mailed about two weeks since to Elizabeth, & one business letter I penned for Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*], I have written but two letters since I came here. Miss Cowles has not heard, neither have I from home. Cousin Lovina received a letter from Grant and Miss Beach has heard a number of times, so that we have felt contented feeling that you all were usually well, yet I feel that a letter from home would indeed be acceptable My health has been good, for a week past a cold has troubled me some. Miss Cowles has been gaining strength, she has been absent from school but one half day — then because of the sick head ache. We enjoy rooming together well. Lovina is making good improvement I think, & is happy. Half of the term is gone, we are to have a short vacation soon here. The school is very pleasant, I do not know but I mentioned in my last that one section of 24 young ladies were committed to me. They are generally about 17 years of age from five different states. I never felt the privilege of living and laboring so great as this summer. I have often felt grateful that a kind Providence has brought me again to Ipswich [*Ipswich Female Seminary*]. I ardently desire that my principles may now become so fixed that I may be prepared for more extensive usefulness than formerly. Miss Lyon I think is more & more spiritual & enlarged in her views. She is confident one way in which the renovation of the world is to be accomplished, is the more general diffusion of correct female education, & I do think schools will eventually be formed where the domestic labor will all be performed by the pupils, & Miss Lyon will do something. It is known that she intends leaving Ipswich & she often receives applications, but she says, she thinks it would be wrong for her to accept any situation however desirable, unless on the domestic labor plan. She has given two lectures on fem. [*female*] education of about an hour each. She would have the intellectual advantages equal to any school now in operation. A few ideas in one of her lectures follow. Learn to philosophize upon what educated men & women ought to do in various ways, & what you ought to do & then do your part. I mean fem. [*female*] ed. [*education*] in general not principally our relations. The man without children may have that benevolence & comprehensive view of the subject as to render his interest ten times deeper than many men with ten daughters Throughout the country a man interested for himself alone is considered mean, but not so mean for an educated female to be contracted as an ed. [*educated*] gentleman. Females cannot rise so much above those around them as men. This one reason why the mass shd. [*should*] be raised — Aspire for an enlarged view. — education to go forth into the world to be actively useful. — God has blessed fem. education, & next to the preaching of the gospel a

means of bringing forth the glory promised. — Investigate — write upon the subject find out what is lacking, what is superfluous. — physical system to receive attention — to understand philosophy of the mind, & of human nature, how the passions are excited & allayed, & prepare for action on society, eminently philosophical able to investigate general principles on every subject. — Should be no incongruity between theory & practice. Her own passions under perfect self control. — A great loss of moral power by being obliged to warn others by our follies, rather than by our correct deportment — Our country is not awake to its importance — the advance is slower than generally supposed, & has not been principally to extend the privileges to a greater number. These are a few of her remarks which I noted down at the time. Some of them may be so unconnected that you may not understand them. Miss L. [*Mary Lyon*] always has general attention in her lectures. Her face & voice express a great deal, & her sincerity & deep feeling can but fix attention. I do think it much to be lamented that the vast majority of females have not the means to become prepared for expansive usefulness. We have heard of a small society in Jacksonville, Ill. [*Illinois*] composed of females who lend money to indigent promising females that they may gain an education, & for two or three days at table we have been discussing the utility of such a society in New Eng. [*New England*] conducted something on the principles of the Amer. Ed. Soc. [*American Education Society*] Mother, I thought had you been here you would have entered into it with all your heart. Do you take the Nat. Preacher? If you do not, Uncle Cowles does. It is taken here by the society in school for general improvement. The Jan. & May No's contain some sermons by Prof. Hitchcock on Intemperance in eating. I have read them, & wish you could all take the time to carefully read them Perhaps you might have it read aloud when all the family were together, or some Sat. evening calculate to have all the work done early & read one sermon. As you both mean to be awake in every good cause, I have no doubt you would like to understand, & not be behind on this subject. And I think it would do the children good, particularly the older ones. Perhaps they will read them if you cannot during this warm, busy season. I think of you these warm days, — good hayweather, I suppose. The thermometer stood at 96° in the shade at one <*in*> this P.M. Sat. July 26. It is now three the thermometer was taken & hung on the [b]arn in the sun where it rose to 108.°.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ipswich, Sept. 18. 1834.

My dear Mother,

I thank you for your letter, & wish you to write as often as possible. The preceding pages will show you that the time for efficie[nt] action on the behalf of the proposed Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] has come. I do think there will be some difficulty in collecting the $1000. as soon as desirable. Will not the maternal association rejoice to lend a helping hand. If mother, you can do any thing for this object, it is the cause of God & virtue. And from this fountain many streams will flow forth fertilizing the men[ta]l powers, & enriching moral feelings. Not on[ly i]n New Eng. but the example will be imitated by the West & South. <*If*> Whether we may live to see this, or not we shall never regret we made vigorous efforts. I never have been more interested in the success of any project, for I do think it intimately connected with the prosperity of the church. If the educated will show they desire such an institution, by very soon raising sufficient to support an agent it is to be hoped the school will be opened one year from

next spring. $.10 now may do more than 20. or 30 when the agent presents the subject. Hand this circular to Mrs. O. Stillman would she not contribute $10. also. Dea. [*Deacon*] Stillman's wife & daughters. I do hope Colebrook [*Connecticut*] ladies will avail themselves of this opportunity to do something to raise our country, & benefit the ch. [*church*] I trust they will not merely coldly approve, but be willing to sacrifice some thing to aid this noble, & very important enterprize. For further particulars I refer you to cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*]. I am expecting the stage every moment to call for her. I remain here during vacation, study Ecclesiastical Hist [*History*] some, & sew some. Pray my dear mother, that such young ladies may come here next winter as may be profited, remember the teachers, & me particularly. Love to you all.

Your affectionate

Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*].

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

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[*Originals not in file. Copied from transcription*.]

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Nov. 21, 1834.

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

It seems a long time since I have enjoyed the pleasure of writing you. For several weeks I have been hoping I should have time this week. Since the commencement of this term, we have been closely occupied with school engagements, & I do not expect much time to correspond with friends this winter. My health is very good. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has by economizing her strength been able to accomplish much thus far. She spends each forenoon in school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & sometimes the afternoon. The number of scholars is limited to about 110 boarders, aside from the young ladies from this town. I have care of the oldest section composed of about 30 young ladies. The young ladies are studious, & I believe universally desirous to improve, & do right. Half of my section have been teachers, & most of them expect hereafter to teach. All, excepting six, are professors of religion. Composition, arithmetic, <*&*> drawing & physiology have yet been the principal studies. For our Sab. [*Sabbath*] lessons we study the book of Gen. [*Genesis*] commencing with creation. Next Sab. [*Sabbath*] we take from Gen. [*Genesis*] 6 to the 9 inclusive. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] lectures three mornings a week from this part of Scripture. We find it truly of interest. — I received a letter from Elizabeth three weeks since. She was then recovering after a course of fever. She had been sick six weeks. Her letter was written Oct. 21 & 22. She was then expecting to open her school Oct. 29. Miss Bridges was taken sick two weeks before her, <*& was*> but had nearly regained her strength when she wrote. E. [*Elizabeth*] has an important, wide field for labor, & I hope will be faithful. She says she wants some apples & apple pies, tho' [*though*] the fruit is entirely cut off there this year. It is scarce here. Are <*they*> apples abundant with you? You will like to know respecting the domestic labor Seminary. The bell is now ringing for nine o'clock. I have been calling upon about a dozen of the factory girls since half past seven. There is a large cotton factory in town which employs 50 or 60 girls. Miss Lyon & some others in town concluded it would be well to present a circular to them, & give them an opportunity to give towards raising the $1000 if they chose. They never have their work in the evening till half past seven. They afford evidence that an institution of this kind is demanded. One said she did not think it her duty to give an institution which she could not attend, another did not think it necessary that the common people should <*not*> know more than reading arithmetic & spelling, some said, they thought the object desirable but had nothing at present to give, they were glad to give to the support of the gospel, but they found other benevolent objects which they were more interested in than this. At these feelings, I do not wonder. I told them I only gave them the privilege. One exception to what I have described will mention. She heard a few remarks with interest which beamed forth in every feature of her face. She then with a delighted air, went and brought a dollar. Had I not collected a cent, I should have been glad I presented the subject to them, but it afforded me real pleasure to witness the benevolence & interest of that young lady. $900 of the required sum

<*has been*> is raised. The location is not yet fixed. I believe. Many are interested. Miss Lyon & Miss Caldwell are spending the winter at Amherst. Did the ladies in your region feel disposed to do any thing. — I hope they will send on some sum even if should be small. — The young ladies are now learning, during this recess, the names of the principal constellations. Our bell for retiring will soon ring & I must finish tomorrow. I imagine father has retired, & I hardly know about mother whether she is resting after the busy toils of the day, as days before thanksgiving are busy days, or still at work or reading by the kitchen fire. I hope not sick or any of the family. Good night to you all.
Affectionately your daughter, Mary. [*Mary Grant Burgess*]
Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] sends love to you all. She is a mother to me.

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Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] Nov. 23. 1834

Dear sister Abigail,

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

Ipswich, Dec. 18, 1834

I wish to write a few things to my brother and sisters at home when I can get a few moments. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] remonished ? to day in school that duties never clashed, that all duty could be done. And I thought I would be industrious, and complete a letter to get to you before next new year. I will write a few words first to brothers John and Marcus & sister Martha. I suppose they are now attending school. I hope they daily improve their minds, hearts, and manners. — Dear brother John, you are more than 12 [? *paper torn*] yrs. old, you have heard the Bible read every day since your remembrance, and have been to the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school a long time, but when Pres. [*President*] Edwards had studied the bible more

than any one book for many yrs. [*years*] at the age of 53 he thought he knew in comparison of what was contained in this precious book, but as a drop to the ocean, and how much do you know. Have you ever read the whole Bible? do you try to receive its meaning as it is read in the family? and do you try to practice it as you know it. Do you feel that your Creator has a right to require you to do what ever he pleases. His requirements are tended to promote the greatest happiness, are suited to promote your happiness and mine, and in no way but in obedience to these holy and just commands then it be secured. Are you studying geog. [*geography*] this term. I think your knowledge of the planet we inhabit may be sufficient for you to devote your attention to some other branches of Arithmetic, I believe you are fond. I think you would find it so, and only regret that I did not avail myself more of the privilege. When you study or read about any place, get as vivid a conception as possible of it, so clear that you will seem to see it.

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

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

Dear sister Martha,

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

From your affectionate sister,

Mary Grant [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

My dear Marcus,

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

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

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

My dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ever Dear Friend,

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

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

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

Amherst tomorrow, & I have concluded to accompany her, & remain there with her till Mon. when I shall go to Boston Providence permitting, & soon after to Ips. [*Ipswich*]

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

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

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

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

Sister Martha,

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

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

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

[*Says in corner*] From Joel Grant Aug. '38 Speaks of his purpose to aid John to study &c.

Berlin [*Maryland*], Aug. 8, 1838.

Dear Father;

I have no time to write much now and perhaps there is no necessity that I should. My principal object in writing is to inform you that I am well, am doing as well as could be expected, having a small but pleasant school numbering about 15 scholars. As this is the time of year when there has usually been a vacation of four weeks in the school, and as the habits of the people here are to a considerable extent accommodated to that arrangement, I have concluded myself to have one so that I may go on and attend Commencement at New Haven [*Connecticut*] and spend about two weeks at home. I shall therefore close my school Thursday of this week and proceed directly to New Haven [*Connecticut*]. Thursday or Friday of next week I shall hope to reach home. This letter will give you such an explanation of the matter that my arrival there if in the night need cause you no alarm, but as to any further information respecting myself or my school, I prefer deferring it till I see you.

I am desirous that brother John on my return to this place should accompany me for the purpose of preparing for College [*Yale University*]. I feel under great obligations to you for the assistant you have given me in the pursuit of my studies, and know of no better way of returning the favor than by rending the same assistance to John myself. I think I shall get my life insured, so that if by an early death I am prevented from earning money to assist <*ance*> him, he may not be under the necessity either of giving up his studies, or of calling upon you for support. I mention the subject now because I would like to have you think of it some before I arrive at home, <*His clothing*> and that you may make some preparations for his departure if he can come on with me on my return. I am in haste,

Your affectionate Son,
Joel Grant.

I shall be obliged to leave home on Monday the 3d of Sept. in order to be sure of arriving here in season to commence my [... *hole in paper*] on Monday the 10th. Consequently I shall be at home but a little more than two weeks.

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

Poplartown, Oct. 24, 1838.

Dear Father,

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

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

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

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

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

Poplartown Oct. 29, 1838

Dear Brother John;

I have written to Father on another part of this sheet hoping to get his consent to have you come and spend the winter with me. Perhaps he will not think it best if so you will I hope acquiesce in his decision, and stay contentedly in Conn. [*Connecticut*] faithfully observing the advise I gave you before I came from home in respect to your studies. If however as I earnestly hope, he should be willing to send you please make ready as soon as may be and come on. You should start in three days if possible after you receive this letter (probably Sunday <*Oct*> Nov. 5.) but if that is not convenient you will endeavor to get ready to start in a fortnight from that time (which will be Monday Nov. 20). The reason of this is that after the first of December the vessels begin to stop running if they can close their business as early as that, and by the 1st of January they are all laid up for the winter. The bay which leads from the ocean to this place is generally frozen by the 1st of Jan. so as to prevent the passage of vessels. I think however all the vessels will continue to run till the 1st of Dec. and I know the greater part of them will for. I have conversed with the owners about it, so that if you start by the 20th of Nov. you will have no difficulty in obtaining a passage. You will perhaps be sea sick but never mind that, it will do you good, you will perhaps see great waves and cold weather, but you need not fear the one and your cloak and a warm fire in the cabin will defend you against the other. I must give you some directions how to manage when you get to New-York. You will probably land there in the morning perhaps before the stores are opened. If so you must wait till they are open or you may spend the time in finding Water St. which is not very far from the Steam Boat landing. Having done this as soon as the stores are open you must go to the store of S.R. Paynter No. 52. Water St. (do not forget the name or the number) where you can ascertain whether there are any ships from the region of Berlin Worcester Co. Md. [*Maryland*] If there should be any in the harbor you must ascertain where they are and immediately go to them take your lodgings on board and make yourself at home till they reach this place. If there are no ships in the harbor from this region you must go to No. 30. Beekman St. where a boarding house is kept by a pious lady where you can obtain lodgings for 50 cents a day and there you must take your meals and lodge till a vessel arrives which will not be more than two or three days. When you have found a vessel at New-York you must drop a note in the post office letting me know it, and stating the name of the ship. Perhaps you will do well to stop at the first book store you find in New York and buy a map of the

city. Your baggage you must get carried from the steam boat to the steam boat office for which you will perhaps have to pay 18 3/4 cents though it is not ten rods, or perhaps it will be as well for you to get some carman to carry you directly to S.R. Paynters No. 52. Water St. where you can leave your baggage till you have it removed to the vessel. You must ask the carman before you leave the boat what he will charge, as otherwise you will be exposed to shameful imposition. 37 1/2 cents will <*not*> be sufficient for yourself and trunk. When you arrive here you will inquire for Mrs. Collins house where you will consider yourself at home.

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

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

Your Brother,
Joel Grant.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant

Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Con. [*Connecticut*]

Paid
No. 6.

Boston, March 29, 1839.

My dear Parents,

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

Ipswich, April 9, 1839.

My dear Brother, & Sister,

On Saturday March 30, the missionaries Rev. Messrs. Burgess, French & [Hume] & their wives with Miss Cynthia Gannan, came from Boston to Salem [*Massachusetts*]. On Sat. eve. private instructions were given them at the house of Rev. Mr. Worcester, by the Rev. Messrs. Anderson & Armstrong. Judge Darling of Henniker, N.H. the father of Mrs. Ballantine of the [Nahvalta?] Mission was admitted, & such relatives of the missionaries as were in Salem. Judge Darling remarked, that his love for his daughter had increased every year since her absen<*t*>ce,

but he did not wish to see her in this country; he wished to have her a devoted missionary. Mr. Anderson very familiarly told the missionaries what was due from them to the Capt. <&> mates, helmsman & sailors on board the vessel, what would be due to the English Consul on their arrival at Bombay &c., & exhorted them to render unto Cesar the things which are Cesar's. He gave them good counsel also, in reference to their deportment towards each other.

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

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

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

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

My connexion with Ips. Fem. Sem [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] closes on Tues. the 10th. I have no doubt, that it is my duty to give up all care of a school for some time to come. By quiet, & much exercise in the open air, together with the blessing of Heaven, I may again have comfortable health, & enjoy the luxury of laboring for others. But to obey the will of God seems to

me more desirable than any thing else. In my abundant cares in closing business, my poor body suffers, but my spirit is wonderfully sustained Teachers & pupils are as kind & faithful as possible, & so are all with whom I have to do. The Lord deals with me in great mercy. – I do not expect to visit Colebrook [*Connecticut*] for some time to come. Whether I shall be moving about in [a hass?] next summer, & be stationary I do not know. My health will be my object. Miss Elizabeth [Heaton?] expects to go where I go, to stay where I stay. She can write such business letters as I must have written, & <*perform for*> gives me the sisterly attentions I need. – The future in this world is a blank, but I doubt not, the Lord will provide – I hope you will write me again before long. Direct to Ipswich [*Massachusetts*]; This will be my head quarters for six weeks to come. After that, I shall keep the P. M. [*Post Master*] here advised of my movements. I send you an Essex Register.

Much love to all your children.

Your ever affectionate sister,
Z.P. Grant.

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

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

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

Loved and honored Parents,

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

Thurs. morn. The motion of the vessel was less, the sun, through one sky light shone pleasantly, & we all felt better. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] hastened on deck. I rose & washed my whole system in salt water (a practice I have since continued, & probably shall to the end of my voyage) & went on deck. From that date I have been most of the time entirely free from sickness. Thurs. noon I took dinner at table with Capt Ward, Mr. & Mrs. French, Mr. & Mrs. Hume. This was the first time we had been to the table. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] & Miss F [*Cynthia Farrar*] were not able to be present & they are still on the sick list. Fri. & Sat. we had some social reading.

Thurs. P.M. April 11. A favorable breeze is wafting us along, & the day is beautiful. The sea is less rough, so we are on deck more & suffer less from s. [*sea*] sickness. I will go back to last Sab. [*Sabbath*] It was warm, & mild. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress spread on deck, & I read to him most of the A.M. I read some from the Bible, & several tracts. About 3 o'clock, P.M. a little meeting was held in the cabin, opened by singing. Mr. F. [*French*] led in prayer, Mr. H. [*Hume*]

read a sermon by Chalmers, a little time was spent in conversation, & the pleasant meeting was closed by prayer, led by Mr. Hume. Capt. Ward was present. He is a member of the Bap. chh. [*Baptist church*] in Salem. He is willing that all suitable measures should be taken to benefit the crew. The number of persons on board is 20. Missionaries, 7. Capt. & two mates, steward & cook, & eight sailors. The steward & cook are colored men. We have far more to do with the steward than any one else excepting the Capt. The steward is good natured, active & kind, & rather neat. None of the crew are pious. The sailors were all strangers to the Capt., but he thinks them a very docile, respectable set. Six of them are from Salem or its vicinity, & the others are foreigners, English I believe. They spent considerable time in reading last Sab. [*Sabbath*] & almost entirely religious books. We hope this may be a voyage they will love to remember in eternity – Mon. Tues. & Wednes. (the past three days) have been very rough, the rocking & tossing of the vessel have made us all dizzy, & about ½ of our company sick. However we have had social reading on deck, each day. We have in this way read John's first Epistle, & about 50 pages in Malcom's tour to India. All our company sing, though Mr. F. [*French*] sings but very little. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] is very fond of it, & sings well, & much. I am glad of it.

April 14. Second Sabbath at sea. There seemed a stillness & sacredness even on board ship, as if holy time was recognized. Nothing is required to be done, that is not necessary. To day seems like a Sab. [*Sabbath*] at home when there is severe sickness in the family. None of our company are able to be up much, except Mr. & Mrs. French & myself, therefore we have no sermon read. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has his mattress on deck. I sit by him, & read much of the time. The sailors sent back the tracts Mrs. Hume sent them last Sab., [*Sabbath*] saying they were much obliged for them, & liked them. The Capt. said they considered that a polite way of asking for more. I sent them about a dozen, most of them stories such as Conversion of Mrs. Eleanor Emerson, Col. Gardiner, Bob, the cabin boy, etc. We have evidence that they were read. They are not well supplied with Bibles. We regret we had not procured some cheap Bibles & Testaments to give them.

April 15th Lat. 28% Long. 40%. For several days the wind has been almost ahead (S.E.) & we have been compelled to go farther S. than is desirable. This morning the ship tacked, & our direction is now N of E. This change brings our state room on the windward side & in consequence our side of the ship is several feet higher than the leeward. It is not quite as easy keeping our place in our berths. Had some cheerful, pleasant conversation with our company, read an hour in the Ladies Wreath & heard Mr. French read in Malcom's tour. I feel almost impatient for Mr. Burgess's recovery. He does not relish his food, is feeble, & exceedingly averse to exertion. He hardly walks at all.

April 16. As this day terminates the existence of Ips. Fem. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] I have thought much of them, & my emotions are indescribable. For years, associations, tender & strong, have been clustering round that institution, & what a day there, this must be. I would praise the Lord for his blessing upon those who have assembled there to receive instruction for his loving kindness & tender mercy to the teachers, & for that providence which permitted me to enjoy its privileges. May Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] be comforted & sustained, & I doubt not she will be.

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

April 17. Lat. 30% N. Lon. 44% W. Favored with a fresh breeze & a beautiful day. We spent an hour & a half, reading Murathee, with Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar for our pundit. All were present, except Mr. B. [*Burgess*], & I think he is better today. We commenced reading Luke's gospel. They read Mark & Henry & his Bearer, while with Mr. Read. We intend to have a lesson each day in Murathee. Mr. Hume read aloud in Mr. Malcom. Sung in the odeum after tea, & then had some pleasant conversation in the round house on deck. The Capt. was communicative, as we ever find him, when disposed to converse. He spends considerable time each day reading. His age is about 45, has been to sea 25 years.
April 18. Warm & rainy. Studied Murathee an hour & a half in the A.M. We have but one lexicon, & one grammar, & four copies of Mark, so we take turns in using them in preparing our lessons. We study in pairs, & keep the books in use most of the A.M. At 2 o'clock P.M. we recite in a class, with Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] for our teacher. She is happy to be permitted to go to the heathen again. She suffers every day from ill health & I fear always will. She is resigned, & is able almost constantly to say the will of the Lord be done. She knows something of the peace of a mind stayed on God. She is one too, who keeps her mouth & tongue. I have noticed this trait from my first acquaintance with her. I am glad she is with us.
April 19. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has walked with me on deck today for the first time. He appears like one recovering from severe sickness. The day is pleasant.
April 20. Lat. 31% Lon. 37%. As the one who preaches will wish his time Sat., & as we all wish to have matters arranged preparatory to the Sab. [*Sabbath*], we this morning decided to have no Muratha lesson on Sat. It is three weeks to day since we came from Boston to Salem. That eve we received our private instructions, given principally by Dr. Anderson & Mr. Armstrong. Dr. Anderson among other things remarked upon the frequent effect of sea sickness upon mind & body; of its making one unreasonable, petulant, & 0, he drew a sombre, deary picture. I cannot tell how far his delineation operated as a preventive of such direful effects, yet I can say that three weeks, the time he mentioned, has passed, & I have not heard an unpleasant word, & I think each of our company could make the same remark. I am happy, to say Mr. B. [*Burgess*] improves, though slowly; his appetite I think could be called good. He, with Mr. & Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself sung an hour this P.M. Today the ship tacked, again; our course since Mon. has been N. of E. now it is S. of E. I looked on to see the seamen change the sails. The first thing a seaman learns, is to obey; it is interesting to notice their perfect obedience. They evidently strive to excel in promptness & seem to do their best. Some of their work is very hard, & as yet they are constantly occupied. They will have more time for rest & improvement after a few weeks.
April 22, Lat. 28%55". Lon. 37%50". We are now in the N.E. trade wind, & shall now pass on in a S.E. direction to the equator. We have just finished our recitation in Murathee. Yesterday we had public worship for the first time on board. This is the third time Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] has crossed the wide ocean & never before had she beheld such a scene. An awning was raised aft of the main mast. The colored table spread was tied round the capstan, for the desk, three settees were arranged, one before, & one on each side of the capstan, these accommodated 11, the others occupied chairs, forming something more than a semicircle round the speaker. At two, P.M. all except the man at the helm seated themselves. They were in a cleanly clad manner, though in sailor style; no one appeared in a white shirt, some of them wore red flannel, without coats, some in blue factory cloth shirts. Some of them showed by their appearance that this was a novel scene to them. It was amusing to observe their countenances. Timidity, bashfulness, wonder, curiosity, pleasure & good will by turns or simultaneously were expressed in their sun burnt faces. In one case as one caught the eye of another, I noticed a suppressed smile. Mr. French officiated. He read the hymn commencing "There is a fountain filled with blood." Some of the sailors joined in singing, but in a suppressed tone. We stood in prayer. God was with us. We sang again; then listened to a good sermon from Mat. 3:18. All were very attentive. The occasion was one of uncommon interest. We were forcibly reminded of our distance from the assemblies with which we have been accustomed to worship. I believe all are pleased to have religious exercises. Family worship is regularly attended at eight o'clock each evening. Half the sailors attend each evening alternating. – Last Sat. eve Mrs. H [*Hume*], Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself had a little season of social prayer. It was pleasant, & I trust but a foretaste of what we may hereafter enjoy.

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

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

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

May 1. Lat. 9% A fine breeze is wafting us pleasantly on our way; this with the flying clouds, so diminish the intensity of the heat of the sun, as to render us quite comfortable when in the shade. Last evening for the first time I observed the phosphorescent light of which I have read as being sometimes seen at sea. This appearance is accounted for, as caused by minute animals, and is not phosphorescense. It is seen only where the water is in motion, & principally near the ship. It seemed more like numerous lightning bugs, on the water than anything else, to which I can compare it. I stand & gaze & admire. Thus something, almost daily, occurs to furnish a little variety. For a few days, flying fish have been very often seen, both singly & in schools. They fly but a few rods at a time & resemble a flock of grey birds. Dolphins, & many other large fish pursue, & pray upon them. – I often feel, that I shall never have so favorable a time for cultivating personal piety, or for reading, as the present. So teach us to number our days, as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. I must not omit to mention, that Capt. W. [*Ward*] has had a convenient bathing tub fitted for the ladies, & another for the gentlemen. We use ours in rotation, & as Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] does not choose to take a bath at present, every third morning, I have the luxury of bathing. We value it highly, as conducive to health & comfort.

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 15. An interesting female social prayer meeting in my state room. Miss G. met with us for the first time. We value having her with us. — We have made us some little blank books for translating common phrases into Murathee. My task in this department is three sentences a day. I write them in Eng. [*English*] on one page, & in Murathee on the other. We make some progress, though we often feel vigorous for reading & writing letters, when we do not relish Mahratta. (I suppose in writing letters, I had better spell <u>Mahratta</u> as this is the usual way in Eng., though I find it Murathee in the books from India, & I often write it that way before I think). We were so far west as to fear we should not see any vessels, but to day <u>a sail aho</u>, caught our attention. Our flag was immediately raised, & so was hers. It proved to be a whaler, out 10 months from N. Bedford. Capt. Maxwell. They were more desirous to have communication with our ship, than we with theirs; & they sent one of their boats manned with six men to us. They wished to learn respecting the war of the U.S. Capt. W. gave them a file of papers & they gave him some Liverpool papers of March. They also brought us a half bushel of [potatoes] oranges, & the Capt. gave them a half a barrel of potatoes. We hastened to seal our letters, our company of seven sent off 23. I sent

three, one to Mrs. Stickney, one to Mrs. Willard Holmes, & one to Elizabeth Rockwell. The Capt. & crew sent as many more, I presume.
May 17. Lat. 7% S. Almost becalmed – the sea nearly as smooth as glass & the weather very warm. We are near the shoals of Brazil. They sounded last night and found the depth of the water 25 fathoms. They find bottom today. fish of various kinds are sporting in the water. They have been trying to catch some, & I suppose they have put out for bait some two pounds of pork, which the fish have taken without being caught. A shark too, made its appearance a few rods from the ship, it appeared to be of brown color, its only fin of consequence is on its back, it resembled a horn as seen from the ship. The ship's progress the last 24 hours, only 40 miles.
May 18. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] continues to gain strength, & has a good appetite. If the sea should be rough, however, he would be sick. He now studies the Mahratta lessons, & reads considerable, & to day finishes his third letter, all of them short. Kindness, good nature & forebearance characterize all our company; & the officers & crew seem contented & happy. — On Sat. our bedding is carried on deck to be aired, & to day our state rooms have been washed; so you will perceive our health & comfort are consulted. Our cup does indeed overflow with blessings.
May 20. 22%56 S. Lat. 35%30 W. Lon. Yesterday was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] There is not the perceptible difference between it & other days as on land; yet there is a quietness & sacredness in unison with the day. We felt rejoiced to have a still pleasant Sab. [*Sabbath*] Our Bible lesson was instructive. We occupy in reciting from one & a half, to two hours, & spend more time in previously studying it. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] conducted the exercises of public worship for the first time. Christ's interview with Nicodemus, formed the basis of his remarks. — Some of the sailors read their Bible every day, & I doubt not some of them will be benefitted by the efforts made in their behalf. — Venus, the moon, numerous stars & the balmy air conspire to render our evenings delightful.
I have been much amused today in seeing Mother Cary's chickens tipping on the water, then soaring generally near the water. I never see them remain long on the water, hardly a moment at a time. They are about the size of a robin of black, white & chestnut color. Numerous sperm whale birds have been flying around for two days, probably a dead whale or a whale ship is in the vicinity.
May 21. Lat. 24%30" Lon. 34%30". We crossed the Southern Tropic about six o'clock last eve. To day is much cooler, & rain is fast falling. They catch some for washing. An Eng. [*England*] brig from Rio Janiero bound to N.Y. [*New York*] passed us within two rods of our vessel, bound to N.Y. [*New York*] Capt. W. [*Ward*] spoke it with his trumpet & told the Capt. he would give him some papers if he would stop, but the wind was briskly blowing, & they stopped not. I have read H. Newell two days passed. I admire her spirit. Our comforts exceed hers. I fear our gratitude does not. — You now have three hours more sunlight than we. Our sun sets before ½ past five, & every day diminishes our sun light.
May 22. Not a day passes, but we think of our dear native land, & raise our petitions to our common Preserver for the many dear ones we have left behind. The Lord bless, guide, & keep them all in the way of eternal blessedness. Our country, seen from the point of observation we now occupy, assumes a greatness, a glory, an importance, which I cannot express. Much is seen to excite gratitude & hope, but still there is much corruption. We keep up a little idea of what is going on in our native land. Miss. F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] says she thinks far more of her home in India than in America.
May 23. P.M. A ship has been in sight all day, & all have been busy in getting out letters, hoping to send by her, but now we relinquish the hope, as she is too far off.
May 24. A little discussion upon dress occurred, & it was decided to read Mr. Judson's tract on that subject, & Mrs. Torrey's little book, entitled <u>Ornament</u>. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] read while the ladies sewed.
May 25. Lat. 28%S. Lon. 32%W. Cool & damp, very heavy dews. Sat. my first work after breakfast, is to put everything in order on my premises, i.e. in my state room, & then see that the clothes for the succeeding week are in readiness. I have just finished that work this morn. I take pleasure in doing it. Yesterday Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself made six dried apple pies. This is the fourth time we have made them; twice Mrs. Hume & I, & twice with Mrs. F. [*French*] We partake of them for tea, & they relish well.

May 29. Lat. 35%S. Lon. 20%W. Ther. 66% distance from Salem 7,000 miles. The air [however] & all around is damp, yet the day is pleasant. No fire is kept except for cooking. Miss G. has two soap stones each about the size of a brick. These, after being heated we apply to our feet, & they are really a comfort. By the way, missionaries ought always to take them. It is past seven when the sun rises here, & it disappears before five. Six is my time for rising, besides attending to my morning work, I get some time for reading my bible before breakfast, wh. [*which*] is about 20 min. before eight. Last Sab. [*Sabbath*] the sea was in great commotion, & public worship was attended in the cabin, only one watch was present. Mr. B[*Burgess*]'s remarks from John 3:13, 14 were clear & faithful. Yesterday & the day before very damp, embracing a variety of weather. Our female prayer meetings which are held three evenings each week, increase in interest. Last eve. the season was precious.

May 31. Lat. 37. S. Lon. 14% W. Yesterday an albatross flew several times round our vessel, favoring us with a full view of the largest of aquatic fowls. It is brown upon the back, & almost white below its wings. Its flight is rapid, & graceful. It is remarkable for the length of its wings. It often measures from 9 to 12 ft. from tip to tip, & is about twice the size of a goose. Its flesh is not valued for food, though sailors frequently eat them. We saw many at a distance sometimes sitting in companies on the water, at others soaring aloft. — Cape pigeons begin to be numerous. They are spotted, black & white, about the size of pigeons in New Eng. [*England*] They resemble ducks. One was caught, by getting its wings entangled in some lines thrown out for the purpose. All the fowls we see are webfooted. Very few can raise themselves to fly from a level surface, like the deck, & they all walk clumsily spreading their wings & slapping their webbed feet, but they move elegantly in either water or air.

June 1. Sat. Rough & damp. Wrote & read some in the A.M. after dinner. I was in severe pain. Mrs. Hume very kindly & efficiently nursed me. She is apt, at almost everything. June 4 at night a gale commenced, but was not very powerful till Sab. [*Sabbath*] morn. Then every sail, with one exception was entirely furled, & that was reefed, the helm was made fast, & the vessel was in a state called lying to. Everything at such times must be made fast, or be thrown from side to side. Passengers keep principally in their state rooms. Every few minutes a high sea washes over the ship, & though our vessel is well built, the water found many entrances at such times. The wind continued strong & violent till Mon. A.M. Twice I ascended the stairs which lead from the cabin to the deck, & there gazed at the mountain waves. The view was fearful. Our vessel seemed very small, when compared with them, & as a high sea approaches, it is difficult for one not long used to such scenes not to feel that it will overwhelm us. None of us stayed on deck, everything there was lashed by strong ropes, & the Capt. feared every high sea, that the deck would be swept clear. To see nothing but bare masts & rigging, was desolate. None of us attempted at such times to do much, & though it was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] there was little thinking, reading or praying. I occupied our upper berth, the lower one was too wet to be occupied. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress on the floor, just outside the door of our state room. Considerable of my time was spent, in covering the things that they might not be injured by the salt water which came in every time a wave broke over the deck. When one cloth was thoroughly wet, I furnished another. I had rather a severe headache, but felt that I had much for which to be grateful. Mon. my head pained me still, but about 11, Mr. B. [*Burgess*] came & said I must go up & see the birds. I put on my overshoes, cloak & hood, & went on deck: the wind had subsided, but the sea was still very high, & we were obliged to hold ourselves constantly. Albatrosses, cape pigeons, stormy petrel (alias Mother Carey's chickens) & two other kinds of aquatic fowl were very numerous, & soaring around in every direction. Some were very near the vessel, & they often seated themselves on the water & afforded us much amusement, in seeing them ride the mountain waves. A line with pork on it was put out, in the hope of catching them, but though they were attracted by it, & many pitched near it, & some took hold, yet they all contrived to release themselves before they could be drawn to the vessel. An albatross was drawn several feet, we thought he was secured, but were disappointed when he freed himself, & flew away. A little before noon some of the sails were unfurled, & we were again under way, having been lying to, more than 24 hours.

June 5 Lat. 35 S. Lon. 3% W. The sea is still very high. Every few minutes a large wave dashes over the deck, but the fair wind is driving us rapidly towards our destined port. Around the cape is the region of gales, thunder & lightning, & variable weather. Our Capt. who has been around 23 times, says he dislikes this part of the voyage. I have not felt fear at all. I am assured of the skill

& prudence of our Capt. & I have an impression, that some of our company have a work to do in India. I often try to bring myself to view death near, & aim to be ready to welcome it, but have never been disposed to feel, that the deep would prove my grave. — Today we resumed our Mahratta studies, which since Fri. last, we had laid aside. Time seems almost lost in rough weather, as it is more than we can well do, to take care of ourselves & the leaks. My room is yet very damp, & we are anxiously looking for fair weather. Health we consult, & I enjoy it, in general. Gales, & damp, cool weather will tend to make us value, & be grateful for more pleasant circumstances.

June 7. Lat. 36%S. Lon. 5% 15" E. Ther. 55 ½ Last eve a shower accompanied with thunder & lightning occurred, & to day the air is pure & delightful. I have almost continually felt, that gratitude should flow forth for this fine day. Our progress is not so rapid, but the deck is dry, & our mattresses & bedding have been aired, our room is dry again, & how agreeable is our situation compared with what it has been for five days past. The sun rise & the sun set were both beautiful to day; finished reading the 3d vol. of Brit. India. Some part of the volumes are rather dry, yet the mass of the information was interesting; all except Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] read them, & their contents have often been the theme of conversation. To day for the first time washed a few articles off, 5 pints of fresh, hot water only were allowed me, & owing to its being so long in a cask, I suppose it will make suds only with difficulty. Soap, as I rubbed it on the cloth, changed to a brick color. I rinsed in salt water. I had before supposed they would be sticky, if rinsed in s. [*salt*] water, but the steward said that was only the case with flannels. Towels, sheets, etc are very liable to become iron rusted. I have been glad that I took such a quantity of old clothing for the voyage. In addition to what I had laid aside when I arrived in Boston. I found a bundle of articles from the Ips. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & Mr. B. [*Burgess*] found a similar bundle from Andover Theol. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*], forwarded at the suggestion of Prof. Emerson. Clothes become tender, and very yellow by remaining so long without washing. It is economical to be supplied with old clothing for a long voyage.

June 9. Ther. 55% Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve. 6 o'clock. Just about time for the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school in Colebrook. I think of the churches & Sab. [*Sabbath*] privileges of my native land. May they be abundantly accompanied by the Spirit. The weather is so variable, that the Capt. thought it not best to have preaching. This was a disappointment, but it may be for the best. Our Bible lesson was interesting this A.M. & it has been I think a profitable Sab. [*Sabbath*] to me, & I judge to all the miss. [*missionary*] company. Mr. Hume conversed with one watch of the seamen, & found them all ready to admit the truth, & acknowledge duty, though none seem to feel deeply. All have been still.

May 10. Lon. 12% 10 E. Lat. 36% S. Ther. 55% to 59%. I have studied with unusual delight & vigor today. What a great work to learn the languages of nations. We make some progress. Evening brings us all below this cool weather. We sit around the cabin tables & either write or silently read. The Capt. is one of our number. Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] spends her evenings in her state room, & reads reclining in her berth. I sometimes sit with her. She does not need much done, but I love to sit converse, & sympathize with her.

June 12. Ther. 55% Damp & uncomfortable, so rough that some are sick, & all are affected. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] read another of Wiseman's lectures, while I sewed. Yesterday for the first time, our eyes were feasted with the sight of a whale. Though he shewed himself finely a number of times, I do not know how to describe him. He was but a few rods from the vessel when first seen, & while we were eagerly on the watch to catch further views, he passed to the other side of us. Its color was very dark. Its skin smooth, & it seemed a huge mass moving undaunted & rapidly through the water. We saw from 25 to forty feet of its length, which was probably 50 or 60 feet. The mighty ocean seems a fit residence for him, & his species. From a large fin on its back, it is called fin backed. It is rarely taken as it is fierce & frequently sinks before it can be secured, & yields less oil than other kinds.

"13. Ther. 59% Clear fine air, our bedding on deck for airing. We passed the Cape of Good Hope yesterday & are now in the longitude of Cape Lagullus, 72 days out & are now where Capt. W. [*Ward*] was in his last voyage when 58 days out.

June 17. Lon. 26% E. Lat. 36% S. Ther. 65%. Anniversary of the battle of Bunkerhill. I remember how the cannons are fired in Ips. [*Ipswich*] & other towns in the eastern part of Mass [*Massachusetts*], at the dawn of this morning. — The whole animal economy seems animated &

invigorated by the balmy air around us, & the soul partakes of the delight, how inexpressibly delightful would a view of the verdant hills & forests & gardens of home, be for a few hours. The Capt. thinks that while the weather is so unsettled, public worship had better be omitted. The time for our Bible lesson is the only time, which the passengers have the cabin uninterrupted, & it was decided to spend the hour in conversation & prayer, & defer the Bible recitation to the round house in the P.M. It was a precious session, & the same arrangement is to continue till the weather is more favorable. Last Fri. night, we were visited by another gale from the West. It continued 15 hrs., the sails were nearly all reefed, yet we were driven over the mountain waves at the rate of 8 miles an hour. Sat. P.M. the ladies went on deck, the waves presented an appearance similar to one caused by a high wind after a fall of snow. At the head of each wave as it rose, were innumerable drops of water & much vapor, which looked white & moved as snow before the wind from the summit of the drifts. We dined in our state rooms for the first time.
June 18. Yesterday at twelve o'clock, the course of the vessel was turned to the N.E. Now our faces are set towards Bombay, & we anticipate reaching Zanzibar in time to spend Independence, July 4. To day the air is balmy, & delightful. "Every sense & every heart is joy" Though it is winter, to us it seems a spring day. After dinner yesterday as we were singing, as is our practice after dinner, Capt. W. [*Ward*] called our attention to the fishes which were gamboling in the water, astern of us. It was indeed an amusing sight, to me more so than the whale. They were very large, some of them 30 feet long, with great heads. They would leap from a large wave, first throwing their heads, & as these descended into the water their backs. We were glad to see them, but heartily wished them either to stay longer or soon come again.* They were a species of black fish. Muratha & writing letters is my principal business this week, & I may add, that of all the missionaries.
June 21. Lat 31% S. Lon. 34% E. We are having a favorable breeze, & fine weather. Ther. 68% or 69. A little before sunset a shoal of porpoises secured our attention. They passed the ship, often leaping entirely out of the water. The mate tried to harpoon one as they passed the bow, once he succeeded, but before they drew it into the ship, it got loose. — Every thing is pleasant as we could wish in our circumstances. Bedding was again aired to day.
June 23. In our little state room. Past 9 P.M. I seem unwilling to retire while you have so much Sab. [*Sabbath*] I think of you as now in the sanctuary, P.M. service. That the Sab. [*Sabbath*] privileges of my native land may be blessed & sanctified, is a desire, which rises spontaneously as often as I think of you. My mind first recalls those parts I have visited, or where I have friends, & from them extends over the whole country. The temperature & clearness of the atmosphere, with a favorable breeze wafting us four miles an hour, render our outward circumstances agreeable, & what is far more desirable, I think God has been with us by his spirit. This P.M. Mr. Hume preached from Rom. [*Romans*] 3:20. For by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight. After being bounded in our prospect by sky & water for 83 days, it was pleasant to see land this morn, which continued in sight till darkness came. The land is in Africa, Cape Corientes, & the coast for many miles below. It is principally sand hills, barren & uninhabited. At Inhambane near Cape C. [*Corientes*] is a Portuguese settlement from which we could perceive ascending smoke. Such an evidence of the presence of our race added interest to the view. We could not but feel for oppressed, degraded Africa. The Portuguese own the coast from Delagoa Bay to Cape Delgado embracing 16% of latitude, & have numerous settlements. The slave trade is carried on more extensively on this coast than in any other part of Africa. Many vessels leave every year laden with slaves, though the traffic is a violation of a treaty between the English & Portuguese. Many are taken to Brazil. It is for the interest of the owners to treat them well on their voyage. The dealers use fast sailing vessels, & have agents in Africa to collect cargoes, & put into port one day, & ship the cargo the same day, at night, to avoid detection. Eng. [*English*] cruisers are constantly on the coast, but few comparatively are detected. Our Capt. thinks the Portuguese on this coast a great curse to Africa, & says they are remarkably destitute of moral principle. He has traded extensively on this coast, at Madagascar, & indeed in all this region. The Portuguese, Spanish & French are all, to some extent, engaged in this smuggling traffic, & some think, U.S. men (<u>Americans</u>) are not entirely free from the imputation of being at present engaged.
I think I must tell you how I am favored in visiting home in my dreams; last night I had a most agreeable visit with mother of several hours. I was fitting to leave, which made us more studious

to improve every moment; we were agreed in concluding as we separated, that this was the best visit we ever enjoyed. — I have rode to meeting with you, bid you, & other friends farewell, again & again. I am generally preparing to go. Once the ship put back, & I spent a few hours mostly with father, before we put out again. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] too, I often meet. Sometimes I am procuring articles for use in India. Nothing sad, has with one exception occurred. I mention this because it has been pleasant to me to mingle with you, though on awakening, I am assuread we have been continually receding from you.
June 26. Lat. 20% S. Lon. 37% 38 E. We reentered the Torrid Zone June 24. Thermometer for a few days has been between 73% & 79%. The sunsets in this region present softer, mellower, & more varied tints than I have ever seen before. I have been loath to say they were more beautiful. I have seen such glorious sunsets at home though this is the general opinion of our party, & I felt last night, this is different, & I think superior. — This morning as Mr. B. [*Burgess*] came down from bathing, he said he had seen the moon sink below the horizon, & that the eastern horizon was already resplendent, & that if we could go on deck in 10 min. we might see a beautiful sunrise. I went before that time transpired; as soon as I went Mr. Lovett, first mate said there was a shark. Mrs. F [*French*], & I immediately discovered it. A piece of pork was thrown out, it seized it, though the hook seemed too large to take in, we had a very distinct view. Five little pilot fish hardly as large as trout were with it, sometimes on its back, & then by its side. The pilot fish were prettily girdled with stripes of blue & white the whole length. Its upper side was of chestnut brown, underneath whitish; when dying its color changed to deep brown. Sailors love to kill sharks. This was full grown, weighed 150 pds [*pounds*] or more. Its fins are fleshy, & do not contract. It has one large fin on its back, two of about the same size on its side, & two smaller ones near the tail. We saw its five rows of teeth in the under jaw, & five in the upper – its mouth is of horse shoe shape. Mrs. Hume says its head & mouth are like a tadpoles in shape. The gentlemen took the dimensions; whole length 6 ft. 7 ½ inches. Head 12 ½ in. Body 3 ft. 10 in. tail 21 in. Between eyes 9 inch, width of mouth 8 in. Fin 17 ½ in. long. They save the back bone but the most they give to David Jones as they say when they throw anything overboard. At tea, some of the cooked fish was put upon the table. I tasted it, & had I not known it to be an animal of bad reputation, I might have liked it. None of us ate much of it. However the sailors had one or two good meals from it. In Madagascar & many other parts in this vicinity, they are highly valued as an article of food, the fins particularly. Large quantities of fins are exported to China, & other places.
June 29. Sailed by Mozambique, & so near as to distinguish trees and buildings. Moz. [*Mozambique*] is a small island, the capital of the Portuguese settlements on the coast. The governor general resides here. The sight of land is very pleasant.
June 30. Sab. [*Sabbath*] no public service, as the vessel was rolling very much.
July 1. Progress the last day 202 miles, 20 miles more than any previous day. We hope to see Zanzibar tomorrow. This being the eve of the monthly concert, a little meeting in the cabin. We expect the island of Monfua before morning. It is inhabited by Arabs & is a part of the Sultans dominions.
Zanzibar. July 4. Three Amer. [*American*] vessels are in the port here, & 13 cannons were fired by one at sunrise. 26 at noon by the next, & one at sun set by the third, & in the evening sky rockets were discharged from the flat roof of the Amer. [*American*] consuls house. American flags have been waving all day. We arrived at this port July 2, about noon. We had been sailing in sight of the island for four or five hours. The isl. [*island*] is about 50 miles long, 15 or 20 wide, & 15 from the continent. Its pop. [*population*] is composed of Arabs & African slaves, principally. About 400 Banyan traders, & a class called Soohillas. The pop. [*population*] is estimated to amount to from 125,000 to 150,000, two thirds of whom are slaves. The vegetation is so unlike N.E. & the town, too, that our attention was strongly riveted. Cocoa nut trees were so like the drawings, that we recognized them at once. I wish Martha & Marcus to notice drawings more, they will gain many correct ideas, & increase their enjoyment. The town contains probably from 15 to 40,000 people. The houses line the shore for about 1 ½ miles, & for some distance back into the interior. The better class build of coral rock with which this, & the neighboring islands abound; & cover with chunam. The walls are from one to two & a half feet thick, have few windows, & less window glass. Their stairs & roofs are of the same material. These roofs are flat. Many however, have a thatched roof above, sloping four sides, made by fitting poles, then

covering with the cocoa nut leaves. The lower class build of poles, then wall the sides with mud, & thatch the roof. The streets cross each other like the threads in a tangled skein. We walked yesterday through some of them. They are rarely over 10 feet wide. The houses so cover the ground as to leave no room for gardens, & next to none for trees. A few slender cocoa nuts find room. But three white females have visited the isl. [*island*] before us & we are quite a curiosity. The people merely assemble & gaze & occasionally laugh. The first day the gentlemen went on shore with the Capt., & the following day July 3 the ladies went with them, to Mr. Waters' of Salem. He is the Amer. [*American*] consul, & has been here three years. He is pious, & aims to do good to this people. There is also an Eng. [*English*] mercantile house here, so that I suppose there are at this time as many white persons, as ever at one time before. We took a short walk in a cocoa nut grove, saw the cassada growing, also alocs & mango trees, picked several wild flowers. Returned to Mr. Waters' in a boat. His Highness (the Sultan of Muscat or Mascat) as soon as he learned that our vessel had brought to Mr. Waters the tidings of his brothers death, sent assurance of sympathy saying that he would come & see him. In the evening, he came, & we were introduced to his Highness, his eldest son prince Haleed, & two of his officers. His Highness prefers the climate of Zanzibar to that of Muscat. He has made Zanzibar his residence for the last three years, one of his sons being in Muscat. His palace is between two & three miles from town, though he has one nearly completed in town. He comes up, either on horseback, or in a boat. His age is about 54, his size above medium, his beard long & gray. His manners easy & dignified. He is always attended by a retinue, though he is not fond of display & would often be gladly relieved from it, yet it is their custom. He shook hands handsomely & affably with each of us. He is very well versed in the Arabic, but does not speak Eng. [*English*] but by an interpreter. He first said to Mr. W. [*Waters*], God does all, & he does right & good. He inquired respecting the prosperity of our country, of our passage, of our health, & a few other things, & then bidding us good evening, departed. We then took tea at Mr. W. [*Waters*] & after singing & prayers returned to the vessel about nine, so tired that I almost felt that the Arab custom of keeping ladies at home, the best. This morning we went by invitation to Mr. Thorns, the agent of the mercantile house; dined there, ladies never dined with him before, quite a parade. We had a fine view of the town & harbor from the top of his house. The slaves around were amused. A little Arab child of three years was brought up, that we might see how they paint their faces etc. They begin to wear ornaments from infancy — This little child had three strings of beads of various color, material & size upon its neck, bracelet on the wrist & bangles about the feet, & 6 or 7 rings in the ear, extending round the rim of the ear. Some have ornaments as large as a cent, inserted entirely within the lower part of the ear, then of different sizes to the top of the ear. Some have rings in their noses, but this is not common. Slaves have as many ornaments as any, but in general, not so valuable; though the rich slaves <u>wear</u> those that are valuable, though they do not own them. Slaves are from 7 to 20 dolls. [*dollars*] apiece here. They are sold every day at auction, at five o'clock. They are well fed, & do but little; die off fast, from 7 to 10,000 come here from the continent every year. They wear but little clothing, besides ornaments. They look as if they needed only favorable circumstances to make them valuable, intelligent people. None of the Arabs or Sowalies are slaves. While the gentlemen went out to walk, we remained & were treated with fruits. We are here in the season for oranges, mangoes, plantians, papau & various other fruits. Cocoa nuts are abundant. The exports from this port are gum, copal, frankincense, cloves, & shells. The natives are becoming more industrious. An evident improvement is in progress among them. May the day be hastened when they shall have the light of the gospel. Mr. Waters & Mr. Thorn have spared no pains to make our visit here, profitable & pleasant, & I think it has been so. We have acquired some acquaintances, with this part of the world.
July 9, 1839. Last Sat. we visited by invitation his Highness. The ladies were permitted to enter the harem, & see his daughters. His Highness has been very kind; he sent up a boat manned to take us to his house; he furnished us horses & donkeys to go six miles into the interior & every thing else which would contribute to our comfort, provided refreshments as we went & returned, & presented each of the ladies with a cashmere shawl, worth from 20 to 30 dollars a piece. He is very kind to all our countrymen. We surely feel under obligation to him. He, of his own accord, sends letters for us to his son at Muscat. We leave this place to day in good health & spirits. We feel that soon we shall reach the field of our labors, & shall rejoice to enter it. I did not intend to send this memoranda until I arrived in Bombay, but it accumulated so much that I decided to send

it now. I wish it to be preserved, & as neatly as consistent. I have written you, my dear parents, & Martha by mail.
Ever your affectionate daughter, M. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess

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

Boston, Nov. 7, 1839.

Dear Parents;

You perhaps have been somewhat disappointed in not seeing me before this time; but I believe I never represented the prospect of my coming home as very bright. As it now is, you must not expect me at home in less than a week from this time and it is very doubtful whether I shall come even then. We are now lying at anchor about half a mile from Charlestown Navy Yard, and about a quarter of a mile from the Eastern wharves of Boston. I took up my residence on board yesterday, though my pupils are yet so busy that I have no school nor do I expect to have till we have been long enough at sea for the fresh hands to get over their sea sickness. Every thing is hurry and bustle on board, and though some hundreds of men have been busy for two or three weeks the vessel is not quite ready yet. I expect however that we shall sail for New-York in a day or two. We are to go there to take on board Com. Ridgley who is to be our commander, and as it is probable we shall be there two weeks at least, I have some hope that I may come home a short time. One reason why I have not felt more anxious to go home from Boston rather than New-York is that I might have an opportunity of seeing the ship in motion before I go. I trust I shall be better acquainted with the discipline, and officers of the ship after such a voyage than I can be while in port. Still it is by no means certain that I shall come home from New-York. I am heartily tired of the slow manner in which work appears to go on here, but as I have my pay I do not know as it becomes me to grumble, though I had much rather have some business to perform than to be without. I do not think it likely that we shall leave New-York before the first of Dec. This will shorten the time for which we shall be absent from the country considerable as we shall return just as soon as if we started earlier, that is in about three years from Oct. 1839. I have a room <*by*> of my own here which, though you on land would not think it worth taking as a gift, is quite a luxury here. As a matter of interest to you I will tell its dimensions. It is about 7 feet by 8 and about 5 feet 7 inches high, furnished with a berth to sleep in, a <...> bureau with three drawers (under my berth there are three drawers more) <...> a wash stand; and a chair which is all the furniture belonging to the room. There are three other rooms like mine which are occupied by the surgeons, and aside from these we have a common room of a larger size (about 10 feet square) where we take our meals and do all business which belongs to us as a body politic. Our private rooms are two of them on one side and two on the other of this larger room. I am not acquainted with more than one of the surgeons who appears a very fine man, whom I cannot describe better than by saying he very much resembled Dr. James Welch of Winsted.

I went yesterday and spent about four hours with Aunt [*Zilpah Polly*] Grant at South Dedham a place situated 14 miles from this. She was very glad to see me, and to appearance was tolerably well though she says she often suffers much. She appears very pleasantly situated in the family of Dr. Briggs. I should have made her a longer visit but we were expecting to sail this morning & I was obliged to return last night. But one of those delays which continually vex me kept us here, and will keep us here I do not know how long but I hope not a great while. I think I shall be able to spend my <*m*> time agreeably, and have a very good opportunity for reading and study. If you write direct your letters to New-York. I received a letter from mother a day or two since.
Board I am told will cost about $20 per. month.

I will write to you again from New-York.

Your affectionate son
Joel Grant.

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

Canton [*Ohio*] 1st Nov 1840

Dear Parents,

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

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

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

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

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

We receive occasionally a newspaper from home, though I think less frequently than formerly. It is quite likely that some of them miscarry. For a considerable time past I have sent to Colebrook [*Connecticut*] the Ohio Repository published at this place — I think I have sent every number. I directed them to John until lately — the two or three last I have directed to father, not knowing but John might be at New Haven [*Connecticut*]. I presume it makes no difference to whom they are directed.

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

are apparently frightened. I am glad the elections are over; indeed I think both parties rejoice that they are now able to enjoy a season of political repose.

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

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

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

July 23, 1842

My dear Brother,

On or about the 20th of June, I received half a sheet from Mrs. Burgess, dated Ahmednuggur [*India*] March 20, 1842. The information which she gave me concerning postage she wished me to communicate to you, & I will transcribe the whole which she wrote on this subject.

"The steam communication is indeed a boon to this country. Very many parents have children in England, now they can write & hear from them regularly once a month. All letters in this country pay postage according to their weight. We can send a half sheet like the one I now write upon to Bombay or to Mahabulishwar for one anna, that is, about three cents. We see, <*that*> by the papers, that letters of less than half an ounce weight go from England to America for single postage — for one shilling. — & single postage from here to England by Falmouth is 1s 6d. 2 1/2 sheets like what I now write upon will go or come for single postage. #

[*written across first page*] # Mary wrote upon paper like that English letter paper which I last spring gave to Martha.

2 1/2 such sheets weigh less than <*an*> 1/2 an ounce. But be sure & write upon the outside "By way of Falmouth," as by the Manscilles route the postage is more than double. The lowest postage by way of Falmouth from India to England is 1s 6d for under half an ounce weight. For an ounce the postage is doubled & so adding single postage for every half ounce up to six ounces, the largest weight they will take. A rupee & a quartes is just half an ounce avoirdupois. I suppose a half dollar would be a little less than 1/2 an ounce. Now I have been very particular on this subject, as you may not find it easy to ascertain. It was a long time before we could ascertain correctly."

In another part of the letter, Mrs Burgess says, "O what a meeting of the Board the last was. We received the N. Y. Ob. about two weeks since containing the amount. The kingdom of Christ will come, tho times may be hard. That letter made us inquire what we could do to diminish our expenses"

"Mr. Burgess sends a folio sheet, (it will go for single postage) for the N.Y. Ob. N.o.7.2.+9. on Idolatry in India. It was a subject which he wished to look into himself, & as he receives the paper for writing some for it, he wrote them. He says there will be some, not a large class, who will value the information. To many they will be dry. India & India matters, as connected with our labors require a good deal of study. We are as busy in various ways as we can be, & generally good natured & happy." "I go to my schools now a little after sunrise, & get home for breakfast about eight. I have comfort from them." "I believe some of the little girls will be saved through the truth I am enabled to communicate to them. Five of Mrs. Ballantine's larger girls wish to unite with the chh. [*church*] which means a great deal." "I love our missionary associates tenderly. Mrs Ballantine & Mrs. Abbott are both valuable characters."

I have transcribed from Mary's letter all that I thought you would particularly value. — On the tenth of June, Mr. B. [*Burgess*] & I went to Salem <*in the 1 o'clock (P.M.) car*> to see Mr. & Mrs. Munger, who had then just arrived in our country.

To Mrs. Munger it seemed almost incredible that we should leave home at one o'clock, spend about four hours in Salem, & reach home the same afternoon at 7 o'clock. Distance of Salem from Newport 24 miles. — Mr. Munger was in good health, & expected to labor under the direction of the Am. [*American*] Board while he remains in this country. — Mrs Munger's health was in some degree improved by the voyage. It was her earnest desire, that she might have her health improved, & be permitted to return. — They seemed to have highly enjoyed the society of Mr. & Mrs. Burgess on their journey from Ahmedmugger to Bombay. Jalna, where they have been stationed, is about 300 miles from Bombay.

Mr. & Mrs. M. [*Munger?*] could form no plans for themselves before seeing the Ex. Com. [*Executive Committee*] of the A.B.C.F.M. [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] — It was good to converse with them. — They hoped to see you & your family. — I have heard nothing concerning them, since I saw them. — During their stay of three months at Tanirahs, they forwarded the letters which they had for our country. — We recieved ours while I was in Con. [*Connecticut*]

For several weeks after my return home from Con. [*Connecticut*] our eldest daughter, Francis, was very much out of health with a cough &c. The latter part of May our son James & Richard had a short run of scarlet fever. He soon recovered, & Francis's health is much improved. Mr. Banister & Sarah have had good health. — Mr. B. [*Banister*] & I returned last Thursday, July 14, from Bangor, having been absent three weeks. — Next Monday we go to Amherst & to be there until after commencement on Thursday. We shall stop at Mr. Boltwood's very near the college [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] buildings & shall be most highly gratified to have you meet us there.

[*written across last page*] Should you come, we might finish our visit with you on Friday. Do come if you can.
Much love from Mr B [*Banister*] & myself to your family,

Affectionately yours,
Z.P.G. Banister
[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Newbury port. Sat. morn. July 23. 1842.

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[*Across address:*] From Father Grant to Mother when with Martha at So. Hadley Mar.'44

Millbrook Ct.
April 13 Paid 10

[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
South Hadley
Seminary

Millbrook [*Connecticut*] April 13th 1844

Dear wife Yours of the 11th was duly received and it is with much anxiety and with embarrassed feelings that I contemplate the removal of our daughter in her low feeble state And I write to request you to take measures to get her into a carriage to ascertain whether she can bear to be removed. before we attempt to bring her home For if she should faint in riding half a mile I do not see that she can be brought home I want her and you at home very much but we cannot accomplish impossibilities Therefore I wish as above stated to have measures taken to make trial and if at all successful let the trial be repeated I <*should*> should now think it not expedient to come for her till week after next and then if you think best to try the experiment to come for her. I wish you to ascertain the amount of the bills of expense made up against us and inform me if you can the amount of them I think I may as well enclose a twenty dollar bill for you to use as you think best in defraying expenses that have accrued perhaps it might be as well to hand it over to Dr Thomason but act your discretion in regard to it I wish you to keep me well informed in regard to Martha If she should attempt to ride out I wish to know how she bears it and how she is

compared with the time I last saw her If you should think it best should we attempt to bring Martha home to have assistance you may write to Joel whenever he may be wanted and he will undoubtedly be ready to lend his aid May the trials which we are called to bear be sanctified to us and bring us to feel our dependence on God whose we profess to be and whom we profess to serve is the prayer of your affectionate husband Elijah Grant
My best respects to Miss Lyon [*Mary Grant*] and all friends

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

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

My dear Brother,

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

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

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

that he ought to [...] of its being peculiarly trying to him to think of leaving his field of labor among the Mahorattas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

yr [*your*] afftc [*affectionate*] sister

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

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

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

My dear Mother & Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope we shall soon hear from you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Grandparents,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] Grandson

E.B. Grant

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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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[*Addressed to*:] Hon. W. [*William*] B. Banister
For Mrs. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Newburyport
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
U.S.A.

Ahmednuggur [*India?*] Nov. 29, 1842.

My dear Mrs. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Inclos,d [*Enclosed*] is a letter for <u>Miss</u> <u>Joanna</u> <u>Smith</u> which I shall feel much oblig'd [*obliged*] by your directing to her, as I know not where she may be, or the name she now bears I had the pleasure of seeing yours & Miss Briggs,s letters to dear Mrs Burgess -- was delighted with inteligence respecting so many that I knew -- and, glad hear of Miss Cutter's marriage. You

will rejoice to hear, as I trust you will through the Herald of this encouraging progress of truth among this people -- Of the eight who were receiv,d [*received*] in [the] church at last communion one was a sholar from the [?] Boarding shool -- Nine others have since receiv,d [*received*] baptism, which has produc,d a very great excitement I may say, far & near. Serious effort is in progress by opposing heathens to undermine our operations as much as possible -- But we feel that He that is for us, is more than they who are against us, and we are encouraged to believe that God,s word is having free course & will be glorified. I am not able, definitely to state the number expected to be receiv,d [*received*] into the church at next communion, but am expecting one of the number will be a scholar from one of the schools <*I left under Mrs. Burgess care on going to the Hills*.> under my care. I now have her with me as an assistant in teaching those we require to have daily about us, and for gathering together what I shall call, a family school. The two girls already under her care, are doing well, & I hope others will soon be added to this number. Thank Mrs Grant with my best love for her rememberance of me -- You will rejoice to hear so good account of my health -- am feeling quite well, and able to attend to <*attend to*> the schools under my care, and other duties with enjoyment such as I was want to, in gone buy years of labour in India -- have in a measure, lost that stupor, and dullness that so unfitted me for social enjoyment the dreary years of poor health -- Mrs Ballantine says I begin to look again as I did when she arriv,d [*arrived*] in the country -- I say all this dear Mrs. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*], as I know not how best to express the gratitude I feel for so great a blessing.

I am sorry to say that Mr Burgess,s appears delicate -- is subject to poor short attacks of [M...?] which, for a day or two quite prostrate his strength and spirits -- generally speaking however, he appears tolerably well. He is now preparing for a visit to the [C...?] for a change, which we hope may be a great benefit to him -- I know your respect for him, and need not assure you how much he is treasur,d here [*treasured*] -- what confidence the brethren have in his judgment and abilities, and how he will be miss,d [*missed*] during his absence; still, they are anxious he should avail himself of such measures as may tend to the promotion & establishment of his of his health. He takes Edwin with him -- [*he is*] a fine child, and a most interesting little companion I often think how delighted you could be to see him in his cheerful, happy amusements -- I expect to miss his company a good deal, as he usually goes out for the morning air with me in the [?]. He often speaks of his dear mama of his own accord in a way which shows that he has some distinct recollections of her, and which I trust he will never loose. May the sure promises of God, and answers of a godly mother's prayers rest on this dear child, His loss is irreparable to human view, but God can overrule even this dispensation for His greater glory -- I know you pray for him, and for us all, that we be found faithful, and the blessing of God may rest upon us, and our labours. Allow me to ask a rememberance to my friend who may inquire for me -- for your [?] --

--respectful regards to Mr Banister if you please
and believe me,
dear Mrs Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*],
yours sincerely
Cynthia Farrar

I give permission for you to [...] the inclos,d [*enclosed*] if you please --

Ahmednuggur [*India*] Nov. 28. 1842

My dear friend Mrs. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar gives me the opportunity of writing a word or two on the out side of her wrapper -- I have time to say but few words -- I rec'd [*received*] your letter dated June 10 on the 29th of Oct. -- Am truly thankful for it -- expect from what you say I shall have more letters from you before long. The last six months have been months of great interest to our Mission -- The interest still continues, and is of such a nature that there does not exist the same reason for its ceasing as in case of revivals in N. Eng. [*New England*] We do not say revival -- it is the attraction of the people to christianity -- Some six or eight individuals have been examined within a few days -- and will probably be baptized next Sab. [*Sabbath*] We shall have some eight or ten new communicants next Sacramental season. -- next Sab [*Sabbath*] -- We had quite a number last one. Edwin is pretty well -- I am much better than I was two or months ago -- I am about to take a journey to Bombay, for my health

In great haste As ever your friend E Burgess

[*Written across side*] My regards to Mr. B [*Banister*] - and inquiring friends --

I wrote you a half sheet by the mail which left Sept. 1- and the same by the am of Oct. 1.- Steamer leaves Bombay Dec. 1s

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Oct. 18, 1865.

My dear niece, Elizabeth,

I have come to the conclusion, that I am not in your tho'ts [*thoughts*] as much as you are in mine. Otherwise you would have written me from <*your*> the house of your parents before this time or in case you c'd [*could*] not h [*hold*] & guide a pen, you would have employed the hand of another. I long to know how you are, & how your aged father & mother are sustained under their increasing infirmities. How is Marcus? how Caroline? And where is Daniel?

I am glad Eddie is at school, & that Abbie has the prospect of improving, useful & remunerating employment "Teaching we learn," & even more than simply by studying. The way to be blessed, is to be in the way of being made a blessing. Our Great Examplar came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. I rejoice that you are permitted in love to minister to your father & mother. The foundation is now perhaps being laid for it to be well with you in your own advancing years.

How are each of your own children? Where is your daughter Mary? Where your youngest child? Give my love to your father & mother, & to each of the family. Ask each for a message to me. It is a very long time since a letter has been written to me from that home. Caroline, surely, cannot have considered how earnestly I must have desired to hear, or she would have written me. Please let me look in upon you all & see which of you can, & w[*ho*] cannot, walk about, sit up or go out of the house. How many are in the family?

For about four months little rain has fallen here till the first of this week. Then it fell copiously, giving a supply of water, in cisterns, &c. Whether it was sufficient to soak the earth to the depth the draught had dried it, I have not heard.

Two months ago I was far from well & suffered with neuralgia for a few weeks. I have been relieved lately, & have been gaining strength, so that I am almost pretty well now.

Several of the families that I saw most of in Newburyport [*Massachusetts*] for several years of my earlier residence <*have*> have been broken up by bereavement, or have removed to other places.

Whom do you hear preach on the sabbath?

In continued love, your aunt,

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

[*written across side*] Fields of corn here in several places were long ago out for fodder. In some there was no [...]. Apples are scarce.

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

Politeness of Mr. Gaylord.

[*A diagram showing the orbit of earth and the comet is drawn on the first page.*]

New Haven [*Connecticut*], Nov. 3, 1837.

Dear Brother,

I have written to Daniel promising to give you a short account of Prof. Olmsted's theory of Meteoric Showers. I have but very little time before Mr. Gaylord leaves and must therefore be very brief. I have drawn a rude figure which may perhaps give you a better idea of the thing than any mere description. S is suppose to represent the Sun, E the earth in its orbit, which you know

is very nearly circular, B a body of the nature of a comet revolving round the Sun in the same period with the earth, and coming very near it on or about the 13th of Nov. The orbit is very far from being circular and is supposed to be nearly like that represented in the figure. This body is now to be seen by those who have practiced looking for such things, and I have seen it this morning, but it is of such a nature that I very much doubt whether any of you would be able to discover it. It is sometimes seen immediately after sun down <at> appearing something as is represented in the following figure

[*Here follows a hand drawing in pencil, showing what is being described in the letter.*]

Horizon

The little round spots which I have made are intended to represent stars, and the body of which I am speaking runs up from the Horizon in much the <*wa*> same way with the pencil marks I have made over a part of the stars. It is now to be seen before sunrise, and best about 4 o'clock in the morning. If you were acquainted with the constellations I could very easily tell you in what part of the heavens to look for it, but as I suppose you are not it would be very difficult <*for me*>. It reaches now above the Sickle <*cons*> which is in the neck and shoulders of the Lion. It is evidently very thin and light from the fact that most stars are very easily seen through it. Its form is very nearly that represented in the figure.

But I have not yet told you in what manner this causes meteors. On or about the 13th of Nov. this body comes very near the earth and a part of its matter is supposed to drawn from it into our atmosphere where it takes fire and forms what are called shooting stars. Prof. Olmsted says he has observed every year since the great meteoric shower of Nov. 13th 1833 and has seen the same phenomenon occur each year on the very same day. <*thou*> Though the number of meteors has been very small in comparison with those of 1833, yet they have started from the same point in the heavens, and have exhibited the same appearances. If I have succeeded in making myself understood in these explanations I think you will very gladly make some observations and see if any thing remarkable occurs. It is only by repeated observations that the truth or fallacy of the theory can be ascertained.

I have no time to write any more, as Mr. Gay- leaves in a few minutes. Give my love to Martha and Marcus, to Uncle Luther's folks, and all the rest of our friends. Write to me as soon as you can, conveniently, and let me know how things are going on at home.

Your affectionate brother,

Joel Grant.

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

Berlin [*Connecticut*], July 22, 1839

Dear Brother,

I can render no apology for the long delay which I have made in writing except a multitude of business. I myself have been well and cannot but hope you enjoy the same blessings <*thogh*> though the fact that you have not yet written <*to me*> to blame me for my delay has sometimes almost led me to fear that you cannot do it. But I have some news to tell you, which perhaps from what I have written to you before you may not expect. It is that I have closed my school no more to commence it. The reason of this is that the teacher of the English <*scho*> school here whom I have before mentioned to you as taking a part of my scholars from me, has now advanced so far that he is not content with the tuition of the scholars he can fairly obtain, but wishes that his school may be united to mine, and he has so many friends among the Trustees of the Academy of which I have charge that the Trustees <*of the*> are of the same mind. Such an arrangement which would take from me half the state donation ($150 per year) together with the absurdity of attempting to unite two independent and to some extent rival schools <*could*> induced me to decline having any thing more to do with the school. I closed my school a little more than a week since, just one year after commencing. I have spent the time since in visiting among my acquaintances and friends here, and have passed the time very agreeably. I am now ready to start and am waiting only for a vessel to go to New-York. Unfavorable winds detain those which are now absent from returning but as soon as they come there will be no delay on my part. The greater part of those who own vessels here do not choose to run them at present for <*corn*> corn the chief article of trade, has fallen to so low a price that they cannot make any profit by it. There are however one or two which are going again as soon as possible after they return. As they charge but 25 cents a day for board it is possible that I may stay in New-York several days as I can <*by*> be almost at home in the vessel. It may be may be that I shall stay there and at New-Haven [*Connecticut*] till after Commencement at College, but I will write more of this after I reach New-York.

I believe I have the esteem of nearly all if not all, the people here. Even those who were unwilling I should stay on the terms of last year would gladly have employed me on their own. Every scholar of my school shed tears on the day of our separation, and some fairly cried. But I could only wish they might have a teacher who <*cou*> would serve them better and better deserve their affection. I must say that I am more and more pleased with the people here. The acts of kindness and respect which, times without number, they have performed towards me none but the most ungrateful <*can*> could ever forget.

I received a letter a few days since from sister Elizabeth the first I have received for a long time. She says she is looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when she expects me to visit her, which I fear is distant. I have heard nothing from sister Mary since she left home.

I should like to have you write soon and direct your letter to New–York

In haste
Your affectionate brother,
Joel Grant.

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

Boston Nov. 2, 1839

Dear Brother;

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

The only item of news I have is that our ship is to visit New-York before she leaves the country, and it is probable she will make the visit some time next week. She is getting into pretty good trim now, and I suppose we go to New-York principally to take on board Com. Ridgeley, who is to be our commander, and whose dignity might be hurt if <he> we were not obliged to go to him, rather than he to come to us. But whatever the reason may be, I build upon the fact some additional hope that I shall be able to visit home before we go. I think I can make arrangements so that I shall meet the ship at New-York, and while it is going from here there I will go home. If such should be the case I will visit you at New Haven [*Connecticut*] if you are not well enough to <go> meet me at home.

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

Joel Grant.

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

U. S. Ship Potomac

Rio de Janeiro
June 28, 1841
Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Give my love to cousin Maria Pettibone Margaret Nettleton, cousin Elizabeth P. and to all in any way connected with them. Also tell cousin Wm. [*William*] I am verily guilty in not having written to him and will try to write to him soon. I wish you would let me know where James

Cowles is; I have sent two letters to him and have received no answer. I can write no more for I expect the master-at-arms to come every minute to extinguish my light which I am not permitted to burn after <*nine*> ten o'clock and the vessel sails to-morrow, by which I wish to send this.

Your affectionate brother

Joel Grant.

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

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

My very dear sister, Martha,

Tomorrow we expect to see Zanzebar, & the next day to land there. Two weeks ago yesterday we saw Cape Corrientes, the first land we had made on our voyage, & last Sat. we were again favored with a similar sight of Mozambique. Mozambique is a small island. We could distinguish trees, the flag staff, & could see what appeared to us buildings. Capt. [*Ward*] with his glass, could distinguish churches, houses, &c, & said things looked perfectly natural. He has often traded there. Mozambique is the capital of the Portuguese settlements on this coast. It was very pleasant again to see the abodes of men, though sad to think of their degraded state. The Portuguese are generally very destitute of moral principle, & are a curse to the natives. They still carry on the slave trade on this coast probably more extensively than in any other part of Africa -- It can only be done by smuggling, as it is a violation of treaty -- I feel less anxious to communicate many things in this sheet, than if I were not penning things that interest us as they occur to send home from Bombay, & besides Mr. B. [*William Burgess*] has engaged to write his friends through the Recorder [Missionary Recorder*?*], & has directed a copy of each Rec. which contains any thing from him to be sent to father. The same will be sent to Phelps, Elizabeth & Joel. Our water is still good, & we spend our time much as when I wrote last. I have written to Joel, Aunt, Mrs. J. P. Cowles, & to old acquaintances in Forsyth [*Georgia*] & intend to write several more letters before we reach Bombay, about the middle of Aug. We, (the missionary company) held a little meeting in the cabin, this evening for our monthly concert. -- As we are now almost eight hours east of you, prayer will be ascending in the U.S. till we rise in the morn, It is a consolation to feel that Christians pray for us, & the cause -- the more prayer, <*the*> more success -- Dear sister, pray for us -- pray for yourself -- pray much -- do not let little things ruffle you. If you have in time past, do not be discouraged. Whatever things occur to try our feelings & temper, tend to form our character & God is trying us by them. If we yield to impatience, & are peevish once, we let down a barrier, & are more easily led to do the same thing another time. So of any bad habit, & so of good habits. Martha, feel the importance of this, for you to have right dispositions & feelings is vastly more important than knowledge of books -- You may acquire perfect control of yourself, but not without effort, continuous effort. You will sometimes fail if you try, but when tempted, let some little prayer come up to a present God, such as "Lord, help me now" -- I feel this subject to be more important than I can express -- as it respects your own happiness, as it respects the happiness of our family as it respects your influence in the world in whatever station you may move -- Now, Martha, is the time too, -- now while you are young & at home -- Do it while young, that the habit of self control may be formed, do it while at home, for there more will occur to try you, & if you can there maintain right feeling & action the foundation will be well laid. The happiness & character of the family at home will be much affected by you -- very much. Would you have Marcus pleasant, kind & amiable Be so yourself. Would you help Daniel & have him aid you. Let him understand that you aim at doing right, You will by so doing be a blessing to father & mother -- It is a principle of phrenology that the activity of any feeling has a tendency to excite the same feeling in those around us, either good or bad -- Martha, you may tear off this half of the sheet -- keep it for yourself, if you please. I have thought of many things since I left home that I wished I had said to you. -- It was hard for me to leave you, I never felt such a tender love for you -- but my time was so short, & I had so many to see, & so much to do that I forgot many things. But one thing try to improve at home, try to make home happy. Do not feel that you

cannot improve unless you are in school, or away at school -- I think home is a good place to improve by reading -- improve by conversing with father & mother -- It will give them pleasure to see you desirous to learn from them, & they will be happy to instruct you. Feel that you can thus learn much. I think you did improve the last year I was away. I know you will have much work to do -- I fear too much to take care of our great house. I hope all will try to help you to keep it neat. Do not injure yourself by lifting -- feel always that you have no right to injure your health -- Health is inexpressibly precious. the Lord bless & guide my dear sister.

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

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

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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 of living</u>. Oh how sweet would be the summons to follow my beloved wife! But then my poor boy! The mission, -- the poor brethren! I would if God wills still live & toil & suffer. I wish to be like a

helpless child in the arms of my heavenly father. I am as nothing. With out divine support what would have become of me! That support has been granted. But I have not even the poor merit of having prayed for what I have received. I have prayed, & often too, for support, in this trying hour. But I never had an idea of anything at all adequate to what is the reality. Still there is nothing rapturous; only a perfect assurance that God will do all things right. God is a rock, God seems to have given me sober views which look into eternity; which look at things comparatively in all their connections; -- which enable me to see the inconstency of judging of all, where I can see only a part. Spiritual things seem clothed with a reality which they never wore before.

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

Yours truly as ever,
E. Burgess

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

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

Should this be my last sickness, how quick & easy will be my release from this body, -- & from the world! But -- O -- my poor dear husband! What will he do? -- And -- my poor motherless child! What will become of him? But God will be gracious, He will be merciful, I know He will. I can leave them in His hands; I can trust Him. He will do all things well." We spoke of the conversations & promises of the gospel; -- repeated texts of scripture; -- &, alluding to our work among the heathen, she expressed no regret for the sacrifices, she had made; -- but rejoiced that she had been accounted worthy to manifest her attachment to the cause of Christ. She was so composed, -- so cheerful, -- so rational, -- so natural were the tones of her voice, -- & the expression of her countenance, -- that there was no occasion for a tear. Oh how precious the recollection! I love to ponder on the mournful -- sweet -- scene of her last hours, -- her last days Yes -- on the varied scenes of all the days I ever knew her, o, how dear she was to me, -- to us all! & deservedly so. May the savor of her life so far as it savored of Christ, be as holy ointment to chastened souls, Nature weeps, but does not murmur. She frequently spoke of her family with tenderest emotions. She suffered but little after I saw her, except from a painful kind of restlessness which seemed to pervade the whole frame. My feebleness compelled me to retire as soon as those I sent for had arrived. They continued. with her until the last, -- using every means that wisdom or experience could devise, for arresting the process of the dreadful disease. When I was told that there remained no longer any hope of her recovery, I went again, to her bedside. She appeared perfectly rational & composed. As I took her hand I said to her, you now feel that you will soon be with your blessed savior; -- She replied -- "yes, -- & I feel that he is near, -- & precious." I then asked her if she had anything to say to me? She said "yes -- I have much that I wish to say to you but I have not strength." --
Between 4 & 5 OC. P.M. the door of the upper sanctuary opened to her. -- Jesus called, -- she cheerfully answered -- "I come to Thee." She entered in -- & is safe. From that peaceful pensive moment I shall see her no more, until the glorious resurrection of the just. Her remains were interred early the next morning; & at 5 OC. P.M. we had a prayer meeting here at the lonely dwelling; & a most excellent address from Mr. Ballantine from John 11. Here too, nature wept, -- but not without hope. Like her may we be ready; Like her, happy in prospect of our great change. -- Pray for us.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM MRS. BALLANTINE

Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess said to Mrs. Abbott, -- "Well, this is cholera: it is different from what I thought it was. I have not much pain." Mr. Abbott said to her, "What a comfort it is to one, in your situation, to be able to trust in the savior"! "Yes" -- said she; -- "I have lived very far from Him; -- but if I go, I think He will receive me. He appears near to me & I think I can trust in Him. What will become of poor Mr. Burgess"! An hour after this He said to her, -- "what a blessing, that we can cast all our care upon God, leave every want with Him."! -- she replied, -- "Yes, -- it is indeed; yes, -- all our cares; -- yes, -- yes." This we suppose she said in reference to Mr. Burgess, & her little boy [*Edwin*]. Upon opening her eyes, after they had been some time closed, she fixed them upon me & said, -- "Dear sister, do sit down". The Dr. now brought her some soda, & asked, "Do you think you can take this"? "Yes said She "if you think it best." This was her uniform reply to him, whenever he offered her medicine. About 3 O.C. she went to sleep, & appeared to sleep quietly for some time. When she awoke she said to me, -- "I am better," "You have been praying for me have you not"? "I think I Shall recover". The Dr. then brought her some more soda. She looking upon him & said, "I believe I have been wandering; & that made me think I was better than I really am". Then taking the drink she said, -- "How I want you all to take care of yourselves. I then said to her "You feel that you are almost home, do you not"? "Yes" said She. I then asked, "have you any fear of death"? She paused a little & said in an expressive tone, "No." I asked what shall I say to Mr. Burgess for you? She quickly said -- "My poor husband," -- "my dear husband; -- but he is a man of God, -- & he will be comforted. Then after a few moments of deep thought, she lifted her eyes to heaven, & exclaimed, Oh, -- to God be all the glory, -- all the glory, -- all the glory. A little after this she looked up to me and said, -- you will be kind to Edwin I feel that you will. She now began to sink rapidly: & when I supposed her almost gone, I said to her, -- "Miss Burgess do you know me"? She looked up with a peculiarly sweet expression of countenance, & said in a firm tone, "It is dear sister Ballantine". From that time She

could no more be roused; & she sank away as quietly as a little infant to its slumbers. -------- She had her reason so perfectly, -- was so free from pain, -- & above all, so full of peace, that we must all feel that she was "let down, to the grave, most gently". I trust it has done us all good. Our native brethren & sisters have seen a Christian die; & we have all of us gained new, & clearer views of death, as it is to the child of God. --------- Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess was with us only a short time; but we do not measure her usefulness by years. We feel that few have done more for this people than she. Her prayers for them were many, fervent , & heartfelt; She had four schools to which she devoted a good deal of her time, energy & thoughts. These schools were in the city; -- & visiting them from week to week she became extensively known to the girls mothers & to many women in the neighborhood. Often would they collect around her in little companies, and she would tell them of Christ, & of his salvation. Since her death these women speak of her in the most interesting manner. "A more cheerful happy person", say "They we never knew." She had many calls from the natives, -- & no one was ever suffered to go away from her without some word of instruction. Often would she say to me, -- "Now speak a word to this person, -- or to that," -- when we might. It was evident from the first that Mrs. Burgess meant to spend, & be spent for this people. She labored with all her heart & all her strength. ---------- the native brethren & sisters loved her ardently: -- & they now mourn & weep. As for ourselves we feel stricken & afflicted. She always came among us with so smiling peaceful a countenance as to impart life and joy to us all ---------- we try to inquire why it has been necessary for God to afflict us so deeply? The harvest here is great, & the laborers are few. We hope we may now say, Lord is it enough; -- stay now & thine hand; -- & spare us to labor on; -- &, o, accept our labors. ---------- The death of Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess will be a shock to you & to all her friends. May an abundant measure of grace be vouchsafed you, -- & support you all. I know you must all have ardently loved her, -- for she was worthy of your warmest love. She loved her parents, brothers, & sisters, ardently. She often spoke of them with great interest.

EXTRACT FROM ANOTHER LETTER OF MR. BURGESS. JULY 16

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

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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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[*Addressed to*:] Miss Martha Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] May 18 '44

Dear Martha,

To the great joy of us all, Tuesday eve has come and we can have a little rest from study. You cannot imagine what a sleepy set we have been since vacation, owing partly to the warm weather I suppose. Is it not curious that the heat should return with our returning here? I have felt a little as you anticipated since last Friday, though on the great whole as Miss [*Mary*] Lyon tells us about, I am quite happy. Cynthia Bowen has not returned yet, and as she is soon expected, and Miss Moore says "she would be clear killed up" if she should give another room

mate, I am living an unsettled life as usual. A part of my things are in 39, and one draw full in 44, where I stay with Jane & Hattie Miles if I am a mind, and have permission to sleep with L. Pomeroy with whom I stay considerable. I love her very much.
There is to be general change of room mates tomorrow C. Huntington & L. Pomeroy are to room together. Augusta Wheeler & Hattie Miles in 44. & Susy Tollman & J. Miles are going to the <*second*> 3'd story. Tomorow I am going to stay in 47. with J. Chapman. I shall love to be so near Nancy F. She is delighted with her visit to Colebrook [*Connecticut*]. Says she did not see you half enough. Some of the most interesting items of her visit she will allow me to tell you when I go home. Julia & her brother G. came with her to Springfield [*Massachusetts*]. She arrived here a little while before we did Oh Martha you cannot think how much I wish you here to night. I feel like sitting down and pouring into your ears many many things that 'twould be foolish to tell any one here. I want to have you know what a happy, delightful ride & visit <u>we</u> had coming here. I think I never before enjoyed one as much. And a great many other things there are which would interest both of us, that must remain till I see you. I am writing in 44 Nancy just came in and asked me to write with her, to you. Told her I had begun first, and she might have part of this sheet. I suppose you are lying alone in your chamber at this hour, perchance a thought of your absent friend steals over you. She would dearly love to sit by your side to night & minister to your wants. good night Abigail --

[*written across side of first page*] Wednesday 10 o'clock. June 12. I have finished my extra work spent half an our in the reading room, & combed, washed and dressed for the day, and am now determined to finish this letter, which has been begun as you see by the date more than two weeks. You can easily divine the reason, knowing as you do what a busy people we are. They have told us a great deal about having leasure for reading, sewing &c this summer, but where it is, I know not. I was never more hurried Euclid, Smellie, Grammar, Botanical terms, with composition, walking, domestic duties, & the innumerable etceteras here take all the time, for the want of which I do not sing! Did you know those B. [*botanical*] terms were arranged by Miss Moore & printer for the special use of the Sem [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]? And did you ever study any thing so hateful. They are the most hateful. They are the most uninteresting of all things, without exception -- & I have a good mind never to take one up again -- Cynthia B. came back last Friday, & we are staying in 39. now. next week we are going in 3d story, no. 50 next to Nancy's room. Esther Cook is going to spend the summer in New Haven [*Connecticut*] with an aunt. I shall rejoice if we ever get settled. There has been a general change in the dining hall, arrangements some tables moved &c. all the the N. division on one side & the S. on the other I sit at Miss Lucy's table No. 7. Miss Bridge, between Miss [*Mary*] Lyon & Whitman -- Miss Moore as usual I am on the tablecloth circle -- iron four every morning soon after breakfast, & lead on the ironing circle Sat. one hour I like it much better than working in the D. Hall.

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

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

Dear Martha,

There is a sort of strange feeling in taking one's pen for the first time to address a friend, however dear, but it shall not prevent my fulfilling the promise I made you. If what I can write will make <u>one</u> long hour seems shorter I shall think myself most happy. This is the eve of a <u>long</u>, <u>pleasant</u> <u>recreation</u> day; made doubly so by the enjoyment of a social visit in town. A party this afternoon went over to "Pearl city," they numbered 45 including their <u>gallant</u>, "President Hawk" They seemed to enjoy themselves much. Indeed, we have the prospect of a very pleasant summer; the young ladies seem more than usually contented, for the summer term, You know by experience how long it seems. The last two weeks have passed more rapidly than my most anxious moments would have wished. Especially after an equal time of vacation spent so agreeably. That was a pleasant visit; and I shall love to remember it. My stay at your house was not so long as my wishes would have said; but I thought you must be so fatigued with company that my longer stay would weary you. And how are you to-night? I will hope "better." Yes really so. I often wish I might run in and sit with you a while -- but instead can only think of you, but that is some pleasure as I know how you look. You must sometimes have lonely hours I think; but

hope they are few and far between. And no doubt in such hours you love to cast "all your care on Him who careth for you" knowing that "these light afflictions which are but for a moment work out for us a far more exceeding & eternal weight of glory." I hope you are able to enjoy riding this fine weather, we find walking very pleasant these days, if it comes at the right time. Abby is now in No. 55. with J. Miles, 'till Susan's return, We hope she will soon be neighbor to us. I left her not long since busily engaged in writing to her New Haven [*Connecticut*] correspondent from whom she received a letter a day or two since. Sarah wishes to be remembered to you in love, Please accept much also for yourself and your dear mother, (tell her I shall not forget her.) from your friend and sister Nancy A. Toole.
Professor Hitchcock is to finish his course of lectures of Anatomy, Physiology in a few days, I wish your mother might be here to hear the conclusion

N [*Nancy A. Toole*] --

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

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

Abigail –

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

My Dear Martha,

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

My Dear Martha Wednesday Morn.

I too may have a place on Abby's sheet, and though I would love <u>dearly</u> to write you a whole letter, I trust a little piece of one will be better than none at all. I must tell you what a long vacation I have had. I returned last Friday, having been at home four weeks. But was I satisfied, and ready to come back? no gladly would I have staid longer still I was not <u>sorry</u> to return. On Wednesday last my only brother was married that was the reason my vacation was so long. A

very pleasant wedding we had (if any wedding may be called pleasant) instead of losing a sister as I have before I have gained one, and I trust a valuable one. I have to study some to make up lost time. We are all Botanising much this summer We have just commenced upon private examinations; you will remember how very delightful those are. Next week we go to the mountain if the weather permits and to day a strawberry excursion is intended. I should love to look in upon you this morn -- and give you one kiss. I trust you are better much. Give much love to your dear Mother. Affectionately Susy Tolman

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*:] Mr. Joel Grant
Colebrook
Ct [*Connecticut*]
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Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Aug. 20, 1838

Dear Brother Joel,

Yours of Aug. 8, was duly & gladly received Aug. 13. I had previously learned that you were in Md, [*Maryland*] am happy to find you situated among a kind people, though I can imagine that it may require skill on your part to prevent their kindness from encroaching upon your time, & you will not always probably be able to do it. Do you find them an inquisitive people? I would suggest your guarding well your cash, & other valuables. You speak of their manners being somewhat peculiar. I should like to converse with you about them. I suppose slaves are common.

I was interested in what you said of your journey, valued your remark respecting Mr. Tracy, & was pleased that notwithstanding the heat, &c. you enjoyed the excursion. Hope you will ever be disposed to enjoy whatever falls in your way suited to excite pleasant emotions. Sometime I hope you will find it convenient to stop at Philadelphia a few days. Hope you have some acquaintance there to show you places of interest. Dr. James Patterson, (who with his household were patterns of Christian hospitality) is now no more. I stopped with his family once when there. The waterworks, Franklin's tomb, the House of Refuge, a Jewish synagogue, the porcelain manufactory, the Widow's Asylum, the hall where congress formerly assembled, & Pratt's garden were the principle places I visited when there. The new fountain, Girard college & many other things you will like to see. It was the advice of the good & accomplished Rev. Mr. Stevens who died at Paris, to a young minister who was journeying to see all the works of nature & art that he could to treasure up knowledge of men & Things as far as possible, & to be sure to consecrate all his acquisitions to God. Would not such advice be apropos in your case?

As I think it not consistent for me to return home to enjoy a visit at this time, though nothing would be more congenial to my feelings, I think of more things which I wish to say than I can put on paper. I will hope however, that we may yet behold each other's faces in the flesh. The day your letter came I learned from a letter Dr. Anderson wrote Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar, that the reinforcement to the Murathee mission will not go out before next spring. I have not determined upon any course for the coming winter. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar is still with me & will remain till the close of this term [*at Ipswich Female Seminary*], Sept. 18. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] gives her her board, & she instructs me some in the M. [*Murathee*] language. I have paid my board by instructing a class in Whateley's logic a work which I wish you to understand. I have been spending a week & a half at Manchester, with Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. During that time as I had become somewhat tired of study, I left all my books at home & rested. Last Sat. my birthday I returned. I have been calling myself almost 28 all summer, but I believe I made a mistake, & that I am only 27. For one lesson while at home, I wish you would get each of the children to remember the year in which they were born, & brother try to do them good in every way you can.

If I could see you we would have a talk about personal appearance, politeness &c. I feel that these are matters far from being despised. I should judge from what you say of your location in Md. [*Maryland*] that your situation would not be very favorable for this kind of improvement. But as Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar says these little marks of gentility & politeness cost nothing, & do give us influence, they should received attention. Do nothing in your own room that would offend persons of refined habits, & delicate taste. And let your personal appearance be neat & always respectable. I have sometimes made mistakes upon these points, & probably shall make more, but I intend to try. Can not you do something in this respect for those at home? Next time you write, mention any thing you please upon this subject & also about your society in Berlin, the state of religion in the vicinity, the opportunities for general improvement & I wish to know the ages, the general character of your school & your plan [. . .] in teaching. I visited a school in Manchester last week. It was a [. . .] one, there was excellent order. They read & spelt well. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. says she can judge of a school by their reading & spelling. I look upon Aunt

[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] as one of the best, & most judicious persons I know, & value all the time I have to be with her. She writes no friendship or business letters, & finds it necessary to deprive herself many privileges & to take special care, that she may plan for the school, & be able to speak to them from four to six or seven hours a week. She wishes love to you. Whether you write her or myself, we shall both get the intelligence. Her expenses are necessarily great. She rides considerable, as that is her best medicine.

I wish you to sing some wherever you are, & think you might be a help in a choir at Berlin. I hope our brothers & sisters at home will soon learn to sing. <*Where*> How shall we direct our letters to you in Md. [*Maryland*] I find many things unsaid, but I must write a little to mother & if the thought should stray along your convolutions that my advice borders upon the officious, your generous heart will I think & rightly too impute it to my anxiety for your welfare. I may not write you again for some time but ever remain

Your very aff [*affectionate*] sister
Mary Grant

Ever dear Mother,

I thank you a thousand times for your letter of July 14, & a few times for your last. You had not time I know or you would have written more at that time. I do not wish to complain, but I did feel some grieved that Mother or Daniel or John or father did not fill out the sheet, or that they did not even send love. I want to know whether you have any help, whether the children do well, how my cousins Margaret, [Dinian?], Maria, Elizabeth &c. are employed & how Amanda is doing &c. I want to know about your religious joys & sorrows, about our church Sab [*Sabbath*] school & I wonder if you cannot all fill out a sheet while Joel is at home or soon after he returns & tell me of his visit. The school at S. [*South*] Hadley closed Thurs. of this week. Dr. Hawes addresses them at the close. Miss Caldwell then closes her connection with the school. Mr. Burgess has visited here & spent nearly a week. He left Aug. 1. He is in good health & I enjoyed his visit. He has been preaching in NY [*New York*] for three Sab. [*Sabbath*] & will be there next Sab. [*Sabbath*]

Those capable of advising me as well as myself very much doubt the propriety of my being engaged with the care of a school next winter. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar who is a very valuable character is decided. She thinks I shall not [*unsure where cross-writing continues*] it not best. I find mother in Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] & Mrs. G. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] is not known this way at all by her inane commencing with P. & when you send love as I always like you to do to her, please use some other expression. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar wishes a kind remembrance to my dear father & mother. I wish your prayers & desire that you may be blessed & sustained.

Your aff [*affectionate*] Mary

[*Writing in margins*:] About John's going to Md. [*Maryland*] I do not know but it may be best, you could take care of him. I wish he had chosen the bible for his counselor. If he should go, I think it might be best for Daniel to attend the district school & give a good deal of attention to singing should there be an opportunity. If there is a singing school, it appears to me it would be well for Martha to read & study at home, & attend much to singing. Here I would say to mother that I learned some in singing by singing with her & Martha would learn more. If John remains at home it seems to me that Daniel would do as well to teach next winter, & after having taught a season, he will be better prepared to profit by going from home to some established school. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] wishes her love to each of you. My love to each of the cousins.

If our people have no letter paper, will you procure some. I think they should write all their letters upon such paper. Mrs. Howell sends love to Emiline. Eno. says she shall write her friends there soon.

Very aff. [*affectionate*] Mary

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[*in pencil*: John Cowles Grant to Abigail Cowles Grant]

[penciled on back] I send this of Johns just received – send it to sister Caroline if you think best. I think his descriptive powers are pretty good

H March
Mrs. S.E. Edwards
326 Fed St.
Camden

Mr. An Mrs. Aaron Butler
Cape May

Harlem, Ills. [*Illinois*]

Dear Mother,

I have hardly written you a decent letter since I have been pedagoging but it was not for lack of inclination but rather of opportunity, for when in the schoolhouse the young ideas get noisy & want to run around & play & that joggles my desk & ideas & when boarding around I find writing materials scarce.

I have got a gay little school of 36 promising youth all of whom expect I doubt not to be Presidents & Mrs. [*Harriet Beecher*] Stowe's in time, their ages vary from 4 to 20 & some of the boys could throw me out of the window with one hand if they possessed the inclination; one of my boys is going to be a lawyer or Bank Prest. [*President*] for he can't write legibly to save him, probably he will go to Congress if he don't he ought to.

Boarding round is the largest thing out of the penitentiary. I have as good as there is around, and I must say that I never lived so well in my life as I have here, all sorts of every thing & so much of it. I find one trouble that is sitting, eating, & cooking all in the same room, but am getting used to that so I don't notice it except when they have babies to cry while their mother is cooking, if they were not so dirty I would try to comfort them a little my self but as it is I let them cry.

The Scotch have a regular oldfashioned bluestocking Presbyterian Church a little way from my <*adec*> <u>academy</u> in which primitive religion is shown in some of its beauties; service commences at 11 o'clock, about ten they begin to assemble, they come in crowds, families & tribes, by ones' tens' & forties,' after discussing the marriages & deaths of the week past, the prospects of the weather for the week to come, each one meantime informing his neighbor that it is a fine day, they go in to hear words of burning, soul-stirring eloquence for an hour & a half; the complacency with which the Fathers in Israel sleep through the sermon is very refreshing & the regularity with which they wake for the singing & prayers is marvelous: all stand during the prayer, & sit during the singing; they have no choir or instrument, the Deacons saying they will "ha' na' sooch thing en Gods hus." The singing is conducted or led by an old cracked voice brother who makes terrible noises which all follow as closely as they can & for this interesting performance he is paid $60. per year: there is one old man just like Mr. Storms, who takes his snuff as regularly as he wakes up, & spills about half of it over his coat collar, making it snuff-colored, a very fashionable color just now.

I went to a scotch party N.Y. [*New York*] night & was very much amused, pleased & instructed. Some of the older girls who don't go to school & "went for me" & tried to steal my heart I judged from their actions, but I had seen such before & if any one <*was in the least*> had any advantage I guess it was,

Yr [*Your*] aff [*affectionate*] son J Grant [*John Cowles Grant*]

Box 300 Roscoe

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

Dear cousin John,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P.S. Abbie has been here for a while and says she will <*expect*> write to you soon.

What glorious war news we are having!

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[*Original not in collection*]

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

Dear brother Daniel,

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

I received a letter from sister E. [*Elizabeth*] two days since. She wrote in very good spirits, I think, says her school far exceeds her anticipations. Miss Bridges has given up the primary department & assists E. [*Elizabeth*] They have 40 young ladies. She says some of them are ornaments to <*any*> the school & do as well as they can. She has changed her boarding place. She now boards with 18 or 20 of the young ladies. Their friends provided food, & the young ladies prepare it for the table. They have a matron to keep their fires, & attend a little to their dinner. She is pleased with the plan thus far. Her scholars have been studying Colburn's &

Adams's Arith. Nat. & Mental <*Moral*> Phi. & Watts. reading chirography & spelling & composition. She writes so seldom. I thought perhaps you might not know these things. She mentions that the first Mon. in Jan. was to be observed as a fast. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] approves of such boarding establishments there.

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

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

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

[Ahmeduaggur?], June 10, 1840.

My dear brother Daniel,

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

yes, be chaste, every where, alone & in company in thought, speech & manner. Be a Christian example. One point more, important though delicate. You will need ere long to select a bosom partner. O what circumspection, & what guidance from on highs you require here. Make this an important part of your intercession before God. Your usefulness & your all will be affected by this step. So do not be hasty, make yourself worthy of one of the excellent of the earth, not the rich, but one of the sensible, healthy, & virtuous daughters of new Eng [*New England*] I would say -- yet I would not choose for you. I think some of your New Eng. [*New England*] acquaintances would make you happy. In training your own habits, one motive may be, to make yourself what you should be as the head of a family But dear brother, from my interest in you, I have written thus much, it is for your own eye, & for your own good. Keep near to God. Aim to do every one good. Remember the Sab. [*Sabbath*] & the Bible & closet. I wish you to write me particulars about yourself. brother Phelp's family and all.

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

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

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

Dear Brothers, Phelps & Daniel, & Sister Susan,

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

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

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

cheaper kind of carpet a wash hand table a towel rack, a dressing table, a bed, a wardrobe & some trunks, & a chest. It is of good size & is airy.

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

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

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

Andover Theo. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*] March 1, '43

Dear Brother,

If I have rightly made the calculation you close your school day after to-morrow, as that will make four months from Nov. 14, 1842. I have not written to you previous to this time because I knew not when you would be at home, nor where to direct a letter to you, away from home. I have however been a little disappointed that I have not received a letter from you, though I doubt not you have many very good excuses to offer, such as pressure of business residing among those mountaineers, &c., so that after all I suppose I must let the matter pass.

Our vacation commences Wednesday April 19, seven weeks from to day. At that time I hope to have an opportunity to see you. In the mean time, I hope you will do all that you can to get ready for your journey to the West, which you ought to begin as soon after navigation opens as possible. Some weeks since I received a letter from Levi Grant in which he states that chairs and all kinds of furniture are about the same price as in Ohio. Respecting cloth, [...] yarn, &c, he says that they are in [great?] demand than in Conn. [*Connecticut*] He says that apple and pear trees are articles that command a good price but I presume the season of the year in which you go will be unfavorable to the transportation of them. He says also that he has an excellent two

horse waggon which he thinks will answer for both you and him for the present. He did not write particularly about the house, I presume because he had not at that time proceeded for enough with it to say much. I suppose that all he can do this winter will be to get the logs prepared, as when he received my letter, snow had fallen to a considerable amount. He says "the winter is delightful, the sleighing good, and no drifts at all." This however was under date of Dec. 17.

I think you would do well to take on as many of those things which you will want as you can, for even if the price should not be more there, than here, there is some advantage in having things by you and in not having to look them up among a crowd of [sharpers?], who will use every art to cheat you. At the very highest calculation you can get things carried from Albany to <*Chic*> Milwaukie for $2 a hundred by the steamboats on the lakes, and for $1.50 by vessels, and I have little doubt but you can get them carried for less, for this I believe to be the maximum. You can also be carried for $25 a person from Albany to Milwaukie, with a cabin passage in the steam boats on the lakes, and your board found you all the way. This much I regard as certain, I hope you will be able to go for less.

To day a company of Missionaries has sailed from Boston to Persia and labor among the Nestorians. They are eight in number viz. Mr. Perkins, Mr. Bliss, Mr. Stoddard, and their wives, and Miss Myers, and Miss Fiske who has been until recently at S. Hadley as a teacher [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Mr. Stoddard was a classmate of mine in College and for a year or two past a tutor in Yale College. He is a most excellent man as well as an accomplished scholar. These missionaries were all here last Sabbath, and received their instructions Sabbath evening. The Bishop, Mar Johannan returns with them. Mr. Perkins who has been connected with that mission eight years has published an account of his labors there which is full of interest. The Nestorians, as a people who, amid the oppression of the Mohammedans and the attacks of the Pope have kept the <*flame*> form, and to some extent the power of Christianity, so long, demand our sympathy and our prayers.

During the latter part of Jan. I visited Aunt Banister. She was usually well but the eldest daughter Frances was considered unwell with some disease which has long been upon her. Since that time I have heard that she is worse, and the physycians have told her she cannot recover. She is however resigned to the will of God and says "If God has more for me to do he can raise me from my low estate, if not I am willing to depart." She is of a very cheerful and happy disposition and when well has a most excellent talent for entertaining company, a talent in which she as much excels as her younger sister appears to be deficient.

Your affectionate brother
Joel Grant.

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

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

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

You will perceive that you sent me a good deal more money that I expended for the book but you did not tell me how to dispose of the balance of sixty — cts [*cents*] or so — I have not the amount in postage stamps — so will keep it till you want some thing else — I use the book in our school — and it was a [tachen?] that I got it so cheap

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

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

In haste
Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother

Jn. [*John*] Grant.

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[*On stationary — Beloit College*]

Beloit, Wis. [*Wisconsin*], July 21st, 188 [ ]

My dear Mother —

Your letter should have been answered before this. But since Almon went away day after day I have felt so tired that I have continued to put off all work that I could.

We are having a very trying season. everything in the vegetable line is literally burning up so dry dry and a great deal of hot weather. we shall have nothing from our garden even the tomatoes are drying up. I was glad to hear that they are fairly comfortable at Edwards. I am so sorry for Lucy to have to try get along alone with all those little children.

Almon left here two weeks ago to-day went to Boston visited Willies. also visited Aur. Wilson at Billeraca Went on to Hallowell where he met Mr. Bacon when they proceeded to the Captain's where Mr. Bacon will spend a few days, there go home for the principal part of his vacation. His father lives in East Hampton. His mother has been in poor health for a long time. Mr. B. [*Bacon*] is the oldest of six children. Almon did not know when he went away whether or not he should be able to visit you. Will probably write you himself before he comes home. He will not stop in Oberlin [*Ohio*].

John Grant expects to marry Aug. 11th Miss Anna Coffins of Wiscasset Maine. Almon expects to see him this summer.

Prof. Shurtleff has gone to Europe I suppose. He was expecting to go the last I heard. Laura writes Carrie that they are to take a trip up the Lakes pretty soon.

Carrie is not very well. fever and continuous headaches. Mr. Bacon has let her take his piano during vacation. She enjoys it very much. Harry well and lazy. Arthur well and industrious.

President Chapin has resigned and Pres E. D. Eaton of Oak Park Ill. [*Illinois*] elected in his place. Mr. Wright one of Almonds assistant has gone to Europe. We shall hardly get as pleasant a man in his place. I have not yet heard from Almon since he reached the Captains, but hope to hear in a day or two. I hope that you and father are well.

With much love to you both.

Your aff. daughter
Abby C.G. Burr

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

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

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

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

I must tell you what a pleasant time we had here at the Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] last week. I know you would have enjoyed it very much — you would probably have several old acquaintances. You know there are a large number of missionaries in this country now some of whom are formerly connected with this school, and one teachers thinking it would be pleasant to all parties to have a "reunion" invited over one hundred missionaries and patrons and friends of the institution to be here on the 30th last June. Among them were fifteen

gentlemen and thirteen ladies who had in all spent 398 yrs of missionary labor. Of the ladies Mrs. Hazen (Miss Martha Chapin) Mrs. Stoddard (Miss Sophia Hazen) Mrs. Howland (Miss Susan Reed) Mrs. Webb (Miss Foote) Mrs. Mills (Miss Tolman) and Mrs. Wilder were formerly pupils and some of them teacher here. "Father Migs" for 45 yrs a missionary in Ceylon. Dr. Perkins 25 yrs. in [Aroomiah?] Persia, Dr. Anderson Secretary of the A.B.C.F.M. [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*], Ex. President Hitchcock and others of whom we have often read and heard were here and addressed us. — Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] and Mrs. John P. Cowles were here from Wednesday afternoon until Friday morning. They have both visited Austinburg, and it was very pleasant indeed to see them. Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] looks better and says she feels better than she did there. She is at present boarding in Ipswich. They both charged me to remember them to friends, when I wrote, with much love. – Another wrote me that I would probably have a call from Aunt Abby, but she does not come, and I fear I shall not see her.

My school year closes the 28th of the month, three weeks from tomorrow. I can hardly believe that I am going home so soon. I expect to go to Newbury and other places in Orange Co. [Vt?]. where father's relatives live, to spend about a week before returning home. I remained at the Sem. last vacation for the sake of studying — read [Amacitia?] with my room mate in that time —. I shall have completed the Junior studies, and shall have only three of the shortest of the Middle studies "back," and suppose I could easily complete the course here in another year, but rather think I shall prefer to go to the Lake Erie Sem. [*Seminary*] in Painsville, which opens the 15th next Sept. to graduate, as mother favors my doing so rather than to return home, and the trustees are anxious to have a Junior Middle and Senior class the first year as they did here. — You probably know that Mary Grant is coming here next year. Have you heard of the death of her youngest sister Martha? I have not heard particulars but "the Canton girls" told me that she had been a long time sick, and at last was thought to have the dropsy upon the brain.

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

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

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

From your aff'te niece
Mary E. Burton

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

Single
folio post.

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] Sept. 25, 1843

Dear Brother,

Your letter of Sept. 1, 2 & 3 was received Sept 14, and though all its news was not as agreeable as we could wish we were very glad to hear from you, for we wish to sympathise with your sorrow as well as rejoice at your happiness. I was surprised at the account you gave of your labors, for surely I think you never labored so before. But it may be you are trying to do too much. To get up with aching bones every morning when a little more sleep would prevent it is <*far*> very short sighted policy, and if you look no farther than to the gathering of your first crop, would probably prove to your disadvantage. But as the nights are now becoming long probably you will feel no more trouble on this account.

In reference to the house I had build for you there was no written contract that was signed I wrote one that I did not get signed because I supposed you would very likely want alterations, as was in fact the case. I have not the paper which I wrote by me, but I believe that it mentions having the roof shingled with pine shingles. At all events that was the agreement, and I knew it to be well understood, but as there is no contract to that effect signed I do not suppose any thing can be done, unless Levi will acknowledge that such was the agreement. I placed considerable confidence in him, and the more because when I came home you seemed to deem him perfectly honest and you knew him better than I. But I do not see that the matter can now be helped, the only remedy is for you to get some eight or twelve logs of the right size and raise your walls so as to make room in the [garret?] then make a new frame for the roof and cover it with boards as we have sometimes covered bars &c. or if you think best with shingles, but the latter would be more expensive and the former will probably be equally good in your place, where "people do not come once in five years," because it is "so far back." I presume $10 or $15 thus laid out will make your house a very comfortable one, and I am willing in this case to pay half the expense.

I hope you will try to avoid going into Levi's house if you have not already gone there. It will surely breed another quarrel, about damaged and lost furniture, or something else. I hope also you have not undertaken to do much with his farm for a like reason.

Mr. Knapp has probably told you in the enclosed letter that he <*will probably*> expects to come to Wisconsin in the spring. As you seem to like him I hope he will be able to settle near you, and for that purpose, I am willing he should take the 40 acre lot you bought for me, at a price but little above that you [g]ave, or the 80 acre lot east of you for the same price offered it to you. You will therefore not sell either of them this fall By the way did you see carefully to the title of the land you bought so as to be sure there was no incu[m]brance of any kind, and have you registered the deed?

You say in your letter that "Joel would not have bought this place if he had staid here longer." That may be true, but I think not. Is there any place in Wisconsin so valuable as the one you have that could be bought for $255 (The $45 I gave you to do ditching you will probably use for some other purpose) I know the place is not in all particulars what you would like and what I wish you had, but it is where you can get to meeting, where you can get a physician, and most those things you need, and it was cheap. Better places I want you to remember were not within your means. But I presume upon reflection you will see that your dissatisfaction results not from any deficiency in the place, but from your fatigue and, home sickness. I hope you will not sell it Father says if you do, he is certain that in five y[e]ars you will not have a cent in the world, and I must say that though I do not think that would be the case, I have no doubt it will be to your great disadvantage. But if you wish it I will take the farm at the price you gave and let you have the [c]rops you have sown or may sow.

I leave together with John for New Haven [*New Haven*] to-morrow. I was at Mr. Burr's day before yesterday and read the letter Caroline sent by Harvey Grant. Mary is going to teach in a family near Philadelphia, I forget the place. She starts a week from to day. She has not pined away any this summer, but is cheerful and has good prospects. The <*remainder*> rest of the family are well.

I wish you had not paid Levi for the house for then he could not have got $65, but as it is you must let it pass – you could get nothing by suing, and I hope you will ever avoid law suits. I hope you have not paid him again the $50 I sent him last winter. I could write much more but will leave the rest for Mother, John, Martha, &c.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother, Joel [G]rant

Dear Brother

I believe I will write a few words I thank you for letter I hope that you be contented there and not sell your farm for I do [...] not believe you will better your self [...] I am glad you have so good yoke of oxen on your account

your aff [*affectionate*] [B]rother Marcus

My Dear Children

Sep 27 1843

With a variety of feelings I commence this letter I read your letter with [mingled?] emotion I rejoice that you enjoy health and I mourn that <*that*> you are not contented with your situation I think it wise to give heed to what the apostle [...] Paul said of him self he had learned in whatever situation he was in therewith to be content I do not suppose that we ought not to try to improve our condition, but not to be unhappy even if our condition is not just what we should wish I felt when you left us that you would enjoy a great deal I felt that you had much to make you happy that <*yo*> God had been very good to you in many respects that you were happy in each other and that you were so comfortably fitted out. I thought that although your situation would be retired yet you would enjoy each others society and it is an old mansion that if we have one friend we ought to think ourselves happy and I have often thought that man [Jim?] was a good one, now my children I am not very much disappointed that you Did not find things as you expected and as I hoped but I always [feared?] and I was tempted to tell you that I learned that you would not find in that man all that was desirable and then I would think I had not sufficient knowledge [t]o say anything I had heard some things about his father that I never [wished?] to hear about any man (in regard to the property belonging to his sisters) I had my [...] information from your aunt Jerusha Grant and one of her brothers married h[is?] sisters she thought that he had not done the thing that was right but I guess he never said much about it only to me and I would not have you mention what I have written I hope you have been able to keep your feelings to yourself the children <*will*> ought not to be judged by their parents but if they follow the examples of their parents and they are bad they must be judged accordingly it is very important that they (parents) set good examples before their children I have heard that I went to [Gherlin?] to school and that instead of making expense he had aclaim [...] the institution for his labor and there were many circumstances that made me fear that his love of money was so great that it would exceed his love to God and his neighbor but that will be the case every where you will find such cases every where all over the world and I hope you will never move on account of improving your neighbors I will tell you that I very much want to have you stay on your place and I think you will have good neighbors come to you good neighbors draw good neighbors and perhaps Mr. Knapp will come on and buy out some of the present neighbors or settle on some of the unsettled land but you must no expect every thing from Mr. Knapp and I hope you will not encourage him too much at least I hope you will not give him reason to think you can help him any more than he does you if you can be where you can put your teams together and change work I think it would be a good thing for you both but this company business is not apt to be very profitable for but one I feel that your place is well situated in regard to market and if it is not without its faults you will find that the case go where you will [Mr?] Slocum has been looking at uncle Lowles farm seven years and he has travelled all over the union and [...] to find nothing to suit him and now he is sick of uncle Sam's farm and people say that he would be discontented any where now my Dear Children do be contented do be happy it will do your mother and all your friends so much good you have your farm paid for and although your house is not a good one yet it will answer till you can add something to it at my fathers we had a log addition to our house the length or width of our house which was covered just as our [hovels?] are covered and without a floor which was a great comfort and I believe that if you should make a good log [room?] good height and well covered it would be a better want than to raise the one you now [have?] but I want to have you keep the one you have in such repair that it will keep out the storm my daughter I love your cheerful letters they breathe a happy spirit and I want to have you near you can make Daniel contended and happy I should rather live on very plain and work hard than to be in the condition that may [...] are here overwhelmed with debts that they can never pay if Mr. Knapp should come to you he will not probably come alone and it is my opinion that he will take [...] with him now my son do you sleep

on a hard feather bed you mention [...] effect that your bones ache a hard feather bed always made my bones ache but straw has a contrary effect and I believe if you should my daughter try straw the year around you would like it much. your father used to have an aversion to straw but now he is more [overs?] I hope it will turn out well do be good neighbors that is is the way to have good ones live near to god is the prayer [mother?] E [...]

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

New Haven, Feb. 24, '44
Dear Brother,

Your letter of Dec. 12 mailed Dec. 17 I received on my return here at the close of vacation (Jan 10) [*at Yale University*]. How long it has been in the office I cannot tell, but probably some days. I was exceedingly glad to hear from you and your letter was the more acceptable because it removed some impressions which your previous letters had made in reference to your feelings. I should have answered it before this time had it not been that we had been getting up a letter at S. [*South*] Hadley for you and I thought it not best to write until some days after that had gone. I do not intend to finish this for several days but as I have many things to write about I thought I would begin now.

You certainly have been very unfortunate in your connection with Levi Grant, and I can very readily believe that he has cheated you a great deal. The affair of the rails is a very bad one. I had an idea that you understood the matter at least as far as this that he was to get but $30 worth for you in any case, so that at all events you have paid him $10 too much. I made no bargain with him before I left Wisconsin but merely told him "Perhaps we should like to have you get some for us." I afterwards wrote to him as follows, (As I used the manifold Letter writer there is no possibility of mistake.) "My Brother Daniel has concluded to take the lot which lies south of yours, and I herewith send you some money with a part of which I wish you to get some rails split for him. If you cannot get them for less than $7.50 a thousand, you may use $30 of it for that purpose. But I trust you will be able to get them for something less. If you can get them for $6 per thousand you may get 5000 but if you can get them for any thing less do not get more than 5000 but apply whatever of the $30 there may be left to transporting those that are split to the farm during the winter I do not doubt but you will manage the business in the most prudent manner." The letter from which this is an extract is dated Springfield Nov. 16, 1842, and doubtless Levi has a copy of it now. In his reply to it he says, "You stated in yours that you would like to have some rails got out this winter and also that you would like to have me look out and get them. I saw a man a few days ago which lived about two miles from my house that has a plenty of timber and he says he would like the job of splitting a few thousand, and he thought that he would get them for five shillings per hundred or $6.25 a thousand. I did not make a bargain with him at that time, but promised to see him again and let him [him?] know. I think however that I can get them at the fence about one mile from my house, which will be worth considering."

This is all that I wrote and all that he wrote about it. You may judge of my surprise when I read in your letter that you had paid him $40 for 3000 rails. My letter to him as you see did not authorise him to get more than $30 worth at any rate I am very sorry I did not explain this to you, and until I read you letter I had always supposed I did, and it is with difficulty that I can bring myself now to believe I did not. But perhaps it is not too late now to do something about it. If you have actually settled all your accounts in reference to the rails, it probably is, but if you have not and will let me know it the next time you write, I will send a letter to Levi and if he does not pay you $10 I will see to the matter myself and I think I will make him pay $20 at least. I think however you had not better say anything to him about it at present. I have proof positive that he was not authorised to expend more than $30 for rails for at the close of my letter to him I say "The $20 left of this money is to go towards paying you for the house." If therefore the matter is at all as I left it

there can be no doubt about it, but if you chose on your own responsibility to buy of him 3000 rails for $40 there is no help in the matter. I sent him at the time I wrote my letter $50.

You never have written me how your accounts with Levi were you should have been his Dr. to the house $65 to the rails $30. Total $95. You should have been his [credits?] for the $50 I sent him in the fall of 1842 leaving a balance of $45. By paying for the rails 40 instead of $30 you made the balance $55. But I should not wonder if he had made you pay the whole $105, thus making no account of the $50 I sent him. The next time you write do not fail to let me know about these things. I am a little surprised that you did not ascertain by enquiry that rails were not worth $13.33 a thousand. The enormous price he charged should have excited your suspicion.

But setting this aside, let us have a little talk about land &c. you do not think your land was very well chosen nor do I feel disposed to assert that you cannot now see where money could <*not*> have been laid out to better advantage. All I would claim is that at the time a better choice would not have been made. Still on some accounts your location is not so bad you already have a road laid out by your house, and it will probably be opened next summer, nor have I any idea that it will be many years before there will be one at or near the west end of your farm. But be this as it may, you evidently wish you were rid of your land and that you had an opportunity to get some other place. Under the influence of this feeling and urged on by one of your neighbors, "who is considered by all who know him a man of good judgement," and who "tells you you had better leave your farm if you do not get a cent for it" I fear you will be parting with it for some trifle. Now I <u>know</u> the farm is not worth less, and all the talk of all the neighbors you have or ever had or ever will have would not convince me to the contrary. Now I am willing to take the farm from you for more than it has cost you although that will be much worse for me than if I had never sold it you. Last May you paid me for the farm $3000. I gave you then $100 making the expense to you $200. After getting there you had to pay Levi $55 (the whole expense for the house and rails being $105 of which I had already paid $50.) making the farm cost you $255 Next May the interest on that will be a trifle more than $15 making a total of $270. I will now offer you for it $300 and allow you to have all the crops you have taken the pains to sow, and you may go where you will. I might however attach one or two conditions to the payment of it for I do not think I can raise $300 at once. $150 I will pay at any time besides so much of my money as you now have in your hands (I know not how much it is I suppose $40 or $50 please let me know next time you write) and the residue with interest I will endeavor to make up next fall. Perhaps you would like to exchange your lot for the one you bought for me last summer, if so I will give you $150 to boot. In case you should think it best to accept my offer of buying your farm I should like to have you sell the 40 acre lot though I think it ought not to go for less than $200. I am getting to be in want of money or shall soon be especially if I buy your farm, but I am very sorry you are not permitted to suit yourself in reference to a place and will therefore do almost any thing to assist you. I would not have you think, however, that I wish you to sell your place to me, provided you can sell it to someone else to a better advantage, only I exhort you to be careful to whom you sell and do not trust any one without the very best security. I make this offer to you that you may know you can dispose of your farm on terms which will at least clear you from lop, and of two purchasers offering the same or nearly the same price, I expect you will prefer me. Beside if after purchasing another place you should find that its unforeseen inconveniences were greater and its <*anticipation*> conveniences less than you anticipated if I should not sell the farm I would let you have it at a reasonable price, though I will not promise it at the price I give you and the interest thereon. suppose, however, you are fully satisfied that once off from it you would never wish to come back. But can you get places equally convenient to town to meetings, post office, &. things which will be every year more important for you? I hope you will not delay a week to write to me what you would like to do and what in view of the offers I have made you, you are willing to do. I suppose Mr. Knapp will probably come out in the spring, and if he should I suppose you would like to buy a place where he does. I would on some accounts be pleasant to do so, but doubtless should you have him for a neighbor you would find in him some qualities you never dreamed of before, which would make him disagreeable to some extend. He is a very excellent man but has his fault, as all other excellent men have. We are perhaps liable to infer too much from the fact that any one has an excellent character, at all events we do so when we infer that all he does will please us.

So it seems you do not think school teachers would have very good encouragement, with you, I presume the decision of [S]ister Caroline is correct. I suppose there are children enough that need teaching <*and*> to emply abundance of teachers, but there parents do not know how important is education, nor when their teacher is a good one, nor are they willing to pay their money for such objects, so that good teachers who go there must go as missionaries with the desire to do good not to make money. It will not be best I presume for Cousin Margaret to go there, although I wish she might do so. In reference to preaching the difficulty is I presume the same-that is, the people have more preachers altogether than they are willing to employ, but not half so many as they ought to have, and those not of the right kind. However, I think I shall come to some region of the West when I finish my course, though it is by no means certain or even probably that I can be near you.

March 11 I have delayed my letter a long time partly because Mother who is still a[t?] S. [*South*] Hadley [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], hoped we might be able to send you more decisive information concerning Martha. M. [*Martha*] has been much worse than when Mother send you the letter, nor is she now as well as at that time, though better than she has been at intervals between that and this time. Almost fifteen weeks have passed since she was prostrated on a bed of sickness (Nov 30) and she does not seem to make any advances towards the recovery of her health of course we have very great fears that she will never be any better. She is very weak indeed not able to sit up any. She expresses perfect resignation to God's will respecting her and to him alone can we commit her as the help of man has proved indeed vain in this case. Physicians have done her no good nor does it seem probably they can. Mother has been with her about 11 weeks nor does it seem probably that she can leave her soon, unless indeed death should terminate the disease. The Dr. says it must be a long time before she recovers if she recovers at all. You can easily imagine that our family must be in the deepest affliction possible short of being called to mourn her death. At home they are there are only Father and Marcus. Father has been to S. [*South*] Hadley twice since Martha was sick.

I hope you will be careful to answer this letter immediate as spring is now close at hand. If Mr. Knapp goes to Wisconsin he will wish to start early and I shall be anxious to know something about your calculations. Our term here lasts but six weeks more, and if you cannot send the letter so that it will get here by April 24, you must direct it to Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] I hope by all means to receive one, as soon as I get home, and if possible before.

What do you think of [...]sociation? I have a somewhat better opinion of it than when I last saw you. I do not know but it might be well for you if you wish to leave your place to go into one as on some account I think you might like it. You would have a comfortable place to live, and as much company as you would like I suppose, without the trouble of buying stock, waggons, &. I think I will send you some publications on the subject that you may look them over and form an opinion for yourself I would not have you say thing about it in letters wh. [*which*] you send home as Father does not like it at all. Indeed I have no hesitation in saying there is a great deal of nonsense in their pretensions, but still I think the idea of getting together and helping one another along some is a good one. Something of the kind will be I think eventually adopted though not according to the plan of the Fourierites.

I think you ought to write home somewhat often you need not do it all at once but keep a sheet of paper by you and every few days write a few lines and thus you will before a great while have a sheet filled to send home. It is a very great comfort to Mother to hear from you as well as to all for us. If there are any particular books you would like to have, if you can write me before I go home I will try to get them & send them to you by Mr. Knapp.

I have not much more to say at present. John sends his love but has not time to write now. He has an oration to prepare for Junior Exhibition [*at Yale University*] – is a good scholar and in good health. Good-bye dear brother, remember to take with patience the unavoidable evils of this life and to look for the consummation of all your joys in a future and better world. Do all the good you can to your neighbors, and strive in all ways to make your own house the abode of peace and contentment

your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

Dear sister Caroline, If I have not written any part of the above letter directly to you it is not because I do not think often of you, and rejoice that Daniel is permit-to spend his time with one who is so anxious for his happiness and so well calculated to promote it. I hope you will be able to

cheer each other on in life's rugged road and find in each other a happiness which does not depend on the changing and capricious world around you. You have troubles in Wisconsin, so down here, and probably not many less, though of course as this is our native country it is dear on that account, and must be viewed by you with tender feelings. What good ma[y] [c]rown your days with joy is the prayer [...] [your?] aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

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

April 5. Received a letter to day from Cousin Abigail and Mother at S. [*South*] Hadley [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Martha is not any better that I can gather from their account. Cousin A. [*Abigail*] says "it almost impossible to tell who she is." She seems to change very little. She is very weak hardly able to sit up at all, but notwithstanding all her suffering, all her protracted weakness she exhibits perfect patience and resignation to the divine will. Mother's health seems to begin to fail some, in consequence of her long continued labors and anxiety in taking care of Martha. She has been somewhat unwell, but when my letter was written she had nearly recovered. She has been now at S. Hadley about 15 weeks, a long time for her to be gone from home. She begins to be impatient to return home, but Martha is so weak and the going so very bad that any such idea is preposterous at present. After our terms closes [*at Yale University*] which will be in a little <*less*> more than two weeks John and I mean to contrive some way to get her home, though we hardly know how, and hope that her will forestall us by getting her home before we get there. She must be sick many months before she recovers

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

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

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

Dear Brother & Sister It is indeed a long time since I have written off anything & I am glad to have an opportunity to finish this letter. Though you have not heard direct from me yet I presume you have a t least heard through other members of the family that I have been well & you of course know that as [...] as I am well I must <*of course*> be very busy. I will not however undertake to offer any excuse for having neglected to write you, or to plead want of time for such duties. Though my time is indeed pretty full occupied, I have enough for such purpose as these. The only reason why I have not written this long time is that when I have thought of it I felt that I <*ed*> could not fill a whole sheet with any thing that would be interesting & when I have had opportunities to fill part of a sheet, I have had just at those times some very pressing duty to perform, as a very hard lesson to learn or a dispute to prepose I will endeavor to do better in future, I am not [...] ever acknowledging hereby that you have placed me under any obligation by having written to me out I know how such things go & if one neglects [...] because others do nothing will be done. I have since I last wrote been very well usually. I do not however always take sufficient exercise & by this means I sometimes suffer some from a sort of nervous weakness – nothing serious

though. I have not yet since the commencement of my College [*Yale University*] course been absent from a single recitation or asked to be excused from a single lesson. So you see that I must have had pretty good health. The hardest of our course is not past, & I hope to reap the benefit of the severe study of the few past years in increased mental vigor & power. You both know I doubt not that the life of the faithful student is a hard one – one of toil & weariness & often of anxiety & suffering. Though I have not suffered all the evils to which close study has brought some of my acquaintances, yet I can not but feel that this <*if*> has sorrows which other pursuits know nothing of. Even now I feel that I have not improved my time as I might have done, but I have not withstanding confined myself closely to my books most of the time I cannot say that I have not succeeded in my endeavors to my satisfaction I have even exceeded my hopes. I aimed at nothing more in the shape of college honors than an Oration, doubting even whether I should succeed in reaching that; but I have that & I am assured by my tutor that three higher appointments than orations had been given I should have had one of them. But as the difference between myself & some one or two was not such as others, to warrant a distinction of that kind now only had first appointments were given for the Junior Exhibition. You may readily believe that I am encouraged by this to apply myself pretty closely to my studies, I do not mean however, to be swayed by ambition or elations beyond what is right and proper. I have here spoken plainly as you see & that too of myself, but I know that in the present instances such plainness is allowable, & I cannot believe that you will charge me with ostentation in thinking thus to a brother & a sister. Our Junior Exhibition comes in two weeks from next Tuesday – a time to which many of us are looking forward with much interests and some dread. I will send you at the time what account the papers give – I feel as though I can almost through College & soon to go out into the wide world. Some times I rejoice to see it so near that more usually feel that I should not be ready to grapple with its stern realities.

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

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

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

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

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

This term I have been very busy indeed our lessons to do them justice have required all my time & I have devoted the most of my time & attention to them. This is the second letter I have written this term [...] almost you. Two weeks from next Monday our examinations begin which continue through week in which we are to be examined in all the studies of the past three years. And then we shall be Seniors & I hope not driven through thick & thin without mercy. You must not infer that I am possessed of a spirit of complaint from what I now say It would, include be possible to get along with less toil & effort than I submit to; but to do justice to one's self requires a constant & persevering struggle. My health holds out firm yet though I feel that it is not quite so much so as it sometimes I long for vacation again. And so we are always worrying along – never satisfied with the pressure, but for for a [moment]. I suppose it is wrong but when I see such lessons before as my next, for example, I cannot suppress a [complaint?]. My next lesson on [...] about 20 pages of Tyler's History, most of it as destitute of interests as any other document or volume.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Write me at any and all times just as much as you can. The postage now will not be a severe tax especially if you will hand your letters to some one who is coming within 300 miles of Mill-Brook [*Connecticut*], though you need not take great pains to do that. You can send two letters at a time however nor need you be very anxious to fill them full. Our [term?] lasts only till Aug. 21, therefore you will direct to Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] for me and to Newberg N.Y. [*New York*] for John. He has taken a school there, though his prospects are somewhat doubtful. Both John and I expect to speak at commencement. I enclose you my duplicate, though I do not see of what use it will be to you. I am certain it is of no use to me. Your affectionate brother Joel.

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

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Oct. 29 ‘45

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

You will probably be somewhat astonished to receive a letter from me dated in this region, which is comparative near you, but here I am in Illinois and that but 35 miles from Chicago. I was married Oct. 12, and the next morning we started for the west and arrived here Oct. 23. I came here with the intention to supply this place with preaching, and as far as things now show themselves, I see no reason why I may not do so. We should have written you before but in the hurry of preparation for our journey and our wedding we scarcely had the time & we flattered ourselves that on our journey out we should find the necessary time. But that time did not offer itself, and we have been here nearly a week and you have not had a letter, but it shall not be our fault if you do not have one soon.

It seems a sort of tantalization to be so near you and yet not see you. I sup-[*pose*] you must be regarded as about 150 miles off, for we are nearly south of Chicago and we must go to

Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] probably to get to you. As soon as we can, we mean to come and see you, but that will not be just now, perhaps however, it will be in the course of the winter. I want very much to see you and being so near you makes my want still greater.

The Missionary Society [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] sent <*me*> us here, but this place is so large that I shall not be expected to supply any other while I remain here. It is I think about the size of Prairieville [*Wisconsin*], perhaps a little larger than that was when you went there, though I presume it has grown some since. This place sprung up when the canal which was to connect Lake Michigan and the Illinois River was projected, and it then promised to be a large village. But when the state found itself unable to complete that work, the village was prostrated or at least checked in its growth, Now that the completion of that Canal is rendered certain, the village has started again and promises to grow. Many new houses are now building and the village is so crowded that it is with the greatest difficulty that we find a place to stay even. We could not do so, only we are content to take a room in a garret of what may be called a high one story house a room hardly more than six feet high in the highest part and sloping on each side because it meets the roof. It is about 9 feet long and perhaps eleven wide, and here we have every thing. It is our bed, sitting, dressing, and study room, in short it is every thing but our cooking room, for as we board we have no cooking to do. It would be impossible I presume to find here any place to keep house, at least it would be to find any convenient place at any reasonable price.

We have as yet learned but little of the people. We hardly know where to begin to get acquainted with them. As far as we have met them, they are kind, and we cannot but believe we can do them good There are in the village and within a circuit of three or four miles, something like 600 people though that curse of the West (and I may say of the church) sectarianism, has thrust its Hydra head into this place. There are here Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians and Presbyterians besides a sprinkling of Catholics, Unitarians & Universalists, and probably a considerable number of infidels. The Presbyterians are I suppose the strongest but they are weak enough. They have the walls and roof of a church erected but there is nothing finished about it.

Our people at home are about as usual. Martha [*Martha Grant*] having despaired of cure by any of the ordinary methods has determined to try the cold water cure and so has gone to Lebanon Springs where she will if it seems best spend a few weeks. If that does not benefit her, I do not know but we must abandon all hope.

I hope you will write to us as soon as you can. One reason why it is difficult for you to write home is that it must necessarily be three or four weeks before you <u>can</u> get an answer and it may be much longer before you will get one. I think you can write to us and expect an answer in less than a fortnight

I have not heard any thing from you since I gave you leave to sell the whole or a part of my lot, and do not know whether that increases your prospect of selling to advantage. I suppose however that the time for selling has passed this year and all such things must be postponed till after the navigation opens next spring. Please let me know. Remember me to my little niece, and with earnest wishes for your temporal and spiritual prosperity I am your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel. [*Joel Grant*]

P.S. Since writing the above we have received a letter from John dated Richmond Va, [*Virginia*] Oct. 14. His school is small not promising as well as he hoped, but his health is good. He wishes to be remembered to you. Brother Phelps not succeeding with his Association in Ohio went East as you know some months since. Susan was present at our wedding But Phelps was at N. York [*New York*] to ascertain if there was any place for him in some New Jersey Association The Ohio Phalanx proved a complete failure as all of them probably will eventually

Lockport. Ill. [*Illinois*] Oct. 29. '45

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

When you were married and came to this western world, I had little thought of so soon following you; much less of coming as your sister. Almost the last words of Caroline to me were, "I hope we shall some day see you at the west." Vain hope, thought I, for <u>why</u> should I ever leave New England. But so it is. Norfolk [*Connecticut*] is no longer my home, but a pleasant village in Ill. [*Illinois*] where all is now new and strange to me, but where there are doubtless many

congenial spirits, and much that will help to make life happy. The particulars of our wedding, journey, &c. I will defer till the happy time when we may meet, and have an opportunity to talk of these things. Neither can I tell you much of the people here. Several ladies have called, and seem very cordial, One who was prevented by a sick child, from going out, sent for us to spend Sat. eve with them. We went, and spent an hour or two very pleasantly, indeed all whom we have met, greet us with smiles and kind wishes. We have a good boarding place, <*with*> in a pleasant family, though from Joel's description of our room you can judge that more would be desirable. But as we care not with the idea that every thing must be for our accommodation, but rather to accommodate ourselves to circumstances, and be happy whatever they may be, we find ourselves contented in this small room, without door, or closet. Still we hope for better things, though it may be a long time before we have them. We should feel ourselves rich indeed, had we a log house like yours, or even two rooms in any other.

A little more than a week before we left, we spent an afternoon at your father Burr's. Mary [*Mary Burr*] was at home, and with her and your mother, we had a rich visit. I do wish it were best for Mary [*Mary Burr*] to come West to teach, provided it could be in [the] your or, our vicinity. You are probably aware that she is now in Philadelphia. The Sab. [*Sabbath*] before we left, your mother gave me a letter partly filled, for us to finish, and send to you. In the hurry of the eve, and our early departure the next morn, I think it was left on my stand at home, though I thought till we arrived here that it was in my trunk, but cannot find it. I had not opened it, which your mother gave me permission to do, so that I know not of how much importance it was.

Mariette Phelps & John Cooke of [Touisteu?] were married Wed. eve after we left. She made a large wedding.

The day before we left, I received an invitation to come with Joel to S. Hadly [*South Hadley*], to attend the wedding of Miss Reed and Mr. Howland. They were to married Tues. morn, & Mr. H. [*Howland*] to be ordained in the P.M. They are going to visit around among their friends till the 10th of Nov. when they with several others sail from Boston for India. Nancy Foote, a teacher last year at the Sem. of Cayuga N.Y. now Mrs. [Treble?], is one of the no. [*number*]

The no. [*number*] at the Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Semianry*] this year is about 200, much smaller than last year. Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] is determined to have a "sort of jubilee this year", a time in wh [*which*] to rest from the severe labor of previous years. Do not you rejoice my sister, that you were once one of the favored no. [*number*] who dwelt within those walls? Many things wh [*which*] are there impressed upon the mind, are of incalculable importance to those who come west.

How is your little daughter? and what is her name. Is she a healthy, happy child? I want to see her. Please give here a kiss from her Aunt Abby.

I hope we shall soon hear from you. Although we are far from home, and eastern friends, we are not very far from each other, and may often speak <*of*> with our pens. Write all about yourselves and little one. We shall be interested in all that interests you. Mary Woodard spent a day with me about four weeks since. Her family are all well. Martha has fully recovered her health, and can now walk, sing &c as usual. I hope we may see you this winter, still I dare not set my heart too much upon it, lest it should be otherwise -- at any rate we may hope to see you in the course of a year. I suppose the roads are very fine in the summer. That the blessings of Heaven may rest upon you and yours is the desire of your aff [*affectionate*] sister Abigail. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

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

Rochester [*New York*] Dec 21st 1846

My dear Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

You perceive that I have disregarded all the rules of letter writing by commencing at the very topmost line in order that I may have room to say a great deal, You may be some what surprised at the receipt of a letter from R. -- NY [*Rochester, New York*] -- but in the name of

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

Rochester [*New York*] March 30th 1847

As you will perceive by my last date a long time has passed since I first commenced this sheet, my only apology must be that I commenced six long sheets to different correspondents at the same time, & have finished all but yours, but you will excuse it I know when I give you an account of my family matters, as I intend to do very minutely -- After I left you at So [*South*] Hadley [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] I spent the time until september very pleasantly with my aunts in Hartford [*Connecticut*], then my Brother came down to New York, and came for me on his way home, We went immediately to So [*South*] Hadley [*Massachusetts*] and arranged my affairs paid my bills, and left for Rochester [*New York*], I need not assure you I was overjoyed, once more to set my foot in the hall of my Fathers house, I met many happy faces, who all gave me cordial greeting, I recovered rapidly from my lameness, and have never been troubled since, The next september, one year from that time my only Brother, (of whom you often heard me speak) was married to a Miss Hastings of Clinton, near Utica [*New York*], of course I was there, quite a party of mine and my brothers acquaintances went down together, and we had as you may suppose a very agreeable time, there is a small host of their own family, fifteen children all living, an extensive circle of acquaintances & friends made a very large wedding I remained at the Dr,s while my Brother and his bride, took their wedding tour to N. York [*New York*] Hartford, Springfield &c., & designed to return with them, but the family would not consent to that at all, the Dr said he had lost one child, and it was but fair, he should gain another, so with much persuasion I spent eight months in their family, now you will say Sarah married some one there but do not be too hasty, and I shall tell you all about it, I returned home in May after my long visit, and my husband that is now, commenced paying his attentions immediately after, (we had corresponded by the way before I left Clinton), and we were married the folowing September, just two years from the time I left So. Hadley, what changes take place in the few short years of our lives?, with what rapidity we hasten from the cradle, to the grave?, so that we might so live as to be ready when the summons comes for us?, But I hasten to give you a description of my Husband and children, and to commence you will permit a wife to speak in her husband,s praise, God has indeed blessed me in giving me him in whom the virtues are all united, he is a devoted Christian, and to a perfectly amiable disposition, unites agreeable manner and a comely pleasant look, and although always pleasant he does not lack energy, he is enterprising in business, and although a new beginner as it were we are already possesed of a competence, have a fine house & garden of our own, we have nice fruit, grapes &c which we prize very much in a city, you will not think me egotistical if I proceed & give you a description of my children, for if I do not, I know not who will, --

I have two children my eldest Mary Alida, (named, for my brothers wife) was four years old in January, quite a girl you will say?, she makes me feel quite matronly sometimes, when I look at so large a girl & think she is mine, would you like a minute description? she is quite tall of her age

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

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

Sarah [Aprin?] Alling. –

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Lockport. Ill. [*Illinois*] Tues. Feb. 16, 1847

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

I need not say how glad we were to get your letter last Sat. evening. for you already know the joy of friends at hearing from those they love. I do not know that we had said "we will not write to Daniel & Caroline again, till they write to us," but it is a general principle upon wh. [*which*] we act. to write in answer to letter received. Of course exceptions are sometimes made. but in general. I know not that we ought to do otherwise than as we are done by. (I now refer to nothing but writing) You both write as if you were enjoying yourselves well. I doubt not you find it much pleasanter living <u>in</u> the village, than out. You have now. easy access to meetings, lectures &c. the tendency of wh. [*which*] is. improvement in various ways. Is Mr. Curtiss in Prairieville [*Wisconsin*] still? I believe he owned the house in wh. [*which*] he was living when we were there.

We have now the pleasure of saying to you that Joel is quite well. He has had no ague for four weeks. and is now looking quite like himself. His appetite is good, & for the three last Sab. [*Sabbath*] he has preached all day. Our congregation is increasing: a good deal of attention is being paid to Sacred music. and we are causing tracts to be given monthly to every family, together with an effort to increase the number of Sab. [*Sabbath*] scholars. Our Sewing Soc. [*Society*] is flourishing; New Year's eve, the ladies gave an oyster supper, the avails of wh. [*which*] are to aid in finishing the steeple to our church. The frame only is up. Near $100 were cleared. considering the time we had to prepare in (three weeks) we think it was doing well -- It is near four weeks since we heard from our homes, or John [*John Grant*] -- we are daily expecting to hear from both). John [*John Grant*] was then at Watertown. [*Massachusetts*] designing to spend the winter in the family of Mr. Woodard, teaching their children. and a few others. He then

thought to have those tumors removed in the spring. hoping to be relieved from much of the consequent suffering, by inhaling the "etherial gas." of wh. [*which*] you have doubtless read. I hope much for him, but fear more.

I noticed in one of the recent papers an account of an uncommon outpouring of the Holy Spirit. in Mt. Hol. Fem. Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] "We could only stand still and witness the wonderful working of God." said the writer. A friend wrote me a few days since, that Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyons*] had been very sick. and is now feeble. I cannot imagine how they get along with so many of the important one's gone. How rejoiced we all shall be to get the Mem. [*Memorial*] Catalogue [*from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]! It will inform us of the residence of many a loved one, and make us feel how far separate Holyoke's daughters really are. Three weeks since, I saw a notice of the marriage of Celia Wright. (sister of "Kate Wright") to a missionary among the Choctau Indians. His name I have forgotten. Did I tell you in my last that "Miss Reed," "Nancy Foote" & Miss Webster" that were, had each a son? I hope you see the Miss. Herald, [Missionary Herald *published by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] How much more are we interested in the missions where we know the missionaries. Do you hear from home often? Where is Mary [*Mary Burr*] now? I hope we shall not have to wait quite so long next time before hearing from you.

[*written along verso side*] I did not [take?] at all. when you said some of Daniels brothers & sisters did not write particularly enough, for Joel says I am too particular altogether. and that I ought not to write so long letters.

[*written along front side*] We have had a little sleighing. but it is gone, and we are now having an ice storm. I dread the wind of March and April. Should like to take a peep at N. England [*New England*] faces & scenery next summer. Perhaps we shall though we cannot now decide certainly about it. I fear Joel's health will again suffer if he should spend the hot months here. Hoping soon to hear from you. I remain your aff. [*affectionate*] sister Abby. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Kiss little Abby for us both.

Are you sister C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] learning Phonography? I cannot get time.

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

Philadelphia Sept. 13, 1847

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

My last dated from you was the 11th of June which I almost immediately forwarded home. My last letter from there was June 21st which was written before your letter had reached them. Their letter was enclosed in one from Abby Brown, Abby writes very well & has much improved -- Suppose our people have been so occupied through haying as to leave neither time nor thought for me -- I do feel very very anxious to hear from them & from you dear sister -- What has caused your long silence -- I answered your letter very punctually -- Has ill health of yourself, Daniel or darling Abby saddened your home? -- or has constant & pressing employment given your pen this long respite? I endeavor to console myself by thinking the last supposition correct. July 15th Madame Sigoigne [*Adele Sigoigne*] took her family out to the country seat of the late Mr. Nicholas Biddle 16 miles from Philadelphia. -- It was a hot summer's morn & all things in readiness when two baggage wagons were at the door & packed off with trunks & what furniture was necessary (in addition to that already at Andalusia) for housekeeping --. Then came an omnibus (or private stage) which was speedily fitted with Miss Crissa, Miss Sophie myself, three young ladies & 4 servants -- After a merry ride of two or three hours reached our destination. Madame Sigoigne Miss Adele & their maid with her nephew's two children followed in a double carriage which with a coachman she took & kept during her whole stay in the country -- and she rode every day twice each time 4, 5, or 8 miles out from home & back again -- Mr. Biddle you remember was President of the United States Bank. After losing his country's confidence he

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

"Your pa was appointed committe last fall with Esq. Mills & Anson Norton to let out the roads in town & see that they are well worked. Esq. Mills does not wish to spend much time about it -- Your pa likes it & is I think at present the most active & popular of the three -- He insists on the roads being put in better repair than they have heretofore been & that pleases the community. He expects 1.00 per day beside horse & wagon & sometimes oxen &c. he has charge near 20.00 for which he expects money. 13 July -- Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] left school last Thursday -- expects to go no more till after haying -- has been strawberrying twice -- got 2 or 3 quarts at a time -- -- your pa is on the road. Erastus after same-- intended to have sent this two weeks ago but could not see Esq. Mills about the writing till last Friday -- I have much less to worry me now than I used to -- like giving up the dairy -- Nancy takes pretty good care -- cheese looks well -- butter good. 14 July -- Erastus begins to mow today -- grass is not so good as usual -- your pa is on the road -- Ralph doing chores -- think he is well liked at school & associates with the first. Mrs.

Pendleton sends love -- has seven cows -- makes a cheese every day that weighs 9 & 10 lbs. Sept 11 -- It seems as if I never should finish this letter -- We sent letter to Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] with a 10 dollar bill in it (to buy drawers about the 1st inst. by [Irad?] Mills who with his wife have gone to Wis. [*Wisconsin*] also a small white flannel shawl. pr. [*pair*] coarse white cotton stockings & Carries scissors -- I told them Daniel ought to give you a mortgage & all about it. [Seoville?] has been here -- there are two closets in the kitchen 1 by the bed room the other by the buttery -- the windows are all in -- garret stairs made -- 4 bed rooms & 3 closets in the chamber partly done some of which we expect to have finished this fall -- your pa has been to work on the Crissey road this week for one dollar or more a day & his board -- Eras. & Ralph have been at work hard about our door yard -- draining stones making steps, laying wall, making trough & putting down to carry off slops, & it is now about ready to fill in dirt which they intend to do next week -- but you must not expect to see it as nice as Mrs. Biddle's place [*Andalusa*] when it is all done which will not be this year -- hope to have some painting done this fall -- Have had Mrs. Nettleton to help a few days -- most of the ceilings have been washed very clean & floors too -- Am as busy as ever -- not generally as much worried. Recd. [*Received*] letter from Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] this week -- [D?] [*Daniel Grant*] unwell with chill fever -- She & baby well -- Thankful Rogers & her sister Caroline were here three weeks ago & star'ed over the sabbath -- had things decent & comfortable -- Ralph went Monday with them to New Marlborough. Tuesday they went back to Cornwall -- Caroline stays about in Thankful's district -- sews for herself and sister & studies some -- Two weeks ago David Rogers came to Cornwall & he & Caroline went to New Marlborough. Tuesday & Wednesday came here -- he talks of going to Genesee to visit his mother's relatives -- Thankful's school will be out in two weeks --Caroline did not know but she & Thankful would go to Genesee too -- if not Thankful talks of going to South Hadly [*South Hadley, Massachusetts*] & Caroline stay about here.
"August 12 -- sab. [*sabbath*] eve" I think Ma must have made a mistake & August for Sept. "been to meeting -- Parney Phelps says Abigail has been very sick -- but is now better & expects to go to Dea Grants to morrow. Martha is very low -- think she can't live long -- I intend to go there this week -- Erastus & Nancy appear happy -- work very even -- cheese look well sell for six pence a lb. Sarah [Brown?] says they thank you for your letter -- don't know when A. can write again -- they are so busy. Nancy sends love to you & Caroline. The text to day was "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world & lose his own soul" I thought of you -- am afraid you are in a bad place for your soul -- do pray & think a great deal." "Ralph could go to school were it not for fixing about the house he cares as much as I do about that -- we agree very well & have had it done to our mind so far -- Much love to you & Carry -- from your aff. [*affectionate*] Moth[er]

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

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

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

Your affection sis
Mary Burr

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

Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*] March 3, 1848

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

Though it is a long time since I have heard directly from you, (the last intelligence being by your letter to Mary [*Mary Burr*] which she sent to your mother Burr) I am glad to write to you. We are all in usual health except that we have been troubled this winter with colds

I expect to settle in Avon [*Connecticut*], about 12 miles from Hartford. The society is a small one but will be pleasant I think, and will open a field of usefulness. I think we shall commence keeping house in two or three weeks.

We have had a letter recently from John and Marcus at Woodbury [*Connecticut*]. They are well. John's school is small, numbering only about 27. We also have had a letter recently from Phelps, who says they are now well though during the past summer he has had three attacks of chill fever, one of them very severe. That class of diseases is increasing in that part of the country, we think.

Though I made a somewhat earnest request to be informed of the results of your teaming operations, I have, as yet, received nothing. I hope you are doing well.

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

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*], March 11

Dear Brother & Sister,

As you will perceive, this was commenced by Joel more than a week ago. A multiplicity of duties have prevented its being filled out, but I hope <u>its</u> time has now come. Many things occur to me day by day that I should like to write to you and I hope the more important will not now escape my mind. Joel has informed you of the usual health of father Grants family. My father's family are also about as usual. Pa is very much broken down since that long illness summer before last.

Parney has a boy three weeks old to day, and weighs 13 lbs. She is very comfortable. She think her sufferings previous & at the time of her confinement very much alleviated by taking "Mother's Relief." Tom is talking about going to Ohio next summer some time, says he shall work no more on the farm after April 1st. I know not what is to be done all around. Now that we are to be <*here*> in this vicinity I hate to have them go away. As Joel has <*told*?> written you, we expect to go to West Avon. I know not when Mr. G. [*Joel Grant*] is to be installed, but we expect to go to housekeeping next week. It looks like a mountain to begin for my strength is not great, still I hope we shall get along. I have a girl to go with me, but know not for how long. I have spent the winter past here and at my home. It has seemed short, very, indeed it has to every one, probably because it has been less severe than usual. We have had but little sleighing, but a great deal of mud. I came here to day upon a light snow that fell yesterday accompanied with sleet, so as to form a crust. I am to go to Collinsville next week. There to meet Joel and from thence to Avon.

In Jan. we visited Uncle and Aunt [Banister?] at their home in Newburyport [*Massachusetts*]. We found them well & happy & very pleasantly situated. We spent a week with [...] except that Sat. and Sabbath of it we spent in Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] with Mr. & Mrs. John Cowles. They are teachers of the Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] <*once*> and occupy the building once used by Aunt B. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] Their school is prosperous: Mrs. C. goes into it morning & P.M. of each day, and has some ten <*th*> for boarders. Her moth[er] manages the domestic affairs. Ipswich is [a] very beautiful place, one of the pleasantest I have ever seen. We saw a good deal of Boston, but less is to be seen or enjoyed there at th<*i*>is season than in summer. On our way home found some S. Hadley [*South Hadley, Massachusetts*] friends in the cars. It was their vacation. An interesting revival was then in progress at the Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] You have probably heard of Mr. Condits death. I know not who supplies his place

I intended to write more, but have not time. The remedy for sore nipple is camphor gum & sweet oil, the latter will dissolve the oil. Camphor gum simmered in cream is an unfailing remedy for piles – Please to write fully to us very soon direct to West Avon Ct. We want to know all about every thing, for you well know we are interested in all that interests you. With much love to all I am your aff [*affectionate*] sister

Abby – [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

A kiss for dear little Abby –

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Daniel Grant
Prairieville
Wisconsin

[*From*]

John Grant
Apr. 1848
Mill Brook Ct
April 22

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*], Apr. 21, 1848.

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

It is truly a long time since I last wrote you. It ought not to have been so long, but I have always felt that I was not quite ready or quite strong enough. & so I have deferred.

I am now enjoying a little rest from my labors in school. I closed my school three weeks ago & commence in three weeks again. You of course know that I have been in Woodbury Ct. [*Connecticut*] only four miles from Dea. [*Deacon*] Woodward's – some of the family having attended my school all the time thus far. [Ann?] Maria the whole time – Martha all but five or six weeks - & Burr some weeks. Have had a pleasant school tho' [*though*] not quite so large as I wished. A little time I had 33 – but my number did not average above 23 – for the whole time. I shall probably have as many as 23 – the coming summer in time to continue 11 weeks only from May 15. I hope to have a large & profitable school next winter if I live & am in health. I have got along very well this winter – have pleased my pupils generally & their parents & have earned some reputation in my business, tho' [*though*] not without effort & some trials

I have had pretty good health all winter & have had strength for my duties, but not a great deal to spare. My general health is good enough & it's only my back that gives me trouble which

is easily fatigued – it is no worse than usual & I think is stronger. I hope I am to continue as well but am not without my fears.

You are probably aware that Joel is about to be settled in Avon [*Connecticut*] – is not ordained but has gone there to live. They are keeping house - & seem glad to be located, tho' [*though*] the place is not so large as he ought to be located in – society is small – salary only $450 & parsonage It is not at the church on the turnpike road bit south of it or rather between it & Collinsville. I visited them last week – found them well, but hardly settled in their new home.

You have been informed that Marcus spent the winter in Woodbury [*Connecticut*] & attended my school – improved his time very well. I do not know what he will do this summer. He is now with Joel helping him plant potatoes &c. altho' [*although*] we expect him home soon.

It is as you can readily imagine very lonely here at home – no brother or sister here. I shall probably not spend the whole of my remaining vacation at home, but do not know how soon I shall leave. Geo. Woodman is to be married soon – probably in a week two & I shall attend the wedding & not return to these parts. Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has invited Martha Woodward to come & stay a few months with her to assist her & be company for her, giving her such opportunities for improvement as she can. She will go on in a few weeks.

Our friends are so far as I know all well. I have been about but little & have not seen them all. Cousins Margaret & Isaiah are to teach in the same school at Falls Village this summer. Uncle Luther is very feeble & probably cannot endure much longer, tho' [*though*] he may live many months.

I am sorry to know that you suffered so much from ill health in the early part of the winter but hope you are restored long ere this & that you are prospered in all your concerns Let us ever remember in whose hands we are & live as tho [*though*] this world were not our home – for how short is our time here.

I hope you will write me soon as convenient at Woodbury & if I do not write again till another vacation you may rest assured that you will not be forgotten. Mother sends love, but says she is too tired to write.

Your very affectionate brother
John –

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

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

Dear Brother

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

constitutes my salary. They are however a very pleasant people, and the place is situated conveniently to Hartford, being about 12 miles west.

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

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

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

2 mortgage deeds of village lots	$163.00
2 notes of $29 each	58.00
Cash to balance	29.00
	$250.00

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

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

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

Oct. '47	Cash received of T. Mahan	15.00
April '48	do. do.	50.00
Nov. 47	2 notes of $29 each	58.00
	<*2 village lots mortgage*>	
	Cash (rec'd to balance as above)	29.00
	Investment in team	163.00
		$315.00

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr Daniel Grant
Waukesha Waukesha Co
Wisconsin

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

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

Mill Brook Ct Mar 4

Monday March 4th 1859

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Marcus

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[*Addressed to]* Caroline Grant

Newark, N. J. [*New Jersey*] Dec. 8, 1850

Dear Sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

You may be in doubt why I have so long delayed writing you. I will tell you. You did not say to whose care I ought to direct. I wrote to Joel to inform me, but I hear nothing – I presume however you will get my letter at length with only the ordinary address, so I will not wait longer.

And now first I must express my regret that you did not allow me to see you when you passed through Newark [*New Jersey*]. Could you not stop? Had I received your letter in season I could not have found it expedient to dismiss my school for such an interview as the mere stopping of the train would allow – which would only have been sufficient to remind us of what we would but could not say. However I did not get your letter from Hadley untill nearly three hours after you were to pass. So it does not avail to say what might have been, but rather what ought to be under like circumstances again. Let me then say that I shall expect a different arrangement when you return. You must then stay several hours at least – see how your brother is located, and let him show you such hospitality as circumstances permit. Should your return be at such time as to allow it I will be your escort hence to New York. But more particularly of that in future.

And now as to that visit which you expect from me in Flemington [*New Jersey*]. Be assured you could not anticipate it with more pleasure than I, if I supposed it would be practicable. But I see not how it can be. I am not to have any vacation until spring except the week between Christmas and New Year's - in which I must go home – and shall not have a day too much. Were the conveyance so arranged that I could spend Thanksgiving with you I would plan to do so, but it is not. So you must not expect me for many weeks if at all. I know not how you came to suppose I entertained such a purpose. I indeed wrote to Mother that if you went to Flemington [*New Jersey*] I should of course see your meaning that I took it as a matter of course that you would not pass us by without allowing such privilege.

The California letters which you forwarded to me were duly received, read, and sent on their way. I am glad the brothers are together and hope they will be greatly blessed with health, success and prosperity of every kind. I fear however at the same time that they will not get rich very fast. We cannot do better than be hopeful however, and trust the result to an all wise Providence. I hope we shall have further intelligence by the mail soon to come in.

I am glad you are so favorably situated for the present in the family of your dear sister. May her faithful affection comfort and console your heart in its anxiety – and you enjoy the peaceful happiness of which you have formed an anticipation. I repeat that should it at any time while you are with your sister <it should> appear consistent with my engagements to visit you, I shall not neglect to do so. Please give her my best regards – I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with Mr. Hill but hope I may at some future time.

I am as prosperous as I can expect in my enterprize here. My school numbers 12 and all appears well and promising. Cannot but hope strongly for the future.

I live on bachelorizing, and see no reason to expect to do otherwise soon. But great and important changes cannot be made at once even if they are practicable. We must wait the developments of time.

Now, dear sister, don't send me any more half sheet apologies for letters but just betake yourself to letters, "as is" letters – Write soon – I shall be absent from Newark [*New Jersey*] during the holydays.

Your affectionate brother

Jno. Grant [*John Grant*]

P. S. Neither you nor any one else has said a word to me of the children. Are they or either of them with you? If so tell them of Uncle John – and kiss them for me. In haste.

Yours –

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

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

My Dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother

Jno. Grant [*John Grant*]

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

Newark [*New Jersey*], Sept. 8, 1851

Dear Sister Caroline,

I today have opened my school according to arrangements. I thought it best not to wait till the middle of the month. My numbers of pupils today is only nine – it probably will be increased soon, though I know not how much.

Joel wrote you of the remittance from California by Bill of Exchange which was duly accepted and having matured on Sat. last I procured a Draft in your favor for $119 which you will find enclosed. Any body who has any money dealings will give you money in full for it. The second of the set of Exchange came first to hand so I used that, though the first was waiting me in this place. I will send you the first which is not of any value now - you may feel a curiosity to see it. You may do what you please with it.

Marcus wrote me but nothing beyond what he sent <*you*> Joel. His letter was in the main a transcript of what he wrote him.

I am glad they have been able to send again this amount. It proves that they are doing something. I shall be able to effect an arrangement by which the money sent you may be deposited for this purpose of bringing Daniel home in case of need, if you wish. Joel advised it and I do not know but it is expedient – cannot tell.

I am not fully refreshed by my vacation so as to be anxious to take hold again, but feel pretty well.
Teaching is hard work as you very well know. I hope to have at least 14 pupils but can live with less, if necessar.

On Thursday eve last attended the wedding of a classmate who has been engaged to the lady he married, six years and more. He takes her this month to San Francisco, where he has been a Commission merchant three years. His name is Bacon – the bride <*Cor?*.> Cornelia Thomson of New Haven. We had a pleasant evening. I did not fall in love with any of the ladies I believe. The wrath is very hot. Love to Eddie, with a kiss in my name. Your affectionate brother.

Jno. [*John Grant*] Grant.

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926 Broadway
New York, Oct. 23. 1856

My Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very affectionately your brother,

Jno. [*John*] Grant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours truly

William Hill

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I will write you again after I have been at Jefferson

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother

Joel Grant.

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

My Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

We have a very sweet little babe, with blue eyes, dark hair and <u>pug</u> 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, <u>alone</u>!

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

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

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

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

We have had applications to board families from New York and we think favorably of devoting our house to that use for this Summer. The principal obstacle is the expense of furnishing so many rooms. Our house is very generally admired and the location is very beautiful.

It has cost me a year of anxiety --, but I have enjoyed it. Notwithstanding, and now cannot but rejoice at the result so nearly does it meet my idea of what I wanted it to be.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[...] Mrs. Samuel Fletcher

Concord, N.H. May 18, 1859.

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

My dear friends,

Your responses to me, received five days ago, were most welcome. It is gratifying to know that what I have put into the mail from time to time, for you, has not been added to the immense mass of dead P.O. [*Post Office*] matter at Washington. Still more gratifying to have evidence, that it has received your attention & approval.

The children given you, are a precious charge. You may use arguments in pleading for grace so to train them, that with Heaven's blessing, they will glorify God & enjoy him forever. In no other way can you so affectionately benefit your race, as by training <*training*> these children to be blessings to the world while they live in it. In considering your location, & in choosing your future business, the great question will be, what will be best suited to promote the good of these children, the good of your posterity, to the end of time. Many lapses of business one constantly changing & therefore very uncertain. Many, & even most departments in our country, except that of cultivation of the soil, are crowded. Multitudes of young men & of middle aged, are in vain seeking for employment in all parts of our country. Every where I have been, I have inquired for openings for young men, & for much as had capacity for business. And every where I have been told, that places would not be formed for nearly all that were then on the ground. Often has it been said, "If a man's income meets his expenses, I could not encourage him to leave his present situation."

A boy that is brought up on a farm, & in his youth learns how to work & manage a farm, is better prepared to get a comfortable & respectable living in the vicissitudes of life, than he would have been without an agricultural education. Should he even have large means, he knows better how to use them. If his health becomes impaired he has capacity for interesting himself on the soil, in the open air, under the most favorable circumstances for regaining it -- Farmers have much more favorable opportunities, year by year, for reading & mental such time, than tradesmen, & ordinarily also, for exerting a healthful influence on the community around them. The regular industrious habits wh. [*which*] they can lead their children to form, are a great safeguard to their morals.

These thoughts were in my mind, & I suggest them as you requested. The chance of final success in new business could not be equal to that of continuing in old. “Slow & sure” “[Taint?] yet [promising?]” are mottoes not to be despised,. May Heaven guide you in the best way.

The study of Latin, under good instruction, is uniformly acknowledged, as better suited to promote mental discipline than the study of French. Latin forms a part of the foundation of English & French, & of many other living languages. One who knows Latin, can easily acquire any other language. The nations of Europe are pressing in upon us in such numbers & spreading themselves through the length & breadth of the land, that our descendents near & remote may find a great advantage in such a discipline of studying Latin as shall facilitate their learning any living European language. They may need if for common intercourse, for teaching Germans & others to read the Bible as well as for usefulness in extending school education.

Learning to write rapidly, & as legible as print is important to both your children. They need first to write well & then practise in copying such hymns as they commit to memory, & various other things. Let them make out bills & learn Book Keeping if you can.

I thank for all the particulars you wrote. My love to your children. Let each write me a note sometime if I cannot answer them

Your friend & Aunt
[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] daughter,

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

instruction as she needed -- other wise she might have staied a few weeks longer.
Abby [*Abigail E. Grant B*] says her teachers would never allow her to go through Mental Arithmetic & Father [*Daniel Grant*] would not allow her to study written Arithmetic until she learns

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

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 19th 1860

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

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

First I recd from you Last fall ==		$20.00	
2	Cash of you when here		20.00
3	Cash in Monmouth --	12.00	
4	By Letter		10.00
			62.00
Cash paid out to Abbie. In Newark			3.00
Fare to and at NYork --		5.06	
Jan 9	Cash for paper &c		50
7	1 pr shoes		1.75
"	Millinir for Bonnet		1.12 1/2
"	Shetland wool --		110
Mar 31	p[*aid*] Miss Powliss --		8.11
	Cash for paper & stamps		75
Ap-- 2	1 Hood		50

	11 1/2 Calico --	1.15	
	1 pr shoes		1.75
May 19 --	p[*aid*] A. J Doremus		4.00
	1 skeleton		1.00
	p[*aid*] Mantua Maker		1.12 1/2
	Lace Mantilla		650
July 3	Latin Lessons (Book)		50
	Browne Gramar	63	
	<*Rhetoric*> Arithmetic	88	
	1 Copy Book --	10	
			39.53
	Returned to Daniel		8.00
			47.53

carried over [*to verso of page*]

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

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

leave due you at this date $412 1.30

add pd for Tax 1972 3.62

$23.84 50

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

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

William H. [*William Hill*]

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

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

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

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Dec. 6, 1860

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

Your letter along with that of Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] and Mother [*Elizabeth Grant*] came to us to day, and becomes the means by wh. [*which*] my somewhat wavering purpose to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From Mary Burton
Oct. '62

Austinburg, Oct. 30th 1862.

My dear Aunt,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very affectionately, your niece

Mary E. B.

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Austinburg, Ohio

Nov. 29th, 1863.

My dear Brother,

When I received your kind, letter it was not my intention to neglect answering it so long, but it came the week of the Teachers Institute and of the exhibition, and when my time was not occupied with other duties I was preparing my clothes &c. for the closing exercises. And this last week I have been trying to do some of my sewing mending and such things as I shall have no time the coming term for I must study very hard. I find that the catalogue which you sent me is very different from the old one which Auntie had and that I am much farther behind than I thought for it is only by unwearied application that I can be prepared to enter the second year at Holyoke the coming year, but I mean to prepare myself if an all wise Providence does not prevent. Within the last week I have been cutting and making me a new calico dress. I have not yet put on the skirt and so do not know exactly how it will look, but I think it will fit pretty well. The closing exercises of Grant, River Institute were said by all to have been very good. Seven ladies and six gentleman "performed" and I believe I told you that I was among the "elect" and I have had the pleasure of hearing through various sources that my essay The Twilight of Being was considered by the audiences the best that was read and Will Jewell had the best oration too. Dec, 3rd The

greatest amount of snow which we have had since I have been here fell last Sunday, but it is melting away very fast. My dress is now completed and sets better than I anticipated. I will try and think to send you a piece of it, and of my silk in this letter.

The Winter term commenced Tuesday. I shall have to study very hard this term. My studies are Cicero, Ancient History, and Physical Geography.

I was sorry to lose, Pet -- I hope Grandma will not write me a letter about how troublesome she got to be. I am glad [Brights?] is such a good cat. But when I go home there will be something missing -- a vacant-spot -- for you know Pet has grown up with me from a child, and she seemed human to me. I hope you had her decently buried,

The project of going to Delaware strikes me more favorable than any of going farther south would, and just as favorable (and I do not know but more so) as any plan I have heard you speak of. If Father intends to go on to land I should think he would better go as soon as possible, if not get into some permanent business but not be changing around from one thing to another as he has done all his life for "a rolling stone gathers no moss" you know I want you and Father to get settled in some comfortable place where you can enjoy a little of life...and I do not have but a farm in Delaware where you could have all these nice fruits and the climate would not be severe if you could get a house with pleasant surroundings would be as good a place as you could find. But still it would seem too bad to have to take up what [money?] you have at interest. Could not the land in Wis. be sold for considerable though I do not know as it is a good time to sell land now. Well I must quit talking about this for I get myself more in the dark every word I say. I do not know exactly what to say about the [demise yoke?] I am afraid I should not like it very well. It seems to me also that a double sleeve would look rather clumsey but you may do as you think best about it. Cousin Willie is in the vicinity of [hatchey?] [Miss.?] Phill has been discharged from the army and is teaching in the southern part of the states. Mary is enjoying her self very much in Plainville. As to money I shall need about six and a half or seven dollars as soon as possible for my tuition for this term is now due which will be five and a half dollars. I shall have to buy a new Cicero which I presume will be in the neighborhood of a dollar. Aside from these things I do not know as I shall need any more till spring. I was very sorry indeed to hear of Aunt [Aurelia's?] death. Auntie will feel that she has lost a great deal. Love to all,

Your aff daugh.
Abbie.

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

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

[*Stationary*] U.S. Sanitary Commission

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

Dear Sister Caroline,

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

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

(billions) here, was in bed a week, & was far from well when I left him in B. but to day I got a few words from him, saying he was well, & in "full pursuit of knowledge."

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

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

I arrived at this "home" Fri. morn last. Sat. had a letter from my husband from Rome, Ga. was well, & thinks to come home ere very long, it is nine months since he left. There will be two very glad hearts when he comes. If he can get long enough leave of abscence, it may be he will make a short visit to Conn. tho he has said nothing about it. I wish we could go together, tho I scarce see how I could leave here long enough. Our numbers are large as ever 409 soldiers eat breakfast here [sand?], morn, 117 at supper last night, 227 to night.

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

Abby.
Write soon.

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[*Paper embossed Bridgman Childs Northampton Mass.*]

Mt. Holyoke Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] South Hadley, Mass
Jan 25th 1865

My dear Mother

I will venture to write as I think you must have reached Flemington [*New Jersey*] by this time. Things are going on as usual here at the sem. Miss Hopkin's sisters are visiting her. Miss Chapin was here a few days after you and spent a day or two. I wished that could have come when you did. How did you find the friends at New Haven and Newark? Well I hope. If I should want to go to Austinburg and stay with aunt Elizabeth awhile and get well, and study with Mary Shurtleff a little—could I? I do not know as I shall want to, but – if I should, can I? I am going to write to Auntie and see how she is situated now and whether she would like to have me come or not.

I am as well as I was when you were here, but no better that I know of. I dont study very much yet.

Will you please remind Eddie that he has bee owing me a letter for a long long time, and I want to hear from him very much. I think a great deal about him, and about his precious soul. It seems as though I could not have him be anything but a Christian [longer?]. I asked Miss Parmelee to have our section pray for him some night, and she did. I was so glad.

Miss Parmelee said she was very sorry that she could not have seen you. She was not well the night that you were here, and did not feel able to leave her room, but she supposed you were going to stay longer, so she would have some other opportunity. I would like to have had you seen her ever so much, for she is such a sweet woman. We have changed tables again, and I am at her table, and right by her side, so I am very happy as you may imagine.

Miss Grand spoke to me after you went away, and said that she was very much surprised that you went so soon, and that she was sorry too, for she wanted to have seen you more.

Tell me all about the friends in Flemington. How is Aunt Mary? The fame of [Minnie?] has not yet died away, every little while some of the girls has something to say about her to me.

With much love to yourself and all the family.

I am as ever
your aff. daughter
Abbie E. Grant [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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

Dear Brother Daniel [*Daniel Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Caroline Grant

Dear Sister,

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

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

Your aff. brother

Joel Grant.

[*Newspaper article from Arkansas Journal, March 8, 1865, clipped to letter: "Colored Schools in Arkansas." It closes: "The above facts are gathered from Chaplain J. Grant, who is appointed Superintendent of these schools, but whose plans have been much interrupted by a serious illness that came upon him while visiting the schools at Pine Bluff."*]

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

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

Little Rock, Ark.
May 29, 1865

Dear Brother,

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

I must confess my inability to give advice even to this hour. There is no excitement about oil in this state as yet, and there could not be because war has been the business until quite recently and it has not been safe to travel out of military protection. Agriculture has languished. Now, however, it is beginning to revive and no doubt there will be a great stir in due time. I can only say at present that there are projects for colonies on foot, and as the state is large, and probably about a third fit good land, and room enough on that to accommodate several times the population the state ever had, there will be a great movement beyond all doubt. Two reasons

(among several more) keep me from acting. First I have no money to render it possible. My expenses are great personally, for since I have been in Ark. [*Arkansas*], living has been higher than in any place I have ever before occupied – the cost of my two children is enormous for a man of little means, and I have mostly made up my mind that God does not intend I should ever have much if anything. He gives me a great deal – sums that are astonishing, but like a snow storm borne on the North wind to-day, and melted by the South wind to-morrow, it all vanishes in a little time, or melts as it falls. So I cannot do much if I would, Then I find it impossible to know the facts of a case in season to act. There have been sales in this place within the past month of some $800,000 worth of property – wh. in all scarce brought $50,000 – part of it under the act of Confiscation Act, and part of it under the Act for collecting taxes – in which had I had money in hand I could have put myself by the use of $2000 in probable possession of $10,000. But I have bought nothing, for the reasons already stated.

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

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

I am glad to know that Dr. Patterson has traced the genealogy of our family & will send $10 to help him through. I am willing to do this in the hope that in some way we can find some way to link our family to the hero of the age. Lieut. Gen. Grant, though if the examination should prove there is no such connection, I still would like to promote the investigation & will send another $10 if necessary. I will send $10 to Marcus in a few days.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Envelope addressed to*]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Cole Brook
Mill Brook P.O.
Conn.

Oberlin, Aug. 17th 1865

Dear Aunt Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]:

I never intended to be so tardy in answering the good long letter you wrote me, the latter part of last Apr. – But you have probably heard something how the time has been taken up. I suppose that mother is with you now, and that you have learned from her, all the events of interest which have occurred in the family, of late. We are hoping that her visit at her old home, and among her early friends, will do her much good. If she could only forget the unpleasant things which seem to weigh upon her mind so heavily, she might be a very useful woman, and a great comfort to her family, for many years yet.

I should like to have known of mother's intended trip, a few days before, as I might have assisted in packing and getting her ready. It was almost too bad to find she had left just the day before I reached Austinburg [*Ohio*]! I got my goods together, and came away with William and Theodore last Tuesday. The boys all seemed well and in good spirits. I was much pleased that [Theo.?] seemed so self reliant, and at the same time so industrious and so practical. I think it probable he will prove the best [fanancier?] among the boys. Mother will have a strong arm to lean upon as long as he lives, she may be sure.

Philander expects to start with the sheep next week. Joseph Cowles' family will probably move to Jefferson in September, and then I cannot see that Austinburg will hold out many attractions to any of us, longer. I can not see what makes mother feel that it is so desirable a place to live in. I am sure that to <u>me</u> Grinnell would present far greater attractions.

I think we are going to enjoy our stay here very much. – We were disappointed yesterday in the boarding place we expected to have, (at Prof. Ellis') After having made all our calculations upon going there for several weeks, Mrs. Ellis came home from the west, bringing with her a cousin, whom, not knowing her husband's plans, she had engaged to board in her own family, and they could not furnish us all, <u>rooms</u>. The Prof. seemed very much chagrined, and would have had the young man seek another boarding place, if his wife's relatives would not have been displeased. As it is, we have been so long unsettled that we feel like seeking a home of our own, and Mr. Shurtleff is looking around for a house which he thinks would suit us. I fear we can not rent a desirable house, and real estate is high. It would not matter much if we expected to remain here permanently, but as it is somewhat doubtful whether we stay more than a year, it is hard to settle the question whether to board or keep house. It will however doubtless be settled in a few days, by our finding, or failing to find, such a house as we would like, in case we went to housekeeping. If we should get established in a home of our own, we shall want mother to make us a long visit before she goes to Iowa.

Friday morn, Aug. 18th

We tired ourselves out yesterday in looking <*for*> at houses for sale, and returned to our boarding place, without suiting ourselves at all. I think we will stay where we are as contentedly as we can, until an opportunity presents itself for a favorable change. We are very pleasantly located as <u>boarders</u>. There are few more desirable places in town, than the one where we are stopping – Mrs. Lincoln's.

The fall term opens a week from next Monday. If we board, I expect to take three or four classes – shall probably relieve Mr. Shurtleff of one of his.

We have a call, and I must close. – I am very anxious to hear of mother's safe arrival at Colebrook.

With much love to one and all,
Mary B. Shurtleff

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[*Elizabeth Grant Burton to Caroline Burr Grant, 1866?*]
Dear Sister Caroline,

Your <u>most</u> <u>welcome</u> letter came seasonably to hand, & I have too long waited for a <u>convenient</u> opportunity to reply. Thank you for mentioning so many circumstances of interest Indeed your letter is quite a little history, wh. will bear reading over, & over, & over again. I hope you will excuse me if I do not produce any thing one hundredth part as interesting

I am looking forward with pleasure to the time when your daughter will be with us. The spring term of our school has opened more prosperously than I expected, but as you say, it might probably be better for her to rest, or teach the coming summer. This school produces so many teachers, that all our schools are in demand, & if Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] really wishes to teach, she might probably stand a better chance in Conn. [*Connecticut*] than here.

Please inform us, if she succeeds in engaging a school, & how soon she may add one to our little family circle, now so much broken. Will not her mother & father, & brother accompany her on her journey? If all cannot as many as can.

Last week was Mary's vacation wh. she spent at home. Lavinia spent a few nights here, also, with her babe 4 months old.

I saw your sister Mary when in Conn. before her marriage. Where is she now? Please tell me about her.

Mary rec'd a letter fr. Philander last Thurs. He has been out of health for some time, suffering fr diarrhea, extremely, & in this, he speaks of his throat being very sore & mouth swollen so his artificial teeth will not stay in their proper place, besides being so weak, he can hardly walk. He says he that morn, (Mrch 30,) placed himself under the care of a surgeon. But I rejoice that he has found his uncle Joel, or that his uncle Joel has found him. He says "I like him much better than I used to." (he always was greatly in love with him since he knew him) Doubtless they seem very dear, meeting thus, in a far off land, & under such trying circumstances. He says "he is absent now, on business to Cairo, but will be back next Sab. & hold services in the 12th Illinois, when I expect to attend." He says, "O this wicked rebellion, that has brought so much misery & woe into our hitherto happy land. Surely none but Satan could have originated <*so*>such an unholy, unrighteous cause. I hope and pray God that the end is close at hand when peace, honorable peace, will be proclaimed throughout our land." This encourages me to hope the poor boy is not a stranger to prayer, & I do hope & pray that God may make the interview with his uncle J. a blessing to both, & to all the dear boys fr. this place. He says nothing wd afford greater satisfaction than to meet the family circle around the old fire place, but though the privilege is denied him & Wm. it may be all for the best, & by their present mode of life they may acquire an experience that will be a life long benefit to them. The Lord grant it may be so.

I have felt so sad & lonesome, since Mary went away, yesterday morn, I am in no mood to write any thing to interest, but I promised to write you & send her love. I hoped she would join me & we wd together make out something to you, worth reading, but you have some idea how one week may be occupied with a little visiting, resting etc. It is gone, as it were, before it is begun.

Wm. was in Paducah Ky. when he last wrote. I have felt less concerned about him as he is farther from the seat of war. But they have rec'd their equipments & we know not how soon he may be called to battle. We know not how many more noble one must fall a sacrifice to this rebellion before we can come out of this furnace of affliction Doubtless we need chastisement We have been proud, we have boasted in our own strength & that our name w'd endure while the world sh'd stand.

[*written across front page*] Doubtless we deserve far more chastisement than we have yet rec'd, & we must not despise the chastening of the Lord.

I hope our nation will come out of the furnace purified & prepared to appreciate her privileges

Has Mr Burgess visited you yet? Did one of his children die, besides little Edwin?

We rec'd aunt B's picture It is good.

With much love to all your family

I remain

Yr aff sister

E. Burton [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

[*written across front page*] I am rejoiced to hear that father & mother are comfortable.
[*written across middle page*] Raphael Marshall & wife made us a short visit while aunt Olive was with us.

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[*From attached envelope:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant,
Millbrook,
Conn.
[*written across envelope*] From Mrs. Cowles Jan. '66
[*date stamp*] Ipswich Mass Jan 10

My dear Mrs. Grant,

Our school continues just nine weeks longer. I think your daughter might join some of our classes where they are & make some account of what time remains. We have a vacancy at a boarding house which we could give her. If she does come let it be as soon as she can move. We have no school from Friday night to Monday & she could attend to her clothes on Saturdays. We shall feel a special interest in her for the sake of her beloved godly ancestors & relatives & should she stay over a vacation we shall depend on her passing a week with us. The vacancy in our boarding houses is in the family where the Misses Foshite live & they will cordially welcome her to their circle. They are good common sense young women.

Mrs. Barrister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] wrote me, some two weeks since, from your brother's in Newark and was then considering the question of remaining [...] of New York until the Sun reaches the equator again.

Mr. Cowles burst a blood vessel on the 13th of December which delivered its contents into the stomach and then became stenched. He lost a great deal of blood & was so weak for some days that he could not lift head or hand scarcely. But his [?] habits, a good constitution & the blessing of God has given him a new lease of life. He is still comparatively feeble, but is able to walk to the Seminary from our house twice a day & to hear two classes now, & is gaining strength every day. If no new rupture occurs we are hoping he will soon be as well as ever. He joins me in most affectionate regards to your father & mother, your husband & yourself & Sister Carline & her husband.

I want to hear what Miss Wright has done with herself.

Board is $4. per week but we will remit <*her tu*> your daughter's tuition or in some way reduce the regular expenses ten dollars or a little more in her case --

We have classes in Latin & French, Arithmetic, Algebra & Geography.

I must close for the mail.

Yours in love,

E.C.Cowles

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Oberlin Ohio
Feb. 27th 1866.

My dear Mother,

Safe in Oberlin at last and I had not the least particle of trouble in getting here. I arrived at Geneva about noon on Thursday. Mary Harris received my letter on Wednesday night. and they concluded that if I started when I was expecting to. I must have gone by without stopping, so they were hardly looking for me when I came. I hired a team to go over which cost me one dollar. I had to pay about two dollars & forty cts for extra baggage. I never traveled when I got along with so little trouble and so little worrying. I had no waiting to do any where (but in Canaan) which made it very pleasant. for I think that waiting in a depot is the most disagreeable of all things. I had a very pleasant little visit at Mary Harris' we went over to Austinburg Friday afternoon and made some calls. did not stay in the evening because the roads were so bad. There were but few in town that I used to know. I met very unexpectedly to both of us -- my old friend Will Jewett. who happened to be at home for a few days, and had a very pleasant little chat with him. He is through with his course in Cleveland & is going very soon to Tiffin Ohio. to study and practice in connection as I understand with the Dr that he was with in Painesville. I also met Joe Cochrane,

Lizzies brother who was down on a visit But dear me! I cant enumerate all the people for I am altogether too sleepy tonight.

Wedn's morn. They received me very kindly here. and I think I shall enjoy the society of the family exceedingly. but I have the smallest of rooms, and how Alice Leonard and I will manage to both be in it at a time is a mystery yet unsolved. for Alice is not expected until Friday. I spent the greater part of yesterday with cousin Mary. The morning in visiting. & in the afternoon they took me out to see the elephants of the place; get my term bill settled, studies arranged, &c. My studies this term are to be Chemistry & French. I am charmed with the principal Mrs. Dascomb.

I have been reckoning up & find that my journey here cost me about twenty dollars ($20).

I talked a little about Kansas with cousin Giles yesterday. he thinks that it is a splendid country. and when I told him where our place was he seemed to know all about. & said that he thought you could not but be delighted with the place when you reached there. I find that I brought away Mary's picture in my album so will sent it back in this. she is going to send one of Giles before long.

My throat has not troubled me at all. & I am hardly as tired from my journey as I expected to be.

[*written across first page*] How do you all do at home, when you write you know I shall want to hear from all. How is Auntie getting along. Much love to her and to you all

Your aff daughter

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

I was released from chapel a few minutes too late to have this go to day, but I hope you wont be worrying.

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[*Mary E. Burton Shurtleff to Caroline Grant*]

Oberlin. Feb. 27th 1866.

Dear Aunt Caroline:

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] surprised and delighted us very much, yesterday morn, but presenting herself, all unannounced, at our door. She found, after she began to think about writing to us, -- while at Mr. Harris' -- that a letter would not reach us before she should herself arrive, and so did not write. She took Prof. Cowles' family by surprise, but was warmly welcomed. We went out with her yesterday, on a tour of observation, introduced her to Mrs. Dascomb, and assisted her in settling with the Treasurer, and arranging studies. But of all this she will doubtless write. I hope she may enjoy her stay here, very much, and make it profitable, too. I think she will, without doubt, unless her health fails. I think she looks well, now, and all her friends will do what they can to help to keep her so. Do not fear that she will make us any "trouble". We are as much pleased to have her here, as she to have us. I trust we shall be mutual comforts to each other.

I hardly know whom to thank for the bundle Abbie brought me. I shall prize the articles the more, for grandmother's having worn them. They will all be useful too, if I can get over the idea that it would be a sort of desecration for me to wear them.

Abbie says you have not yet made definite arrangements for removing to the west. It hardly seems to me that it will be pleasant for mother to remain at grandpa's after you go. Does she ever speak of it? -- Willie writes that they probably cannot get their house up before the 1st of next Aug. -- but I suppose mother would be very welcome at Mr. Jones', provided she could be contented there, which I somewhat doubt. Yet it would be pleasanter in the summer time, when the children could carry on their noisy sports out of doors, than the boys find it, now. I greatly wish I had a home to offer her, but we are so uncertain about staying here after next Aug. that it would be folly to try to get settled.

I should not much relish the idea of mother's remaining on the farm many years. But if the boys are prospered, Phil will be likely to marry before long, and then mother can have a home in the village with Willie and Thedie. I know Willie has given up the idea of having a home in

town, immediately, only in Phil's account. I doubt very much whether mother was in a state of mind, while in Grinnell, to judge calmly, and correctly of its merits. If I am not greatly misinformed, most people would consider it a much more desirable location than Austinburg. For my part I could not return to A with the idea of making it a permanent home, without great reluctance. -- I agree with you that if mother were once comfortably fixed at Grinnell, she would enjoy it better than she now imagines. As I wish to write her some things, I will close my letter to you.

With much love
Mary B. G.

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Sept 27 1866

Dear Sisters,

This is fair week and in the middle of the day the store is almost as quiet as Sunday and our streets are almost deserted of the mass that come to see the show -- Yesterday we had a very heavy rain and every one thought our fair which commenced on tuesday would be nothing but to day is remarkably fine and though the ground is muddy the turn out is tremendous exceeding any former fair and they will hold over one day longer than they intended to at first Sam is going this afternoon and the others will not go until tomorrow on account of the wet ground --

They have a fine show of cattle, Horses, Sheep -- Fancy articles & many other things. We send nothing for exhibition. Have not had any frost yet and if it stays away a few days longer we will have the best crop of buckwheat that we have had for several years and the fall pasture is remarkably fine --

We thought it best for Sam not to come now as his french and German lessons had commenced again and the other school begins first of october and we were not prepared to have him start immediately. Hope he and E will have some opportunities to visit each other yet I did not write you about E as to our store because things were about as they were when I last wrote upon that subject. We have two boys on hand at present and have changed somewhat in having boys to commence upon outside work. -- If Edward can find place to suit him think as a general rule it holds good that young men do better when they are with comparative strangers than with any of their connections or intimate friends as far as business goes and I know of others that think so --

We would have taken Edward at anytime that we had an opening and if he is not satisfied where he is and we are so situated as to want a hand will remember him and I would say to him that if he goes into the store he must put his whole mind into the business and not think he has too much to do and to do something that he does not like but must conquer all such pride and be earnest and polite towards all customers though he will have his patience severely tried sometimes --

I have never learned to like the business thoroughly perhaps from not commencing young enough and from having such a taste for out door life Don't see why Erastus cannot make an effort and come and see us at least once --

I think his Mary would enjoy the trip and if E does not bring her I shall try and persuade her to come down with me the next time that I come -- Wish that I had time to make a visit your way I do so enjoy the beauties of the country but must deny myself -- thought at one time that Mary would go but guess she has given it up. for this fall --

Little Carrie has a present of a doll from Miss Jacot and is very happy with it, dressing it in nice new dresses that Minnie & Miss Jacot have made for it, and putting it to ben &c -- We are all well except Mary who has turned farmer and sometimes over does the matter nothing serious but worries some of the life and spirits out of her self and dont know any better. I love a little elegant leisure and take it whenever it comes handy without my conscience being disturbed believing it is right, useful and desirable and that in the end we can do as much for our sel[*v*]es & others

In haste
Yours truly will kind remembrances to all
W Hill [*William Hill*]

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

Canton Nov 25, 1866.

My dear Sister,

It is a long time since I recieved your kind and very acceptable letter giving us the particulars of the illness and death of our dear mother, but having just mailed a letter to you, when I recieved yours which would be essentialy an answer to yours I did not deem it necessary to write immediately and the time has slipped till now and it is still unanswered. Since that time I have heard from you indirectly several times, but it is a matter of much regret to me that my husband does not keep up a correspondence with his brothers, but he has long since ceased to write any but business letters, all such he answers promptly, but writes no others. I think this maybe in part owing to his business requiring that he should write so many letters. His health is very good, his duties at the bank are very light and he has much liesure time. He has prepared a lecture this summer which he read at the anniversary of the Young Mens Literacy Association, and after wards to a few who wished to hear it and has since been invited to read it at Salem and Youngstown. Our Methodists Baptist ministers though not willing to endorse it all yet complimented it highly.

We are but a small family now Libbie Mary & Martha having gone from us, though we have a Miss Frey a music teacher who has been with us nearly two years. She is a niece of Mr Calhoun the Missionary to Mt Lebanon. Jennie saw Abbie at Oberlin this summer and hoped to hear from her after her return but her letter written just after her return still remains unanswered and we do not even know where she is now.

I hear from Mrs Shurlleff that her mother has gone to Iowa but does not seem much better. How sad it is that her mind is in such an unhappy state especially as she has no daughter near her to look after her

We have heard nothing of Joel but that he was east in the early summer Where is his family and what are his plans for the future? Of John I learn nothing satisfactory. I judge from what I do hear that an operation seems desirable and yet circumstances make it doubtful if it is expedient. Can you tell me anything about him. I do not like to write and ask as they always seem to shrink from speaking of it.

I would like very much to see you all again. It would seem very strange to be there without mother but I would like to see you and father and Marcus but between the interests and the cash and at the wish I shall be likely to do as the ass between two bundles hay keep still and go nowhere.

The last that I heard from Daniel he was in Kansas is he still there? and do you purpose going there in the spring? If so you may some time visit my daughters in the west.

Jennie is teaching a school of about 20 little children in the conference room of the Baptist Church and is studying German at the same time and is pretty busy all of the time. Boyd attends school but is still not at all inclined to study.

We are making arrangements for building a new Presbyterian Church next summer, The sewing society connected with the church has laid by $1000, made within less than two years for the purpose of furnishing the church when completed. The Methodists held a Centennary meeting here a few weeks since at which recieved donations from the congregation to the amount of $13,000 for the educational fund. Last week they had a jubilee for the Sabbath School at which the reports were read, stating that the amount raised in the Sabbath School since Sept was $500. This however is our richest congregation, and the liberality of other congregations is not to be infeered from it. Our town is growing steadily and is constantly increasing its manufacturing interests. With much love to all friends and hoping some time to see you here I remain your affectionate sister

SB Grant

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[*attached envelope addressed to*]
Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Oberlin [*Ohio*], Feb. 25th 1867

Dear Aunt Caroline:

I did not think to have neglected answering your good letter so long. Housekeeping cares, new, and perplexing (sometimes), as you can imagine they would be to a beginner, together with the labor of getting regulated in our new home, must be my apology. Beside, I received news from Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*], which assured me that, for the present, she had no difficulty in deciding that it would not be wise for her to attempt to go on with study here. Another letter, which came last week, gives the cheering intelligence that she is much better—feels as well as before. I know not what is best in the case but am strongly inclined to think, as she expressed herself in a letter to Mr. Burr – part of which I had the privilege of hearing – that it will not be best for her to return to Oberlin to study, until her health is fully established. Has not the confinement of regular, student life proved too much for her <*her*> in every instance in which she has tried it? I thought it would be so much easier for her, here, than at Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] that she might get along without breaking down, but the result of the experiment, renders it questionable to my mind, whether she ought ever to try to go through a course of study. She has, already, a very fair education, and might so improve herself by reading and private study (as she is able to bear it) as to attain a higher degree of intellectual culture than half our graduates. If her health should continue to improve, what would you think of her taking a small school in the vicinity of Grinnell in order to test her strength? – If she bears it well, perhaps it might be safe to return here in the fall, and resume study. I am glad she has the disposition to do something for herself. If she is able I doubt not it would do her a great deal of good to earn something toward paying her own expenses. If I were in her place, I should be very doubtful about the expediency of expending now, what would be likely to take just so much from my final portion, or what I might otherwise have, upon my settlement in life. I know, by experience, what a satisfaction it is, to be able to help one's husband in procuring a home and home comforts. If she had not a definite prospect of having a home of her own, before many years, perhaps I should not think of this; or if she had rigorous health, and could make the most of her time in study, with a prospect of being able to replace by her own earnings, either wholly or in part, the expenditures of her education, the case would be different. You will not understand by this, that I do not esteem the improvement of the mind, above every other temporal good; but, as I have often observed, time spent at school is not the only way of attaining this.

I cannot see how her absence for a time, from Oberlin, will at all affect her affairs with Mr. B. [*Almon Burr*] He is evidently deeply interested in Abbie, and judging from what I hear and see of him, is not a man likely to change his views hastily. He expressed himself to me, as decidedly of Abbie's opinion that it would not do for her to try to study, at present.

Mother writes that it is a great comfort to her, to have Abbie with her. She makes herself very useful there, and is probably gaining somewhat in her knowledge and efficiency in domestic matters. Whether she thoroughly enjoys so secluded a life, I have no means of knowing. If she can be comfortable and happy there, I know she would be welcome to stay for any length of time.

I spoke of "housekeeping cares" when I commenced my letter. I believe I wrote you of our having rented part of a house (the first floor) for six months, dating from the 7th of Jan. when we moved here. By that time we think we may safely calculate upon the completion of our own house. I do my own domestic work, entirely, with the exception of part of the washing, and we enjoy being by ourselves, very much indeed, and I am becoming quite accustomed to my new responsibilities as housekeeper. I should like much to be able to get along without hired help, permanently, but there will be so much to do in getting ready to go into our new house, that I shall try to find a good strong girl when spring opens.

You have perhaps noticed in the papers accounts of the great religious interest here. It has been unusual, even for this place, and continues in all its power. Prayer meetings, twice a day, (in the afternoon and evening) have been kept up for months, beside the usual meetings of

the week. The number of hopeful conversions among middle aged persons, men in business, engrossed in the world, and apparently entirely indifferent to the subject of religion, has been a source of great rejoicing.

You will be glad to know that I had a dear good letter from brother Thedie, last week expressing the hope that he had commenced a christian life. He was such an amiable, conscientious boy, before that this seemed the 'one thing lacking'.

I have no special news from friends. Should be very glad to hear from Uncle John, but do not. Since I have been so busy, I have not been faithful to my correspondents, and consequently do not hear from them so often though my interest in all that concerns our friends and relatives is as great as ever.

If Giles were at home he would wish to join me in sending much love.

Your affectionate niece
Mary –

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Norfolk [*Connecticut*], May 4, '67

Dear Cos Caroline,

I have concluded we shall probably want all the lard, you have to spare and write, that you may send all, at one time. I commenced school, on Wed. last. My school promises well and is pleasant, if teaching is my calling. the prospect is, that I shall fulfil my mission – but, I feel every day, the need of that 'wisdom which cometh from above', that I may do my work wisely, and well.

Mother is much as usual, not as feeble, as last spring, still, she suffers much from the weariness, always attendant weakness. Hope our dear uncle Grant, is more comfortable, than when I was with you.

How appropriate, and touching seems David's petition, as we watch, day by day, these loved ones, so 'compassed about with infirmities.' 'Cast me not off in the time of old age, forsake me not, when my strength faileth.'

Mr. Saml Shepard, is very feeble, suffering from an attack of hemorrhage of the lungs. I believe Dr. does not allow him, to speak loud, at all.

Emma Welch is to be married, on Wed. morning next, at 10 o'clock, in church.

Please say to Marcus, that our stove is very much improved by the new back, it is just right, a perfect fit, we are quite delighted, and bless him, every day, for his kindness.

The memory of my visit, with you all, is very pleasant to me. I am very very glad, and thank you kindly, that you arranged everything so nicely, for my trip to Winsted.

It was really a comfort, and I number it among the special mercies which I would fain gratefully acknowledge.

With kindest love to all,
I am yours truly,
Cos, Margaret.

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

Oberlin, O. [*Ohio*] Sep. 17th 1867

Dear Aunt Caroline:

Thank you very much for writing so particularly of Grandpa's last hours. I had expected to hear of his death from what you wrote to Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] while she was still with us. We have indeed great reason to take comfort in thinking of him as now at rest from all the burdens of life – Still engaged in the service of the master he loved but without pain or sorrow or

weariness. I little thought when I visited Colebrook with aunt [Gertie?] in '61 that it would be the last time that I should ever see my grandparents. I have often regretted that Mr. Shurtleff and I did not go to see them when we were at Newark directly after we were married. But though I shall never see them again in this life, I feel sure that I shall meet them in an eternal home if I am myself, faithful.

You speak of mother's lameness. Thedie writes that she commenced to be troubled soon after Abbie left, and that she had some ill turns which she thought were worse than any in past years, but that she is better now. She had at that time (Sep. 6th) a good girl, who had been with her about two months. Thedie has resumed his studies at the College, and I think Philander's work has taken him away from home much of the summer so that I <*hope*> trust she has not been overburdened with labor or care.

We moved into our new house Aug. 30th It is not quite finished, but we make ourselves very comfortable without all the rooms, and are very happy in the prospect of having so nice a home which we may call our own. – Brother Edward was married in the Presbyterian Church in Lincoln on the 1st inst. and reached Oberlin with his bride the following Wednesday. They stayed until the next Monday. I liked my new sister Hannah, quite well. They seem very much devoted to each other, and full of enthusiasm and enterprise in view of their prospects.

Sister Lavinia expects to visit Ohio this month – is perhaps now in Jefferson, She may remain in the state until the latter part of next month. I intend to send mother some fruit &c. by her, and your package if you send one, might go at the same time.

I do not wonder that you have many anxious thoughts about Abbie. It must be hard for you to have your only daughter so far away. You inquire about her health. I should not think her by any means an invalid, though it is hard to form a judgment in regards to the matter. because under the <*impulse*> influence of excitement she will do and endure so much more than she is able to, ordinarily. She is not strong -- not able to endure hard work. I noticed one day when she did some washing for herself (my girl did her regular washing) she seemed quite tired out. I thought it might be because she was not accustomed to that kind of exercise. She often walked downtown and back (1/2 mile each way) without appearing at all fatigued. She also devoted herself to sewing with great patience and constancy and without complaining of weariness. Some of the work would have been quite perplexing to me for instance the making over of two old dresses and cutting a new one. – I told her one day that for me such work required more patience than teaching school. She seems to have a great dislike for teaching. I tell her that if she could simply teach without having the care of a school I think she would like it. I was pleased to hear that uncle John thought he should want her. It seemed to me that would be just the place for her. I should prize the privileges I should there enjoy and a home in his family so much. It would be my judgment that such a situation would afford greater opportunity for general improvement than the routine of school life. I believe Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*] opposes the idea of her teaching anywhere.

It is pleasant to see him so tender of Abbie but it seems to me that he is unnecessarily so. His oldest sister two years younger than Abbie, improve[s?] the winter vacations in teaching district schools, and he himself (if I judge rightly) has earned his spending money, until quite lately, in a similar manner. For several terms past he has had some classes in the institution for which he is paid at the rate of .30 an hour. He will probably be able to find a situation which will pay him better during the winter, but I can hardly see how he could afford to pay Abbie's expenses, at school, in addition to his own. I should dislike to accept such an offer, if I were in Abbie's place. It probably would result pleasantly in this case, but I can but think of the case of a lady I well know who accepted a similar offer, for one term, and the match was soon after broken off by her lover. Of course in regard to this question, as well as the others of which you will, I do not expect you to receive my judgment as decisive. I can only tell how it seems to me. I always do that, candidly, where my opinion is asked, even though it may be likely to offend some one.

We see no reason to change our opinion in regard to Mr. Burr. We like his general characteristics, and think him a very promising young man. But we think his attachment for Abbie leads him into some extremes. He's young you know, only a few months older than Abbie, and this is, I suppose, his "first love". Some extravagance in the manifestation of his feelings seems quite pardonable. He seems to want to place her on a plane quite above the ordinary lot of mortals – keep her free, as far as may be, from either mental or physical labors and yet have her

enjoy all the advantages which such labor procures at the expense of <*others*> himself or others. This does not seem selfish in him because he evidently does not seem to think Abbie is able to burden herself with any serious responsibility. She is the only person in the world who can convince him to the contrary, and this, I presume she can do, only by experiment.

I can but guess that his desire to have A. study more is due in great part to the pleasure he would enjoy in having her near him. I hardly believe he would particularly enjoy having her attend school away from Oberlin, though I may be mistaken in regard to that. To speak plainly, I am quite doubtful whether Abbie would be much benefitted by continuing her studies here. There would be so many things to distract her mind – calls from Mr. B. <*and*> the company of so many lively acquaintances &c. – though from all that I could see, I should not judge that the state of her health <*would*> is, at present, such as to be a serious objection to her studying or teaching.

I have written a long letter, and must now close to attend to domestic duties. I still have my girl with me, a part of the time, and [Eltie Lenrant?], a neice of Mr. Shurtleff's helps me some hours each day, but enough remains to be done to keep me busy most of the time. But I am well, now, and enjoy my cares. Please give my love to all at the "old homestead". If any of them come this way I hope you will admonish them to stop at Oberlin.

Your very affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff

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Thompson Ohio
Nov. 11th 1867

My Dear Mrs. Grant

Mother and myself were both very pleasantly surprised by your welcome letter; and as mother is not very well able to write, she desired me to reply in her name. Mother has often spoken to me of you, especially since dear Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] & I have been so intimate. She often expresses the wish that she might see you and renew an acquaintance which was ever pleasant to her.

Mother's health is quite poor; for two years or more she has been suffering from a complication of diseases which seem to shift localities; At first in her lungs & throat what the doctor calls chronic tuberculation of the spine & muscles. Now confined entirely to the spine (producing curvature below the shoulder) & the muscles about the shoulder.

She suffers great pain, and is often so weak as to require the aid of a staff.

Our dear Abbie left us about four weeks ago, was feeling pretty comfortable for her. She did consult our physician while here, though <*not*> he did not make a very thorough investigation of her case, as she did not request it. He thought her system very much deranged in consequence of the irregularity of her monthly periods, or rather their frequency. He gave her some medicine which he claims to be a sure cure in all difficulties of that nature, saying that he thought all her other bad feelings dependent in a great measure upon that. I do not know the result of that medicine. He did not examine her lungs at all. I think with mother, that it would well for her to consult some reliable physician about them. If Abbie will be careful this winter, I think she has a school and boarding place, where she will be comfortable, and enjoy herself; though all her friends here were opposed to her teaching at all. We hope she will not suffer in health from her labor this winter.

At least she will have a very careful guardian in Mr. Burr. Speaking of him let me say that he is one man among a thousand, a man of rare abilities and, better than all a warm hearted earnest, honest and loving Christian. Just the one for our Abbie, in my humble opinion. I always grow enthusiastic when I speak his praise, and still I feel that no one can say too much.

I have been offered a situation in the Union School at Wellington, 8 miles south of Oberlin. Think I shall accept it; if so, I shall be near enough to see Abbie occasionally during the winter. I cannot tell you within the limits of one short letter how very dear Abbie's friendship has been to me from the last renewal of our acquaintance at Oberlin. I value it as above price.

Mother says “if you come to Ohio do not fail to come and see us” Hoping that our opinions in regard to our dear one’s health may allay anxiety in your mind I am, dear Mrs. Grant

Most respectfully your
Alice M. Leonard

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Care Wm. Hill Esq.
Flemington
N. J.

Rec’d letter sent March 1868 – from Mary Shurtleff
Oberlin, Ohio
March 25th. ‘68

Dear Aunt Caroline:

I have waited a day, since receiving your letter, in the hope of seeing Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] as I wanted to inquire more particularly about her health before I wrote. But for fear you may be unduly anxious about her, I conclude to write today. I saw her Monday (day before yesterday) and she seemed as well as usual – said she had been doing the washing, and had had a fine day for it. I think she has about given up her plan of going to Cleveland, though I am not sure. The last time she spoke of it, she said the teacher of drawing, in Cleveland, had been sick for some time, and her place had not been filled, and she should certainly not want to go until it was. She has gone into two classes in French, and is taking lessons in drawing, here. I do not think her health is as good as it was during the winter. She has spoken of being sick, not able to attend her classes, several times. Yet I do not know that there are any indications of permanent poor health. In speaking of it, she attributed her feeling poorly to the “spring weather.”

Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*] came back from Cleveland quite worn out – was sick with fever for a time, but is better now, has commenced study, and teaches one class, though he does not look as vigorous as usual. Probably he and Abbie have not fully matured their plans for the future, and perhaps this is the reason she has not written you. I have been glad to learn the Mr. B. does not call upon Abbie nearly so often as he did last fall. That will be better for both of them, so far as study is concerned. I think Mr. B. is anxious that some plan should be devised by which Abbie can have some opportunity for study and improvement and yet not do enough to endanger her health. If the matter is left to them I think it will be managed so that she can remain here or near here, as Abbie seems to dread the idea of going to N. J. I really do not know whether there is any serious objection to allowing Mr. Burr to make Abbie’s arrangements for her or not. What think you? I feel as if I should like to have her a little more independent of him, at present, if she could be as well provided for by some other <way> friend. Your plan for having her with you at your sister’s, with the opportunity she would there enjoy for French, would strike me as a pleasant one, but I see she does not so view it.

I cannot give any advice, as I really have not an opinion of my own as to what is best for Abbie, though I fell greatly interested to have the best thing done.

I am glad you are thinking of getting settled. I think it will seem so much pleasanter and better <for> to you all, to have a home of your own, even if it requires a separation from those you love, and a removal to the west. If you do go west, cannot you make Oberlin as visit as well as Grinnell? We should be so glad to have you.

You have probably heard, through Abbie, of Phil’s marriage to Rubie [M....?], on the 5th of Feb. They made us a visit, of about ten days, just after, there returned to her home in Madison, until two weeks ago, when they started for the west, stopping here on their way. We liked Rubie very much. She is a few months older than Phil, so is nearer my age than any other member of the family. She is industrious and seems to understand all kinds of work, though she is not very strong She is intelligent, well educated, refined in her manners, and best of all, a Christian. We think she will be a great acquisition to the family. I do hope mother will feel more cheerful when she comes to have such pleasant company.

Thedie is attending school – if he goes on, will enter the Freshman class in Iowa College next fall.

- My health has been quite good since I last wrote – I have been quite busy, providing bedding for our new chambers, getting them ready for students, etc. We rent three of our chambers to students, real nice young men, one in a room, but do not take boarders. We enjoy being quiet and by ourselves. I feel a good deal more at leisure, this spring, - or perhaps I should say less pressed with work – than for more than a year before.

Before closing, I want to tell you how nicely I think Abbie got along last winter. Besides teaching, she accomplished a good deal of sewing, so that I almost feel like taking back what I said about her "lacking dispatch." I am called away and must close. Mr. Shurtleff joins me in sending love. Your affectionate niece

Mary.

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

Letterhead:
[Rev. E. M. Boring Mrs. J. Grant, Matron,
Residence, 290 W. Madison St. 911 Wabash Avenue.
Home of the Friendless,
Chicago,] Sept. 21, 1868.

My Dear Sister,

This Monday morning I have been the rounds, every thing is moving on time, & I have hoped to get a quiet half hour for you, so here it is.

I told John to read to you the long letter I sent him, telling him all about my journey home, & the pleasant visit I had with Mr. & Mrs. Shurtleff – etc – he did not say whether he did, or not & I have given him a scolding for not letting me know – I was delighted with Oberlin, should like to live there, but to be any real part of it, it would be necessary to be connected with the literary life there.

I called upon Mr. Jesse [Malthies?] family; and we remembered old times together, for a little Mrs. M. was my teacher when four years old, & remembers the chapter in the Bible & the reading in the back part of the spelling book on my 4th birth day, & the pride of my father & Aunty [....?], etc. etc. – Isn't she your cousin? It seems as if she said so. They have a pleasant place.

Prof. Shurtleff's place, & house are very pleasant, not more so than the occupants.

John wrote me that he liked Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*] very much, which I am glad of, and I want Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] to ask Mr. B. if when he sees J. as I hope he will in N. Haven [*New Haven*] – he will not specially seek to help him into an active Christian life – nothing but work develops strength, spiritually as well as a physically. The decided influence of one young man over another especially of the one on a higher plane of spiritual life, is often more than a Mothers.

Tues. Morn. My half hour was shortened & not a quiet break till after ten. I tumbled into bed with a sore throat and sort of miserable feeling generally. Morning always brings relief – it is damp & cold.

I feel very much refreshed by my visit with you all. It was pleasant indeed, & soul - refreshing – and will do much to help me thru the future duties.

I spent Sund. & Mond. of last week with my husband – he is very well.

I wish you could step in now, and tell me what your plans are. Have you decided about going West, & when! I need not ask all I want to know about, for you know I an interested in all that pertains to you & yours. What will Edward do, & when does Abby go to F. And what do you hear from Daniel?

Later – Have just heard that Phelps & Susan will be here Wed. evening – they have written to Joel to come – [wish?] you & D. cd. be here also.

I can never find words to thank you for all the kindness to me & us all, wish it was in my power to do for you an yours something compensatory – Love to all & a great deal for yourself from yr. aff. sister Abby.

Love to Marcus.

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

Dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Flemington
N. Jersey.
Abbie & Almon

Oberlin, Ohio
March 10th 1869

My dear Mother,

Your kind letter should have been answered before this, by some of us, that you might know that we received the draft you sent safely, but we have all been, very busy. Edward and Almon with their work and studies, and I with my house keeping. Edward takes hold and studies faithfully, it keeps him pretty busy. With the work he has besides, he cuts our wood for us, for which Almon allows him a dollar a week. Almon teaches three classes now, he hasn't been very well for some time, he was just completely tired out the last few weeks that he was in New York, and has had no opportunity to rest yet. I think that I get along pretty well with my housework considering my strength, but I get dreadfully tired every day, so that before night comes it seems as though I could not take another step. I have had pretty good luck with my cooking. My bread has been good every time. I get too tired to sew or even mend, I dont know that part of the work is going to get along. We were to have gone to Mary Shurtleffs to tea tonight, but it is so very stormy that it has been put off till tomorrow.

I must go to bed now so good night.

19th I expected to finish this the next day when I stopped writing that night, but I haven't had a minute since when I wasnt too tired. I am too tired to iron tonight so will try to write a little.

Almon has gone to society and Edward sits here studying Algebra. Edward applies himself very faithfully to his studies.

Mary Shurtleff had her party last week. She had quite a large and pleasant company. I enjoyed it very much. We went last eve to the church sociable

Our sitting room, is a green room, there is green in the paper, green in the carpet, in the table spread and in the pictures, and when we get a rocking chair we are going to have that covered with green, there is green in the oil cloth too. So you see that we are quite greenies here.

Principal Fairchild at whose house the sociable was last eve is soon going to leave here to become president of Berea College in Kentucky.

I had a very pleasant, cheerful letter form Aunty Burton about two weeks ago. I think she must be a great deal better.

March 24th Dear Mother

We received your letter yesterday. I am sorry that you are so worried about us. We ought to have sent you some little word any way, but we have all been so busy.

Mary Shurtleff was down here a few minutes today. She is very kind to me, she gave me a jar of tomato pickles when I came here, and is going to give me some cucumbers, she has given me cake too, and fathers people have given me some, so for the first two weeks that I kept house I did not have to cook any cake.

Fathers people have given us a good many things, today they sent over a nice piece of veal. Some of them come over here every little while, they are all very kind to me.

The cake that Johnnie and the children sent me was real nice. I enjoyed it very much.

Thank Aunt Mary very very much of the linen sheets and pillow cases that she sent me, they will be <u>so</u> <u>nice</u> for next summer, and will make me very nicely supplied with <bedding> sheets, etc.

Tell Johnnie that one of my cats has the sweetest bit of a Maltise kitten, eyes not yet, if she were only here, it would be a second Abbie.

You have said nothing about those statuette photographs, did you find them in Flemington?

The ivy which was sent is commencing to grow very nicely now, the slips didn't live, couldn't some of you send one or two slips in a paper? I think they could come safely.

Ella Shepardson is teaching in Cleveland now, so I havent seen her since I have been here.

I will leave the rest of this sheet for Almon or Edward to fill.

With much love to all the dear friend in F. and to your own dear self.

Your aff. daughter

Abbie.

Dear Mother,

I have just returned from Society meeting and can add but a word for I have not looked at my lessons for to-morrow. We are all very busy as Abbie writes. Edward is doing finely. Abbie gets pretty tired from her work. It troubles me some, for I fear she does not enjoy life as much as

she ought. I wish to see her happy and not worked almost to death. I shall do all I can and when our family is smaller, shall insist on her doing less housework, I think we have got along finely so far, as will as I had expected. The money you sent came very opportunely indeed. Am very thankful for your kindness in sending it so soon. It has been quite cold here and was good sleighing yesterday, very unusual at this time. Pardon my writing so little this time. Give my love to all the dear friends with you and accept very much yourself from

Your affect'ate son Almon.

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

My dear Father,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please my dear father accept very much love from

Your aff. daughter

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

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

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

[*Pre-printed:* Home for the Friendless,
911 Wabash Avenue,
Chicago,] Aug 10. 1870.

Dear Sister Caroline

Yours was duly rec'd. Am glad there was no occasion for the "accident tickets." Also glad you found Abby more comfortable. Have no doubt the very thought of your coming tended to make her feel less nervous & more as if she was going to get along well. It must have been pleasant for you to be there thru Commencement week -- & especially to hear Mr. Burr -- I hope you have good news from Daniel & Eddy.

We are getting on in the usual way. Miss Shean left last week Fri. Miss Hovey came the morning before, & takes her place. She releives me entirely at the children's meals. Miss Bowman left on the early A.M. train just after Miss H. came on Thurs. -- I have heard from her twice -- she leaves Middletown to-day for Ver [*Vermont*] -- says she wants to get back here, & "shall be in ample time for the meeting of the Am. B'd [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*]." She visited her sister Mat. who is well as can be expected --

Joel was here last week; also John got back from his northward trip Sat. A.M. two hours before time to join his father on his way to Cambridge -- thus both felt sorry not to see you here -- Had a letter from them this A.M. J. C. likes C. so much better than Bristol, he will stop here a day as he returns to Lake F.

Harriet Butler is visiting me with the rest of her friends in this city -- she is this P.M. at Mr. Gray's to tea -- Mrs. G. & Maria Phelps called to see her here yesterday -- Maria said she was sorry not to see you again. She did not think I cared to see her, because I never called on her &c &c -- She is blind as ever, & very fleshy --

Mrs. B. has just returned from tea -- had a nice time &c -- Geo & Maria bro't her home --

I know you will repine & may be put on crape (<u>white</u>) when I tell you that Augusta has gone to a home; went yesterday -- we miss her -- Agnes, Nellie, & Delia Grave are also gone -- Changes are so continual here -- we have received over 50 this month.

Kate does very well in the bath room -- she cleaned it all over again yesterday -- I have had the hooks for the hats & caps put down in the Bath room; it is more convenient -- also we have moved the old benches into the new School room & the other is painted ready for furnishing --

We have an awning over the front door giving a pleasant affect to the hall, & protecting from the morning sun, & evening dew. I hope for the fountains some day. Edward is in a shop down town, where gold leaf is pounded out: he likes it & is so much happier for having something to do.

Mr. Bell is faithful as ever, is now fixing up a play house for the children & getting the lumber in shape in the yard --

Miss Bowman's brother Henry's wife, sent 'special love to you -- Miss B. also.

My love to Mr. & Mrs. Shurtleff, to your children & to yourself, from y'r aff sister, Abby --

I hope Abby will not be discouraged, or too apprehensive -- She has a host of sympathizers who are ready to congratulate, at the earliest opportunity -- I shall be glad to hear from you any time & always --

[*written across first page*] None of us have been paid yet, as soon as we are, I will send yours on -- by P.O. order or by D'ft --

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Flemington
<u>New Jersey</u>

Oberlin, Ohio
Aug. 22nd '71

Dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[*written across last page*] Carrie especially, Much love you all

Your aff. son Almon.

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

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[*Stationary*] Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio [*handwriting starts*] Apr. 6th 1875.

My dear aunt,

I have been thinking from day to day ever since I received you last letter that I must not delay answering it, and last night, in order to be sure not to fail in sending out a letter today. I decided to begin writing this morning before any other work should engage my attention. I have something to tell you about, in which I know you will be interested. I attended the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Malthy last evening, and will produce to you some of the features of the occasion which particularly impressed me.

We received our invitation more than a week ago from a Miss Ayers (the Principal of the High School) who resides in the house between the Malth's and Prof. Smith's. She said the neighbors were greatly interested in the coming anniversary and were going to do all they could to make it a success. To relieve the family, who were to have company from abroad, they insisted upon <*preparing*> providing all the refreshments except, I believe, the meat and fruit. Nicer cake and biscuit I am sure I never was made.

The company was received in the two front rooms the double doors being thrown open. There must have been over fifty present. They were all from Forest St. except the relations from abroad Prof. & Mrs. Cowles, Mr. & Mrs. Brand, Mr. S. and myself. We considered ourselves quite honored to be invited.

The rooms were pleasantly adorned with flowers and evergreens. Festoons of evergreen hung from the casings of the double doors and other appropriate places. There was a beautiful pyramid of rare flowers in the recess of the bay window where the bride and groom sat in easy chairs, and there were handsome boquets in baskets and vases in other parts of the room. I think all the green houses and conservatories in town must have been laid under contribution to furnish so many. <*After*>

After refreshments were served Prof. Cowles was called upon for remarks. He naturally dwels somewhat at length upon the great changes which have taken place since he and Jesse Malthy were school boys -- the greatly increased educational advantages and progress of Christian enterprises of every kind. He referred to the upright and excellent character of the large family, thirteen in number, of Mr. Malthy's father, and mentioned the fact that a daughter of an older brother present, was a missionary on heathen ground.

This brother followed with a short speech which I did not distinctly hear, but which had reference to the value of early Christian training. Mr. Shutleff then read from letters of about relations expression regret a not being able to be present, among them one from Lea Collar and his wife. Mr. S. spoke of his visit at Lea C's -- his pleasant impressions of the country and people about Mrs. Malthy's old home &c.

The bridegroom in his characteristic way gave an account of <*the*> his marriage the manner in which he pursued his work of carpentry and joinery in those <*years*> days, his trip to Ohio, his residence in Bristol and since then in Oberlin, Some things which he said were quite funny and amused his hearers very much. In conclusion he thanked the neighbors for their interest and kindness, and thought he should know them better after this. Mr. Bushnell (the father of Mrs. Prof. Smith) made the wittiest speech of the evening in giving reminiscences of the time <*evening*> when he and Mr. Malthy and a few other were managers and proprietors of a Rail Road. They were so generous to passengers that they not only gave free tickets but entertained them on their way. Of course we soon perceived that he was talking of the underground R.R. for transporting fugitive slaves to Canada -- Prof. Ellis made the concluding remarks and a prayer which was full of interest and feeling. I have gone so much into detail because I felt sure you would be interested and I hope that through you Mrs. Collar may hear about it unless she is more particularly informed by some one else. I learned yesterday from Minnie Hill that you are in Flemington and I want to write to Abbie I will communicate what further I have to say to her, expecting that you will also have the benefit of it. Your affectionate niece.

Mary B.S.

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Hallowell Maine

Sept 8th, 1875

My dear Mother,

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

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

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

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Hallowell Maine
Nov. 1875.

My dear Mother,

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

Our rooms are getting to look a little more cheerful than they did I have several plants. some hanging baskets and some dishes of moss and little wild things. I take the whole care of any rooms I have no one in particular to take care of the children when I go out but am going to try to find some one next time though I dont know as I can. It is very hard to find any one to help here. and we dont feel that we can pay a girls whole board for what she would help. I wish we could go to housekeeping but it seems as though Almon ought to be here in the building for the

present. This is a cold dismal land except for a little while in the summer. I dont enjoy the board here very well. We have so little fruit. and things are not always well cooked. but upon the whole I suppose that the board is very good.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hallowell Maine
Feb 18th 1876

My dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

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

Cousin William Burton was here when your last letter was received. he staid with us for several days. He intends to visit in Conn. before he goes west midsummer. I hope that it will be so that you can see him. He is studying in the Institute of Technology in Boston. I hadly know what for, and he seems to be quite undecided what he shall do. He says that Auntie is about the same as usual, has had a very severe attach of lameness this winter, but is better of it now. Mr. Shurtleff was in Ohio not very long since. I dont know anything of his success raising funds.

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

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

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

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 27 1876

Dear Sister

It is a long time since I have written you and now want a little information about the Potato crop in your part of the Country. Wish you would ask Uncle Collar about the price of new potatoes & whether they are ready for market. Here we have no vegetables of any kind on account of the very severe & protracted dry weather.

I went to N York [*New York*] yesterday to buy potatoes, turnips, cabbage tomatoes & squashes, found them of good quality but not very cheap—Our crops will all be very light & corn nothing unless we have rain within a very short time. I had 96 Bu of oats from 4 acres and they only weigh 26 ½ lb per bu. Shall have enough to last my horse through the year. Pasture as brown as a [counter?] and feed meal to cow twice a day.

We never have had such a poor garden in the 27 years that we have kept house.

Our house is pretty full from top to bottom, but we get along pretty comfortably since the weather has become cooler!

The first night we slept in the attic it was like the torrid zone, but now the nights are cool.

Have had no rain to wet the ground for about six weeks and all the showers go either north or south of us.

We were all glad to see Ed but sorry that he could not stay longer. Expect he has told you all about the Centenial. I do not think Mary & J can go before the middle of October.

I think I would almost enjoy a week among the hills of Mass as the Centenial, but expect it would not do not to go when we are so near by and have friends in the City with whom we can stay.

We find our boarders quite as pleasant as we expected and hope we shall be able to please them.

Mr. Vansyokle has a team of horses & driver. They stay at the Hotel in the Village.

They go out riding once every day & sometimes twice.

Last Saturday, I had a holiday & took out Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*]. Mrs. Earl & Miss Bethel in the morning, & Mary & Allie in the evening, it was a pleasant day & we all enjoyed it.

Had a letter from [M …] forepart of the week she was well happy & doing pretty well with her studies. Has been examined in French and was complimented by the teacher upon her proficiency in the Language. Sam has had a felon on his left hand doing nothing for more than a week, so that I had the milking to do & water to draw from the well in the field for five cows. Our well at the barn has been dry for about 10 days. Sam has gone to work again today – How did you all stand the extreme heat? And are you through your haying? We shall have wheat enough off of our little farm to give us bread for the year to come.

Nothing in the way of news about town. Dinner is nearly ready so will turn myself to sharpening the carving knife cutting this letter short.

With love to all I am yours truly,

William Hill

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[*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]

2

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 heavy 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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Hathorne House
Cushing Me [*Maine*] Aug 27th

Dear Mother

The day after tomorrow we expect to leave here for Hallowell [*Maine*] again. School commences on Tuesday the 4th of Sept. I received the package and letter that you sent, and also the postal on Saturday. Thank you very much. I am glad if Aunt Mary was at all benefited by her journey and hope that she will continue to improve. I am very sorry for Uncle John. I wish that he could sell his property well and get out of his troubles.

We are all well, the children have enjoyed their stay here very much. I am afraid they will be homesick when they go back to H.

Almon [*Almon Burr*] has gained ten pounds and says he feels all ready for work again. I weigh 155 lbs. and have not been troubled one bit by neuralgia or rheumatism since I have been here. Edward [*Edward Grant*] did not come, had gone to work again I suppose. We were very sorry for I know that he would have enjoyed it very much and we should have been so glad of a visit with him. They just said that they were going to town so I am hurrying to write this. I am so thankful for this pleasant summer.

<*Over*> We have paid off three hundred dollars this year, the hundred that we borrowed to go to Phila. [*Philadelphia*] and the hundred that we owed Alia with the int. which was $21.00 and one hundred that we owe Mother B. I hope that you are all usually well with much love to all.

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

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Return Hallowell addressed to:
Mrs. Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass. . [*Massachusetts*]
Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
Dec 1st 1876

Dear Mother,

For the last five or six days I have been in a very great rush. Our fall term closed last Monday night and then I was obliged to start the next morning to find a new teacher. Did not get back until right before dark, and I was completely tired out. Yesterday I gave up to rest. We had a very pleasant time here in the house. Felt much more at home than we did last year. Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] and the children have been very well all the fall. My health has also been very good.

I was not in haste to write about Mr. [Marsland?] for I know but little about him. He was in my classes for some time in the [P….] Department Oberlin Coll. He was then a young man of very good ability, active, energetic, and very pleasant in manner. What the last few years have done for him, I know not, but if he has worked hard since I knew him in O. I should think he might be considerable of a man. He was then a very earnest young man. If he has improved as he ought I should prefer him to Mr. H_____. But, remember, I cannot tell much about <*it*>Mr. [Marsland] because I do not know what he is <u>now</u>.

I did not write to Uncle Erastus because <*th*> Mr. Page the man, to whom I should go for money here was away at the Centennial at the time. He was expected back in a day or two, and so I waited before writing to Uncle Erastus, but Mr. Page did not come as expected but was coming soon. Thus it went on for about ten days and then from your letter I judged that there would be no use it was so late. Nor did I have much hope of getting money at that rate for one so far away. I have no property upon which to give security. Nor would I give it <*under*>, if I had. A man of my profession has no business to undersign for any one. I think I will send a line to Uncle Erastus explaining the circumstances of the delay.

Please give my regards to uncle Collar and Aunt Emeline.

Your loving son Almon [*Almon Burr*]

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

9 Dwight St <*Clayton*>.
New Haven Conn <*Mass*>.
<*Collar*?>

[*Note on envelope:*]
Apr. 1878
Speaks of debt
of their School &c.

Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
Apr. 9th 1878.

My dear Mother,

I am surprised that you did not receive the papers. I sent them at the same time that I sent the letter. They must have been lost. If you wish to send for another *Congregationalist* of that date, I will pay for it – if you will let me know how much. Harold does not wear pants yet, and am not sure whether he will for another year. He wears kilt-skirts with breton jackets now.

Almon [*Almon Burr*] has endured pretty well until now. But he is getting pretty well worn out now, and sees no time for rest. The extra labor and anxiety<*y*> on account of the financial condition of things wears upon him much. You are not very much behind others in learning of it. I have only just begun to tell any one. Edward was the first one to whom I said any thing about it, and I only told father Burr's people in my last letter. I hardly think that the school will be allowed to die, but we cannot tell yet. We have a good number of students and the school stands in the front [yard?]. But no</> school of this grade can be kept<*p*> up on tuition fees, and at the same time carry a debt of $20,000 or more. It seems that the school began burdened with a heavy debt, which has been increasing by the interest & other means. But I would try to explain it to you in this letter. Almon has been writing a circular which the Graduates have signed, as soon as it is printed I will send you a copy. I <u>will</u> also send some "Christian Mirrors<...>" in which are some articles by Graduates & friends of the school. The *Christian Mirror* is the state paper of the Congregationalists "edited by the <*Mr*> Dr. Warren who was a class mate of Uncle [Burrs?]. One article by Dr. [Glasston?] I do not find, but he is to write another, and I will try to send that. [Flag?] money may not be raised, or they may reduce Salarys or teaching force so that we shall not wish to stay. We have no idea yet how things will turn out.

Rev. Mr. Parsons is not coming here, it was to our church that he was called, but it seemed best for him to withdraw.

I had a letter from Mary Shurtleff not long since. She reported herself as much better this year than she was last, says that Mr Shurtleff has gone to New York on the financial agency again. She said that Auntie was with Lavinia found, and that Lavinia would not let her [do?] any work about the house, [since?] so she says "Mother had become a great letter writer" I am glad that Auntie is having some rest. She speaks of William as being in California with the intention of the china [...]

I am glad that Uncle John is unfavorably. With much love to you all

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

[*Faded writing along margins*]

I know nothing about [Christmas...,] children going Ct [...] daughter Betsy is [...] Sister & [...] so <...> [next to nothing?] to him about it, because I think he now wishes he had said that he in [...] much of a [...] [*end of faded writing on salutation side of letter*]
I will send this [...] all [...]. I would like this letter returned sometime. This [...]. Send Congregationalist containing [...] and [...] with [...] both [...] and the missing [of Congregationalists?] Herald who [...] holy [...] just [...] about [...] she stayed [...] but I will send [...] those [Christmas?...] please let me know. [*end of faded writing on other side of letter*]

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

(Care [Dr. Collar?)
[*Note on envelope*:] May '78
Speaks of my Photograph of her using Lemons to aid digestion – of using Sulphur for sore throat of Nettie Burr's illness – of birth of Austin's second child – cautions me not to overdo it.

Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
May 21st 1878

My dear Mother,

Your letter with leaflets enclosed, was received to-night. Thank you. I shall read them as soon as I have opportunity. The photographs came a few days ago. I think them very fine, especially the one with the light background I think the expression is more perfect than the other, but I like them both and would be glad to keep them both if I may. If you have not promised or bestowed them all, I wish that you would send one to Mary Shurtleff.

I am not feeling very well to-day, but I attribute it to the damp weather. My health as seemed very good for the past few weeks. I think that I have used lemons with benefit, for some time I took one every morning before breakfast, now I take them only occasionally as I seem to need them, they seem to aid digestion and help fight away langor. My rheumatism is not as troublesome in my foot as usual, it is distributed about more. The fingers of my right hand and my shoulders have been taking their turn.

Nettie Burr has been quite sick with some lung trouble. I have not understood from their letters exactly what it was. The doctor considered her in serious danger for a time, indeed I do not know that she is out of danger now, but they called her better when they last wrote.

I dont remember whether I have mentioned to you that Austin Burr had a little son born on St Vallentines day.

The diphtheria has been quite prevalent here this Winter and Spring, especially so this Spring, and with fatal results in many cases. I keep sulphur on hand. Harold had been having a sore throat and I gave him the sulphur freely. I knew it wouldn't hurt him if it was only a common sore throat, and it might prevent something worse, he is now nearly well.

Carries [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] Whooping cough<*t*> left her weaker than usual this spring, but I can see that she is gaining strength every day.

We do not yet know how affairs of the school are going to turn out, but of one thin<l>g we are sure. If the school keeps another year we shall be rid of Miss Lincoln, for she has got beyond endurance. And steps have been taken to have her leave at the end of the year.

I should like to be able to invite the Townsends here, but dont see how I can. They would not be treated with common decency by Miss L, and I would rather not invite any of my friends until there is a change. I am glad that you went to hear Moody. But I feel concerned about you. I do wish that you would give up working so hard there. I wish that Aunt [Emmeline?] would get a woman to do the hard work, and that you would do the overseeing and some light work, of course you wouldn't receive the same amount of money that you do now, but hasn't the great necessity passed? or you could have her get a good capable woman, and you just look after things and help take care of Aunt, and you have your house there, and be at liberty to go and come when you pleased. I thank Aunt Mary very much for her kind thought of inviting us there, but if the school continues I think very likely that we shall go to the same place that we went last Summer.

It did Almon [*Almon Burr*] so much good, he is living on the strength that he gained last summer yet. Whom is Mary Burr to marry?
I am sorry for Uncle John.

With much love to you all.

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

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

[*Note on envelope:*] Dec. '78

Speaks of qualifications for a teacher – of Almon taking Thanksgiving dinner with Edw. Miss Rice goes to Germany

[*Note at top of letter:*] from Abigail E. Grant Burr
Hallowell Me [*Maine*]
Dec 4th 1878

My dear Mother,

It is some time since I wrote you. Things have been going all kinds of ways. We are still to remain here, but do not know for how long. Rev Mr. Gay of Bangor is canvassing for the school now, has not been able to get money yet, but has awakened some interest among people. Miss Rice who has been with us so long sailed for Germany last week. It was very hard for us to lose her. Almon [*Almon Burr*] has been hunting for a teacher to take her place, has been gone nearly a week, and has engaged one now whom he has not seen. It is very hard to find one with the proper scholarly attainments, and the needful characteristics, for she must be able to teach well Greek, Latin & German and be a<*n*> wise and aggressive Christian woman.

We did not go to Oberlin Matters were too uncertain here.

Almon took his Thanksgiving dinner with Edward. Ed's [Engineer?] invited him. I thought it very pleasant of him, and pleasant of him that he had invited Edward too.

The Old South Church in this place burned to the ground Sunday morning between the hours of three and six, it was the one which we attend. It will throw a great burden upon this feeble society. But we have now a most excellent pastor Rev. C. T. White recently from Palmer Mass.

I am much better in health than when I last wrote, and hope that I shall be well through the winter.

I was glad to hear so much about Aunt Mary's people. Thank her very much, for her kind offer with regard to us. Our fall has been reasonably mild. We are having a little snow tonight, but it is melting as fast as it comes. The wind is whistling though, as though it might turn colder soon.

The children are well and I think that Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] will write you in a few weeks.

With much love to all

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

It does not seem to me advisable for father to make any plans about coming to Uncle [Collars] to live, <*he would be*> [*several words erased*]

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

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

[*Note at top of letter:*] from Abigail G. Burr
Oberlin Ohio
Thurs eve. Apr 3rd 1879.

My dear mother,

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

seemed pretty well, though I think Mrs. M. is not very strong. I have forgotten just what they did say about themselves. Mr. M. I did not see.

Friday just before noon Harold was taken suddenly ill, headache and vomiting. we thought at first that it was a sick headache, but as the afternoon progressed and he continued to vomit and a high fever came on, we feared scarlet fever, we sent for the Doctor, he didnt seem decided what it was. Saturday he thought it bilious fever, but Sunday he began to break out and show other decided symptoms of scarlet fever. We were over him day and night until Monday night when he seemed a little more comfortable Almon took care of him alone that night as I was about worn out I had a very bad cold too. We had all expected to leave for Hallowell on Monday, but of course could not. Almon stayed over one day longer, and will be one day late at the opening of the term. We thought it best for Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*]
to go with him, if she is sick will have to have a nurse, there seemed no way to take care of her here. I have my hands full with Harriet. [Utica?] is no place for her to be sick, and no one in the family to take care of [him?] Celia teaches all day long and is not able to do any thing here. Nettie is an invalid Mother is not well, and if she were is so very deaf as to be useless in taking care of a very sick person, and there is no room in the house for a nurse. I hope the dear little thing will get along all right.
Friday morn. Harold had not had much fever for the last two or three days, but is very weak, and does not seem to gain much, his spine seems some affected, could not sleep last night because of pain in the back of his neck, he does not sit up any yet ex. to be held in my arms for a few minutes, or be propped up by pillows while he eats. Of course he is very fretful and wants me to be with him constantly. I have been having a very bad cold which with the care of Halley has made me about sick, but I am much better now, and I sleep the larger part of the night. The Shurtleffs are in their usual health, little Mary is a very lovely child. Mr Shurtleff is going away on a financial trip again soon We were invited down there last Saturday eve to meet Theodore, and some other friends. Theodore was not able to come, for what reason I do not know. I received a card from Almon today. They had reached Boston in safety. I hope that I shall hear tomorrow, that they are safe in H. Minnie Hill seems well, she appears well. Almon has a fine account of her from Mrs. Jonston. Mrs. [Joth...?] & she will make a fine teacher. I can spend more time now.

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

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

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

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

My dear Mother,

Your letter enclosing one from Minnie Hill was received a few days ago. I will send the shoes as soon as I go back to the house, at present I am in exile, for Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] three days after I returned home had a mild attack of Scarletina, and the matron was so frightened that she kept some of the rest all the time stirred up. So Carrie Harry and I left the house and are not at this present state permitted to enter it. The doctor makes a good deal of fun of them, he says that if any of them were going to take it of Carrie, they got it during the day or two that she was feverish, for she had not rash enough to be likely to give it from her skin. When she was taken her throat presented every appearance of diphtheria, and the peculiar appearance which scarlet fever exhibits did not occur for several days. Carrie has had three or four very sick days with inflammation of the bowels, which the doctor says has no connection with the fever but he thinks was engendered by the condition of her stomach previous to her sickness, indeed he

says that she would not have had the fever at all, had it not been for this state of her stomach. We are pretty well posted about diphtheria, as we have a great deal of it here, there is hardly a time in the year when there not some cases in town. Nettie is expected to be an invalid for some time, her disease is considered to be a serious one, which time and rest may overcome, but their physician says it may be several years. Celia has kept in school all the time, is now getting a little better. She writes me Willard is in Boston studying music, he expects to go to Germany in the latter part of the summer, his whole heart and soul is bound up in music.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

We begin with new teachers entire next year. Carrie & Harry have just begun lessons again and I think Carrie will be able to write you a letter before long, as she seems to learn very well. You spoke sometime ago of Uncle Erastus' going to leave his pleasant house and take

another elsewhere, that Ralph was to be married &c. I would like to hear more about them. I shall be sorry enough to have Uncle Erastus' people have there. How are the Bentons now? and Jennie and her husband and children?

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

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

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[*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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Flemington N.J. [*New Jersey*]
Jan. 21st 1881

Dear Auntie

I have been sitting here for five minutes trying to think of some way to commence this letter so at last I grew desperate and put down anything. I thank you very very much for the money. It will be a great help if I go back to Hallowell [*Maine*] and I hope I will improve my opportunities and <u>learn</u> something to pay up for all that has been spent on me. I am afraid that I never will know enough to teach but perhaps shall if I try hard enough. It has been storming and blowing very hard all day The trees are all covered with ice and some of the branches are bent down to the ground. They look very beautiful. Lizzie Anderson has been very sick with billious fever but is better now so that she sits up a little while each day. I went in to see her yesterday afternoon. She looks very sick and her hand & arms are so thin and white.

The girls are up in Sophie's room talking away for dear life. Sophie has been here for some time and we shall miss her when she goes away. Allie expects to go with her when she goes home to Phila. [*Philadelphia*]

I expect that Mamma has told you everything that I am telling so it will be rather stale.

It was so slippery and story that I did not go to school this morning. I go for an hour from eleven to twelve every morning. Am taking Cicero & Algegra. I don't like Mr Bahler's teaching very much it is not nearly as thorough as at Hallowell. Don't think I will take more than this term. I wonder if you have heard about my Christmas presents. Papa gave me two dollars and Mama gave me one. Then I had a glove box and some candy and when Allie does to the city she is going to get me two picture to put in some frames that we have. Miss Gast gave me two pretty collars and <*some*> a set of Chinese tangrams made of carved sandal wood. They are beautiful little things. Aunt Hetty gave each of us girls two nice towels and Lizzie gave me a white tie. Think I fared very well don't you? I had such a nice little letter from Carrie Burr [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] several weeks ago. She writes very plainly for such a little girl. I expect to write to Cousin Abbie as soon as I finish this. O I forgot one Christmas present. Uncle Tom Hill sent me an oil painting. one that he painted himself. We went for a walk one morning over to Cape Elizabeth and he made a little sketch of the C. E. lighthouse

[*written across first page*] which we could see was across the water and <u>was'nt</u> I surprised when he sent me the painting from that sketch. Give my love to Ed. I have been all over the house hunting for Mama to see if she has any message to send to you but I can't find her. Give my love to Aunt Emeline and keep a great deal for yourself from your aff. niece

Carrie R. Hill

[*written upside down across top of last page*] Abbie is not going to Phila. because the smallpox is so bad there.

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2219. Wabash Av. Chicago. Ill

Apr. 3rd 1881.

Dear Sister C,

I was most glad to hear from you, a few days since. It is a great blessing that your health continues. Your cares must be great. It is wonderful that your Aunt lives, eating so little & suffering so much # !

[*Written across side of first page in different handwriting*: # I did not write that Aunt suffered <u>now</u>, but she knows she <u>did</u> suffer with rheumatism & suppose she thought she did still. C.]

I am glad your kind care can be for her comfort. I do not know of any one who would do as much as you have done, & do, for aged feebleness, & helplessness -- God will bless you for it in the end, if you do not see it day by day -- I think of you very often, & know how full of care you are --

It is good news from Abby that you write! how little we hear of revival now, & yet the way of salvation is just the same, by repentance & faith in Jesus Christ.

We noticed the 23d of M'ch & spoke of Edward's new happiness, & gave him our best hopes, & warmest congratulations -- you did not say where they were to live, or what E. was doing.

I have hoped dear brother Daniel w'd come home some time, & still hope so, but who can tell what a day may bring forth! His life may be longer for the rough way of living, or may not. he evidently enjoys it -- & has large

[*Written in gutter between second and third pages in different handwriting*:] You may return this -- Abby has an Ovarian Tumor -- has been tapped twice -- is not expected she can ever <*recover*> be well again.

hope -- Am glad to hear so well of Willy at Marcu's & of them all. I did not know where Gertie [*Sarah Gertrude Day Grant*] was, or if she was doing any thing Am glad, for she will be so much happier for it, & can help Willy. neither she, or M. have written me in many, many months.

I have had bad health for a long time, & our Board in March voted me a leave of absence for three months! so I am with John & Susan, in their small but comfortable place, just before 22d St -- almost in sight of the "Home," & hear from it every day, & oftener. All is well there, & work is plenty -- Miss Bowman "holds the fort" --

John & partner, a Mr. Schubrujn, a Swiss scholar, have a very successful school of 80. pupils, & are encouraged -- J. & Susan enjoy their housekeeping vry much -- & I am so thankful to have this house to come to. It is quiet, & every thing done for my comfort -- I bro't a girl to take care of me, for I need a good deal of waiting on, & have little strength -- Have been here since March 10th am going to try with J'C's help to go down stairs to dinner this P.M. at 5 -- It will tire me but may not be worse for me -- have not been down since I came up --

[*Written across last page*] Love to your sister M. & family.

[*Written across first page*] Am always glad to hear from you. Our love to yourself, Daniel, & your children & grand children. Remember me most kindly to your Aunt C [*E*?]. I hope she may be better & more than all that her hopes for eternity may be bright.

Very af'ly y'r sister,

Abby. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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Flemington, N.J. [*New Jersey*]
Feb 7, 1882

My dear sister,

I hope that Uncle is again on the mend. It is hard to endure so much weakness & suffering -- But I believe that he endures patiently knowing it to be his Heavenly Father's will.

How pleasant for him that his sister can be so much there.

How is Jane? This Malarial Fever cannot be a very pleasant acquaintance. He is so <u>loath</u> to leave & so ready always to return.

I feel sorry that Lucy gains so slowly -- but how thankful should we be that the baby is healthy!

We think there would be no impropriety in saying that you do not care to have Caroline an appendage to this baby's name -- that you would rather it should be reserved for the next -- Though of course you would be willing for them to do as they please about naming the next for you.

I <u>did</u> receive Jan. No. *Miss. Herald* [*Missionary Herald*] from Boston. How good of you to send it. I enjoy it & saw Mary reading quite a while in it on Sundays. The Feb. No. has also come.

You will see that coz. Mary wished this letter sent to you -- but I do not wish you to <u>burn</u> it as she said -- but return it to <u>me</u> sometime. You will see her address at the head of her letter.

I think the Ther. has not been below zero this winter -- if so it was only for a day.

A great deal of snow fell last Saturday. It piled in drifts & much shoveling was necessary all around the house.

Sophie came Sat. Jan 28 (week before last) & staid until last Thurs. She & the girls were invited to aunt Kates Tuesday P.M. William & I were invited to Mr. P.J. Nevins' Before noon it commenced snowing & the storm increased so in fury that Mr. Anderson sent for the girls in sleigh -- So did Mr. Nevins send for William & self Dr. Mott Mr. Bullock Mr. Connet with their wives were there & we had a very pleasant evening -- we all came home as we went.

Sophie made & sent Aletta for Birthday present a suit of underclothes -- night gown chemise & drawers -- The muslin trimming & making would have cost <u>us</u> seven dollars at least.

Dont know when Aletta will be married -- possibly in the early summer -- perhaps not till fall.

This is the second week of a two week's vacation in school on account of scarlet fever -- So Mary & Carrie are at work on Aletta's underclothes & Mary Dunn is to help 2 days & they hope

to get the most difficult part & quite a share of them -- done. Aunt Helly has made 2 pr. drawers -- but they do not offer to do any more -- though they know it would be a help of course.

There is no Spring vacation & will be none until school closes -- the last of June. There never is but one vacation (in this school, beside the long one) & that is "Holiday week" Mary judges from the way the Aunties talk that they think that she & Aletta might sew after they come from school & office -- but they cannot -- Mary has to look over lessons for next day & they are too tired to do very much & she told them so. I feel sorry for you to have so large a family & so much care.

You write when you are very sleepy. I can tell by the way your pen made zig zag marks when you dozed.

Love to uncle & all friends

Your aff sister

Mary B. Hill

Will write two W. Burton about Uncle Collar -- Had though of doing so before. Their address is Catskill Greene Co. New York Box 282. If coz Mary's letter will make the postage 9 cts. it is to be left till another time soon or after hearing from you again.

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Office
Aug. 6 -- 83.

Dear Aunt --

Carrie told me the very first of last week to send back the letters you wished returned and I am sorry that I forgot to hunt them up I would think of them when here and forget them when at home

I reached home two weeks ago Saturday after an absence of nearly four weeks Spent one week in Oberlin and enjoyed every moment of the time in spite of the intensely hot weather. (In your letter you asked them to send you some of mine written while away the truth is I wrote but <u>one</u> <u>short</u> letter Postals kept the family informed of my whereabouts and that was all I could afford to do) I met many old friends attended class meetings Called at Mrs. Shurteff twice and should have gone there to tea but there was no time. Called on Mrs. Malthy She seemed much as she did four years ago Both she and the daughter inquire particularly after you They did not seem to know how Uncle Collen left his property, and I did not know either as much as I should have

Tues. P.M.

Had so many interruptions yesterday was obliged to put the letter aside until today. Mother told about Uncle's will and I have written to Mrs. Malthy so her mind is at rest.

While in O. of course went several times to Mr. Burr's. The family seem just as they used to Celin not very well. Has not been teaching all of the last year. Nettie is better than she has been but still not strong at all Thought I should not see Almon [*Almon Burr*] at all He was continually going like every one else but I did see him for a little while and he showed me some inventions has made for keeping circulars and [seraps?] of paper essays etc. in order. I advised him to patent and <*hope*> as he had the same advice before hope he will do so

The baby was not yet named A. looks thin but counts on the sea shore to [...] in <*three*> a few weeks what ravages the <u>year's</u> work has made

I did not call on Mrs. Johnston much as I wished to because there was so much excitement and it was feared that it would be too much for her I saw her however for a few minutes at Chapel Prayers one Eve. also at Prayer meeting I attended at great many exercises Heard Ex Pres. Hayes, Lucy Stone Blackwell and many others called at Pres. Fairchild's twice and was cordially received both times. Austin Burr was home but not his wife.

I Called in a house right next the one where Abbie kept house on [Wes?] Lorain St. the same St. on which Mr. Burr lives

I spent one night in Cleveland with Miss Betts before I went to Oberlin I went to Painesville with Helen Pepoon and was there ten days Mary Richards a classmate was also there we had a very pleasant time the weather changed and was cool and comfortable we were invited

out four evenings in succession went down to the Lake went on a picnic to Chardon Ohio where I picked water lilies for the first time in my life Then Helen and I went to Austinburgh for four days visiting Frank Rydor and Mrs. McClelland whose husband is the minister there, So you see I went a great deal saw and enjoyed much Came home by way of Philadelphia and saw Sophie for a few hours

Am glad that I went and feel all the more like work because I have been Am trying to keep the money order accounts so that Father may have his vacation in October We have a young girl now and a woman comes to help with working and last week and this has helped iron also. Mother walked to church Sunday the first for a long time The new church almost finished Chalmers has been sick for several days Has not eaten high fever but is more comfortable today and will be up in a few days the Doctor thinks

Other members of the family well as usual By Dr. Parrish's request I took his [little mind?] down to Coney Island on day last week Nora enjoyed it very much and I enjoyed the trip down New York way but did not enjoy Coney Island

Possibly you may not be able to make this out very well as I have been obliged to write in a hurry

If Uncle Daniel came on this Fall I suppose you will go to house keeping. It is too bad that with his other misfortunes Uncle must have Bright's disease However he may live comfortably [...] time we had corn from our own garden today also tomatoes Have made our own butter since the Aldervery came in

Uncle William as usual He took mother riding Sunday Father to Sunday before and for a wonder [Diggier?] wrote Carrie last week

Work to do must close give my love to Mr. and Mrs. Pinney I remember with much pleasure my visits at their house

Affectionately William H.

Love to Uncle E. Mary Ralph and his wife and Ed to Lucy when you see them Me.

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

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

Auntie Burton is with Philander in Grinell is better in mind than she used to be, but is very feeble in body. Philander is doing well and living comfortably. William is in California has a wife and a little one. Edward still in Lincoln Ills. Theodore Sawyer in Cleveland, quite successful. Mary says that there is now an effort being made to have a life of Aunt Banista published a Miss Guilford who was a graduate of Mt. Holyoke Seminary [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] who has been for 30 years a teacher in Cleveland O. has undertaken it. She travelled around with Aunt was greatly interested in her and was one of her dear friends. Aunt spent several weeks with Miss Guilford when she was in Ohio in 1857. Miss G. has been troubled that no life of Aunt B [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has ever been written and at first wrote some reminiscences of her for her own pleasure. After awhile the idea of writing a life grew upon her, and She has been

consulting with Friends of Aunt B upon the matter Mary says that she came to Oberlin and read some of the introductory chapters to her. that they were very interesting, and that Miss Guilford is a lady in every way qualified to undertake such a task. Miss G. does the writing as a labor of love, but she has not the means to publish it unless she can sell enough books to clear herself. She has consulted with publishers and finds that she will have a pay five hundred dollars to have an edition of 400 volumes that is the least she can do. which would bring the books at $1.25 apiece. Mary is very anxious that the relations should come forward and subscribe for as many as they can so that Miss G. shall feel that she can go forward with the work. I believe that [Many?] hope that as many as 200 may be subscribed for among friends and relatives. Mary is going to write to Uncle Marcus about it, but we thought perhaps you would be more likely to remember to mention it to the friends than he and see what could be down in Colebrook.

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

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

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[Pokeipsie?] Dutchess Co. N.Y.

Dec. 23d 1883

Dear Cousin Carrie

12-30. I am just home from morning service & here 3/4 of an hour before dinner. I am determined to begin a letter to you trusting I may be allowed the time to finish it this year. I have had you on my list of correspondents ever since Mr. B. wrote you in the summer or fall. I do not know whether he answered your very agreeable letter in reply to his -- which is lying open before me. I asked him to leave it with me as I wished to write to you. He left us Sep. 17th for the West. He has been in my entire care for so long -- that when the parting came I felt I had nothing more to live for. That my work was done. He left on the 8-15 -- P.M. train. Took a Sleeper to Niagara (I urged him to stop at N. Though he might as well take all in he could as the [outlay?] was large to begin with) For days after he left I was miserable. It did seem as if I could not suffer more had death caused the separation. When I heard from him from N. he too was suffering & the stop at Niagara in his distressed state of mind -- was a mistake. He wrote very blue -- & said the roar of the Cataract sounded like a funeral dirgo. He remained a week. Then went to Racine Wisconsin to <*see*> visit an old classmate of William's College Col. [McMynn?] who had been writing for him. There -- to his surprise -- he met another classmate a D.D. & the three had eleven days of real enjoyment together. From there he went to Chicago & visited my relatives. I have three cousins very handsomely situated there -- One on Prairie Ave. and one on Indiana Ave. There also he had a delightful time. The daughter of Cousin Morris Johnston was married a week ago & a full account of the wedding in the C. paper -- I sent it to Mr. B. or would sent it to you. It was an elegant affair. They are all very rich. Are Baltimorians. From there Mr. Burton struck out alone & for [himself?]. And then I trembled. He went to Lincoln Nebraska stayed there some weeks & then went to Seward -- remained there awhile & went to Aurora Hamilton Co. Nebraska. He is there now. I expect him back in about 2 weeks. It will be a sad [Christmas?] without him. The first we have spent apart since we were married 18 years ago. Mr. B. has kept well all the time. Indeed his health has improved It has agreed with him. The weather has been delightful & the climate out there very fine so far all has gone well. He expects to turn his face homeward on the 26th unless my nephew -- Dr. Yarnall of Washington wishes him to attend to some more business out in Iowa for him. He has considerable land out there. Mr. B will return to Chicago. I want him to return by the way of St. Louis & Washington & Flemington. I have only 8 gentlemen cousins in the first named place. And my old home is in W. & his relations he would see at F. He says when he starts for us he doesn't think he can stop any where. I hope & pray he will get back safely. You know we moved here the 25th of last June. We were in our house in Hudson from the Middle of Aug. to the middle of last June. Were indeed very sorry [Jim?] could not visit us. Had I not been taken sick I intended writing for Mr. & Mrs. David Burton to visit us also -- but you know what an unhealthy winter it was & I took cold & was quite delicate for several weeks. I was up & about -- but had to be very careful. It was in some respects a very pleasant sojourn in the dear

old home -- but O.' so sad to me! I could not go into that house where I had been so exquisitely happy -- after so many sad changes -- & take up the thread again & go on. O' No! At every stop I missed the loved ones that had been with me & joined with me in my happiness. My babes had died there. My dear husband broke down & I nursed him 3 years there. I missed him when I went back -- he was so changed. But much better than I ever expected <*him*> at one time he ever would <*so*> be. He wanted to return to that house & live out some of those pleasant days again. I do think he enjoyed every day of it until Spring and then we had an offer for the whole place (home & office) & I urged his selling & leaving H. altogether. Like Mrs. Thomas Carlyle when they left Craigenpultock -- I wished to "burn our ships" and to prevent the possibility of return. If Mr. B had been able to resume business -- I should have contented myself in H. but as it was the place has grown stupid & Mr. B would have gone into the old ruts again. I saw plainly he could not resume the practice of law -- then why stay there? Our choice lay between Albany & this place. We finally decided in favor to the latter. I wished Marie to have every advantage in the way of education. I wished her to go to Vassar College and therefore Pokeipsie is the place to prepare. She is now in Dr. [Height's?] Academy. He says she can be prepared in 2 years but I don't wish any crowding, She can take 3 if necessary to health. She is very well now is a tall fine looking girl -- I considered very bright -- is doing finely in Latin. Takes to languages as a duck does to water -- Not a very elegant comparison I admit. We have a delightful boarding place. Many have called upon me here and I have had invitations to Receptions -- but I care very little for that kind of enjoyment now. I love lectures & Concerts -- We are now enjoying the Lyceum season of 1883 & 1884. They wind up Feb. 15th with a grand concert. The next lecture Jan. 11th will be by Rev. Joseph Cook of Boston Subject "God in Natural Law..." we are to have Gough once more. I do not rave over him. P. is a lovely place. It is so much nearer to N.Y. which is an advantage. We do talk of furnishing rooms & going with "light housekeeping take our breakfast as our home" & our dinners out. If so we will be glad to have you visit us. I am sorry you did not come to us in H.

Monday 2-30. Our dear daughter is busy arranging her [Christmas?] Cards. We Miss dear papa so much. I have just heard from him will be so glad to get him back. It seems impossible that he is so far away from me. My dear church will fill up the vacuum. Service at seven a.m. than the carols at 9a.m. Then full service at quarter to eleven when we are sad & lonely at the loss of our dear ones. What a comfort to be able to attend such delightful services in our Mother Church. There is every thing here to make it a pleasant [Christmas?] but his absence. I hope dear Cousin Carrie we will some day -- not far distant meet & enjoy some long long talks. You dont know how I miss Aunt Collar. To feel she & Uncle C. are both gone! They will spend their [Christmas?] in realms above. Where is your home now? Has Mr. Grant gone East as you thought he would & as he [...] in his letter to Mr. B? I shall try & write soon to Flemington. How are they all in N. Haven? Has Mrs. Braley any child or children? Not much happiness in this world without then. I would rather have 2 dozen than none at all. I had six. Had Mr. B. kept his health I suppose I should have had 6 or 8 more. As he lost his health & his business it was a blessing to the dear children that they were taken from him the troubles of this world. I do not believe in having many children unless you can do well for them. I do not believe in raising up paupers. Have as many as you can do a good part by & no more. ------

Dec 25th 3-15 --

Marie is [...] by & sends love. She has been enjoying her [Christmas?]. He have been to church Have had an elegant dinner. Heard from my dear husband & he is well. We have much to be thankful for. Mr. has me wish you a very happy New Year I should love to hear from you.

Your affectionate cousin
Mary H Benton

104. Montgomery [So-.?] Pokeipsie

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

N. J.

Andover Mass.
May 7th. 84.
Dear Grandma

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Bolton Aug. 5, .91 Wed. A.M.

My very Dear Niece, I have been thinking for a long time I would write you (as I want to hear from you so much) but some how the time has slipped along & I did not get to it. This morning before I got out of bed I determined if possible to write you <u>today</u>. Soon as my breakfast work was over I began to look for your last letter to me but failed to find one with a date later than last Feb, remembering my 80th birth day. I remember answering that but was under the impression that I had received another from you since, but I guess I have not as I don't find one, so if I do not owe you a letter I will write & remind you that you are owing me one, & I hope you will be able to respond promptly. I know you have many letters to write & much very much to occupy your time & thoughts so you are excusable. I do want to hear from you & yours.

There has nothing transpired out of the usual course in our family since my last writing. We have all been in usual health. Bessie has to be very careful about her food & suffers some from indigestion but with care is able to keep quite comfortable & can do a good deal. Sue & Mollie are still studying <*typography*> Stenography & I have practiced type writing two months. It

is quite an undertaking to learn it. It remains to be seen whether it will be of advantage to them pecuniarily. "Hope keeps the heart whole." Great many are learning the same thing as in every industry.

Sam is still where he has been. In his two weeks vacation which commeced about the 1st of July he has spent part of his time in travelling & selling paper on commission & made about $100. but cleared deducting expenses between $60 & 70. & had 3 or four days at home to rest & visit.

We dont any of us go off on vacation this season, but Mary & the girls have been to Boston twice since I last wrote you I think & they expect to again soon. They usually stay one or two nights & that makes a little change for them. I will not write lengthy now Hoping to hear from you soon & about all your family & friends.

I receved & nice little letter from Abbie the last of June with a letter from Warren's wife dated in Jan. which you had requested her to send me & she had forgotten to send it before.

Affectionately, S. J. Wallis

[*written across first page*] In looking over my letters I found on an envelope "This letter to be returned I had overlooked it. I know you will forgive my remisness. & send on more letters. I want to hear about Flemington friends & about Abbies daughter, she said nothing about her in her short letter to me & about Edward & family & Erastus & all of you. I often think of you & wonder how it is with yourself & husband in so feeble health

My health is very good. I feel age creeping on fast enough. I am able to do my own work mostly & sew a good deal & make button holes yet.

Mary sends love.

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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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[*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.

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

[*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*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Southfield
Berkshire Co.
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*

[*Note on envelope*] from Abigail E. Grant Burr
Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*
May 29th 1892

My dear Mother,

We were so glad to get a letter from you again It was such a very long time since we had heard, & were glad of all the particulars that you gave, for I have wondered so much how things were going with you & Edward. Will attend to matters of which you spoke, [spoon?], bible &c. I know I shall be glad to have some of the things of which you spoke, [bidding?] &c. Mr. Burr is sick to-day but is keeping quiet, & hopes to be around tomorrow. The children are all as usual, are at church this morning. This is a most beautiful day.

Tuesday we.

Mrs. Emerson came down yesterday to return all her furniture from the house. She could not have come at a more inconvenient time for me, as we are expecting company this week –

Almons classmate – Florence Kellogg & her husband. And the Academy reception comes in two weeks. Commencement company &c. It looks like absolute meanness, because she knows that [theres?] no time to replace things now.
You ask why we cannot pay more rent? Because we cannot afford what she asks. We now pay $20.00 a month & she reserves some rooms We do not feel that we can afford more than $25.00 a month. We have offered that but they want $40.00 a month so that we cannot pay Neither is the house worth it. Every one says that they cannot get it. About Mr. Emerson, no one knows what he thinks she wont let him peep & manages everything herself. I presume if they put the place in decent repair that we would pay $29.00 <*or*> - $35.00 pr year rather than more, but I think from the way Mrs. E. talks that they, would rather let the house be vacant. <*than wait*>
Your second letter enclosing check to be signed came yesterday, have signed as you see & will try not to forget to put it in.
Was glad to see Mary Shurtleffs letter it told me quite a bit of news, as you surmised different from what the girls write.
Adelie Emerson is still here though visiting elsewhere for a few <...> days, will be back with us the last of the week. I think she is improving quite fast now. It has been our intention to have you come back with me when I come home from my visit, & we hope that nothing will happen to prevent it. We expect to have room for you whenever we have to move. I would like to stay here for your sake if we could have the whole house, but as it is now, we could have no room here, for Mrs E will not let me have the large front rooms upstairs, unless we pay $40.00 a month, so we have to move. We feel very much that we must have you with us this winter. The children want it as well as we older ones. About our coming, we shall not all come as we at first planned. I think that plan was given up when Father died. I doubt if Almon comes, & which of the children or whether either I dont yet know.
When would you prefer to have me come? As soon as I can after Commencement? or later? I dont yet know when I <u>can</u> come, but will try to come at at your convenience if possible.
Do not worry about your dresses. We can get dresses [after?] at the house here & it will be much easier to attend to your wardrobe than there.

I was glad to hear a few words about the children, in whom I am always interested.
Arthur & I are looking forward to much pleasure in driving there by & by.
With love to you all

Your aff daughter
Abby

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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 <u>all students</u> in <u>College, Preparatory Deprtm't ,</u> & those in <u>Classical Course</u> in <u>Theological Seminary</u>. 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. <CHICAGO>

[*Printed return address*] THE HARVARD SCHOOL
2101 Indiana Ave., Cor. 21st Street
CHICAGO, Ill.

[*Printed letterhead except for date*]
The Harvard School
2101 Indiana Ave. Cor. 21st Street
John J. Schobinger,
John C. Grant
Principals.

Chicago, June 28, *18*90

My dear Aunt Caroline:

Your long and interesting letter of some time ago gave me a great deal of pleasure, because it was proof that I had not entirely escaped your mind; it was also a source of deep regret to know of Cousin Edward's poor health.

I trust that long before this things have changed in that respect and that he is enjoying all the blessings that there are.

I often think of you and Uncle Daniel snugly settled on your farm – a rather small one I believe, but probably large enough. It has been my hope to get to see you when in Mill Brook, but each time there have been obstacles which made it impossible. At some future time I may be more fortunate.

Long as Mr. Burr & Abby have been in Beloit I have not seen them, but yesterday I wrote them to come and spend a few days in idleness with me here. I hope for a favorable reply in a day or two. I have heard from others that Abby is not very strong. The school is prospering under Mr. Burrs management.

Remember me affectionately to Uncle Daniel and Edward.

Most sincerely

John C. Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant

[*Printed letterhead except for date*] OBERLIN COLLEGE.
G. W. SHURTLEFF, Secretary and Treasurer.
Oberlin, O., July 7th. 1890

Dear Auntie

Min [*Mary P.B. Hill Wright*] rec. your letter in due season, and as she is very busy has petioned me to answer it for her. We hope to get off the last of this week. Min is working hard trying to get her work in good shape to leave. She could not get it done before, because she could not do it. The different Professors did not hand in the marks of their classes. Some of them will be left till Fall. We are sorry to disappoint you, and ourselves too, but do not feel that we can come around your way this time. You see, I feel that I ought not to be away from home any longer, it will be more than four weeks now, and Min will not have very much time home, as she is obliged to come back a week before College opens, so you see her vacation is cut off at both ends. Then Min wants to have her clothes fixed while home, as Miss Nerius does it better, and more reasonably, than she can have it done here, so I expect it will be this summer, as it was last, she will get ready to come back as soon as she gets home.

I wish it were so that we could come for your sake, and our own, and then the scenery, those beautiful Berk. Hills [*Berkshire Hills*], would be so refreshing after this level. I am enjoying my visit here very much. It is all so entirely new to me, and the rest and change and new ideas that I get are very delightful. I am being very lazy am almost ashamed of it, but then I comfort myself that I will have plenty of chance to make up for it when I get home. The children have all had the hooping cough since I left. In the last letter Father said that Will was better, and Sophie & Mary in the midst of theirs yet. Last Friday we were invited to tea at the Burrs. Had already called there once. The Burrs are going to spend the Summer among the Berkshire Hills at Burrville or between there & *Winsted [Connecticut]* I believe the house is situated which they rent. They hoped to leave today, have not seen them since Fri. so do not know if they were able to get off. While we were there Fri. they rec. a letter Cousin Almon *[Almon Burr].* He expects to come East and visit them in Burrville some time during the Summer, I am disappointed not to have seen him. Wish he would come to Flem. *[Flemington, N.J.]* he will probably be near us. Would like him to see how our trees have grown. The two Shurtleff girls are visiting at Beloit now. We spent, an evening at the Shurtleffs. She invited the teachers from Baldwin & Talcott, Mrs. Johnston was there, also Dr & Mrs Warner.

Will attend to Crissy letter as soon as I get home. Am sorry we overlooked it. Min did her share about it. Says she wrote to us twice to forward it.

[*Note at end of letter*] Please return this letter when convenient

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

About Prof. W.

Sunday P. M.
Aug. 10th. '90

Dear Aunty:

Have been wanting to write you every day since reaching home July 16th but so many things have kept crowding in We were sorry not to go and see you but it did not seem best and now there is a bit of news to tell which will make you want to see me I know just before I left Oberlin I promised Professor Albert Wright that I would resign my position as Asst. Regstr. and take the position he offered me that of a wife in his home He is nine years older than I, his first wife has been dead thirteen years His daughter Helen is nearly 14 yrs. old. It was a great surprise to me I have known him very well as he was the Registrar when I went to O. and he taught me the duties of my position He was always very kind and I learned to admire him, and respect his judgment He visited us this past week and the family are all pleased with him. It does not seem at all real to me yet. I return to my work the 10th of Sept. I do not know when I shall be married. Probably in the Christmas vacation but nothing definite has been decided

Please <u>do not tell the Burr's from</u> Oberlin of this We are not ready to have Oberlin people in general know of it Of course Prof. W's family know it. <u>Do not tell Almon</u> if he should come I heard that he thought of going to Conn. for a few weeks. Wish very much he would stop here on his way home

If I had plenty of money I would come & see you but it does not seem best just now

We except Sam sometime this week to spend a few days Miss Jacot is here Goes to the sea shore tomorrow & returns next week to stay until Sept. lst. Carrie enjoyed her trip to O. and seems better Father is pretty well now Allie and Chalmers go to Bloomsbury tomorrow for a few days Chalmers mother is not well so Sophie and will stay at home

Now I have this other letters to write Please keep my news to yourself like the good Aunty that you are

Your loving niece
Minnie P. B. H. [*Mary P.B. Hill Wright]*

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[*Crossed out stationary*] *<If not called for in five days, return to*
A.T. HEMINGWAY
Room 57, 204 Dearborn Street,
CHICAGO, ILL.>

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
New Marlboro
<u>Mass</u>

Beloit College
Beloit, Wis. *[Wisconsin],* Feb. 13 1889.

Dear Mother,

I read your letter this Morning. Abby brought it up and opened it, leaving it on my table. I did not look at it as she had opened it and so it has been overlooked for a couple of days.

Enclosed you will find an order on the Express Company for the amt $37.50. I am very glad that we can help Edward out in this way. I wish that we could do more. Our pay comes slowly and it costs us with our sickness &c a good deal to live. I think that Abby has been slowly going. Carrie will be home before long, I think. We are having interesting meetings in the college now. Several have already begun the Christian life and we expect many more will do so.

Austin's health far broken down and he has resigned at Peterboro. I feel somewhat anxious about him.

Harry seems to be taking hold of study this winter better than usual. He is studying Latin. I am very anxious that he should begin the Christian life, He seems afraid to go near the meetings.

I think of Edward very often. We always remember him at our morning prayers and you & father also. I will try to write Edward. With much love

Your [affectionate?] son
Almon

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

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

Baldwin Cottage
Oberlin Ohio.
Feb 20th. '89

Dear Aunty:

How many times I have thought of you and thought I should get letter off long ago, but have been as busy as a bee, I think your birthday is Friday the 22nd is it not? I wish you many happy returns.

No doubt they have told you how unexpectedly the opportunity came to return to Oberlin I have salary of ($500.) per year iE school year of course the greater part of vacation will be spent at home My work is to keep record of marks of all students in Preparatory, College and Theological Departments I have an office of my own but it is not well furnished, It is in the South west corner of the chapel I am in office usually from 1/2 past Eight until twelve and from half past one until five Do not return to office after tea Just now am working some in the Evening but do not Expect to usually If I am to be away from home I could not be in a pleasanter place than Oberlin for me One of the Professors Prof. [Peing?] and his wife were both class-mates. All of the Older Profs remember me and have met me most pleasantly

Mrs. Johnston is very kind and my [times?] have fallen in pleasant places

Mrs Shurtleff is very good I have been in frequently Prof. Shurtleff is out Goes to Office and Laura is much better They too Expect to go South about the 1st of March, Last but not least Carrie Burr has been here since just before Christmas It has been a real pleasure to me to have her here to take over matters with her She is quiet, but has very pleasant manners, like her Mother in that. has a sweet face. wearing glasses is a great improvement to her We had thought that Carrie would go to Flemington *[New Jersey]* but they Almon and Abby have finally decided that it is best to have her return to Beloit *[Wisconsin]* and I presume she will go next week. I will send letter received from Abbie a few days ago

Carrie Hill has not been very well, but, Dr Parish has taken her in hand, And she is to go away for a short visit taking Sophie [Hulsiger?] with her probably they will go to Phil.

One of Halsey Hulburts grandsons is in the Senior class here His name Halsey Hulburt Matterson He called on me last Sat. Eve He came to my office on business and his name made me think he must be a connection He says his Aunt Julia is quite [stout?], Expects his Grandfather here for Commencement We do thank you for the Catalogue also for the lace you need not send the muslin We do not want it so do not have it on your mind

How is Edward getting on Improving I hope Are the girls Fannie and Carrie still with you Am glad you could make use of things sent Wish I could see you but that is out of the question just [now?] Give my love to Ed. and Lucy

One of my pleasures here is attending Faculty Club The Faculty meet Every two weeks One Eve. they read Shakespeare Another Eve the conservatory Faculty played and sang for us Last Monday Eve we met at Prof. Monroe's and Prof. Frost read a paper As an officer of the College I can attend the conservatory Rehearsals every week.

I am boarding this term at Baldwin Cottage one of the handsome new stone buildings

There are but thirty girls here Miss Mary Fairchild is Matron but next term I Expect to go to Talcott Hall as board is fifty cents per week cheaper Both these houses are heated

My table board, room rent, heat and light, (our lamps are student lamps and kept filled for us) costs me ($4.25) per week My washing about fifty cents more

I borrowed fifty dollars to come here and I want to get that paid back.

When Carries bond is paid I think probably I can get Prof. Shurtleff to invest it She will have to use Every cent of her interest money to pay for her teeth I would love to write more but I think I must go to bed I am so sleepy

Give love to Uncle David and to all the friends I do want to see the children so badly

Will is such a loving little fellow

I hope Friday will be a pleasant day for you

Your loving niece
Minnie H. [*Mary P.B. Hill Wright*]

When you have time write to me and tell me how your own health is You have had too much to do this last year but I know you could not help it

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

March 7, 1889

Dear Carrie --

I should have been glad to write you in time for you to have received it on your 69th birthday but could not I hope you had as comfortable a day as I did on mine & hope you may have many more birth days, I know you are living & have lived a very useful life & the world is much better for your having lived in it, which cannot be said of Every one.

Sam came home to spend the '22'nd with us & brought a young friend with him He is looking nicely & doing well All Enjoyed their visit much although it was short as he felt that he must return Sat. morning as he could not well be spared from his business, as he is head one in his department. The young man is one that boarded at the Edes' last summer & became acquainted with us & is much pleased with Sue. He expects to enter Amherst College next summer. Sue & Mollie are still in the High school here & doing well We are all very well Sewing circle was to have met with us yesterday but it was so rainy only one came a new neighbor but it broke up the afternoon & they will probably meet here next week "Grandpa" Haynes' folk were here this morning week [noon?] to dinner & supper. It was kind in you to write so much about your & husbands health & Edwards I hope they will not keep Edward on too low a diet

According to our late reading a pretty generous diet is recommended for nervous persons & indeed for many invalids & cousin of Amory's was sent to a Hospital in Boston he had a bad sore on his arm & they had him Eat all the beef stead & roast beef &c he could. I think he is getting better I am glad for Minnie she has got so good a [situation?] I will return her interesting letter & will not write more lengthly now hoping soon to hear from you again soon. I should think Edward would be very much discouraged with that farm on his & himself so feeble but you all know what is best for him to do under the circumstances We all send love

Affectionately
S.J.W.

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

2420 Harney Street
Omaha, Neb. *[Nebraska]* Mch 3d/89.

My dear aunt,

I am under the impression that I have never answered the good letter you sent me about a year ago. I remember that when Libbie was here, a short time after, she said that she would like to write to you and I told her to do so and I would not answer the letter until later. I do not remember of answering it at all but it is not among my unanswered letters and I make it a rule never to destroy a letter until it has been answered.

I have made my home with my sister Mary for more than a year & will probably continue to do so. I spent three months of last summer in Colorado and more than a month of this winter in Grand Island with Libbie and her family. One of Libbie's daughters (now Mrs. Geo. Nichols) lives in Oberlin and through her I heard that Carrie Burr was visiting at the Shurleffs and of the afflictions -- in the way of illness -- that have been visited upon the Shurtleff family. I had a letter from Mary a few days ago but she was so full of her plans for housekeeping that she neglected to say anything about the S's although I was particularly anxious to hear how they were. She said in one of her letters that there was talk of Prof. S's going south as soon as he was able. -- also that she gathered from what she heard in Oberlin that he was considered one of the most valuable and perhaps the most valuable man there.

Mary's two daughters are at school in Northampton -- one at Smith College and the other at Miss Capen's. Mr & Mrs Wallace and their other child (Jamie, 12 yrs old) went east in Dec. and spent the holidays in New York with the girls and then went up into Conn. and Mass. and afterwards to Ohio. I am sorry they did not see you and Uncle Daniel. They enjoyed the day they spent at Uncle Marcus' very much and I know they would have enjoyed a visit with you. If it had been summer they would have gone there although their time was limited. Mr Wallace is an enthusiastic western man and never could see how any one could prefer to live east but he came back from this trip with the opinion that eastern people know how to get real comfort and happiness out of their lives better than western people. He was always very fond of my father and mother and is interested in all our relations and glad to see them.

Do you and your husband think ever of coming out to visit Abbie & her family? If you do I hope you will come out to Omaha. I am sure you will find a cordial welcome. I am so glad mother & I saw so many of our kindred when we were east six years ago. Mary wanted me to with them this winter but I dreaded going over the same ground again without mother.

Give much love to Uncle Daniel & Edward & his family and accept much for yourself --

Jennie M. Grant

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Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*

Dec 27th 1889

My dear Mother,

The little booklet & the pretty [suche?] that Lucy sent were duly received & we thank you both. Christmas day was warm & pleasant indeed we have had no touch of real Wisconsin winter yet. The whole season so far has been very unusual. They are still at work on the Academy.

I was taken ill Sunday eve and have not sat up since until to-day which left the finishing of Christmas arrangements to Carrie who was some overtired by it and a cold settled easily upon her, still she kept around but cannot study which is a disappointment. I think that I shall be around as usual next week.

I put in the collars for Lucy<*s*> to apportion as she saw fit for not knowing about their things I could not tell which would do best for each.

I hope that you are all as well as may be.

With love to you all

Abby

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Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*

Jan 1. 1888.

My dear Grandma:

This is the very first letter I have written in the year eighteen hundred & eighty eight.

How we all hope you & Grandpa & all those dear ones you love will have a "Happy Happy New Year." I have just come home from dinner, over to Miss Holmer & now am so full of their great turkey and other good things. Miss H. slipped a dainty handkerchief into my pocket before I came home. so you see things have not stopped coming yet. Grandma we are indeed blessed with such good neighbors to help us on while the "Lights" from home are gone.
Oh Grandma! what a nice warm quilt. It was the largest present I received & how I do prize & enjoy it. Often it is used now on my little bed which is down stairs. I pretend sleeping down here is to keep off burglars but really because it is so much easier for me to get up in the morning & light the fire & get things started for breakfast. Once in a while a friend of mine comes down to sleep with me, & then to do honor to the occasion I bring out my wonderful quilt. & after it has been duly admired we cuddle up under it as "warm and snug as two bugs in a rug."

Grandma I thank you so so much for that & the antique box, I like those old boxes inlaid in that way. Hal has not seen his things for Mamma did not wish the barrel to be opened till she came home. but he sends thanks just the same for he knows tis something nice if you sent it.

That old wrapper was just what I wanted to put on in the morning. although it trails behind & it trails before.

Everything is going on well here, to be sure I don't keep it half as clean as it ought to be or as I want to, nor am I a success in the cooking line or the wash line, the mending line or the study line but my forte lies in the nothing accomplished line.

Grandma I am fairly scared when I think that I am getting so near being a young lady. I do my hair up on the top of my head & my dresses are getting constantly longer.

Mrs. Prof. Emerson had a Freshman Party to which I was invited Grandma she is such a beautiful woman in all ways. She has taken me under her wing & does much for me. I am asked to all her companies, to all lectures given at her home by her self & others. Now by her kind invitation I have joined a Browning Club. & though every one in them is a great deal older than myself. yet I enjoy the meetings exceedingly. She has sent up some of her delicious preserves & is always doing those little pleasant things that make life so much easier & happier to others. They have been in Chicago for the Holidays, & I have had their bird & Grandma on top of all her other goodnesses she brings me a Christmas remembrance from Chicago.
We do hope those shoes will be just what you wished for, & that they will keep your feet just as warm -- as -- warm as -- toast, the right kind of toast of course. It has snowed & snowed & still snows and blows. We hope the picture we sent Aunt Lucy did not get all smashed up.

Santa Claus showered his gifts upon us as usual. I did not make much this time but ordered some photographs from Boston & then mounted them, giving those instead: to all my friends. You would have laughed however if you could have seen the big tinker a<*r*>pron I made Papa. & the monkey wrench Hal gave him to go in one of the good sized pockets.

Grandma dear I would like to write lots more but I have so many others who have been waiting a long while to hear from me among others my mother. How are Aunt Lucy & the Babies? do you see them very often? & do you & Grandpa manage to keep wa[*r*]m and comfortable this cold winter weather?

With love to yourself & Grandpa. I am

Your Granddaughter

C. Lynette Burr

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Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*

June 12th 1888.

My dear Mother,

I never felt certain that I was bennefitted. since returning home I find that I am no better than I was before I went away. The rest & quiet did me good. but I came home too soon. I could not have stayed longer for Carrie was giving out & Henry needed me. We now have a good girl & I hope that she will stay with us.

I have just been having quite a sick time, which is my excuse for not sending Uncles letter before.

The summer thus far is cold, but not very wet we are needing rain very much.

I am very sorry that you are so lame, hope that your arm is well by this time. It is too bad that you & father suffer so much from rheumatism. I think of you often. hope that your foot wont get worse.

The barrel was not unpacked until I came home. every thing in good order. not a thing broken or cracked by the journey. they are all very much pleased with the blue ware.

Almon seems better than usual this year. His department had just had it graduating exercises this evening. They report that the boys did very well. We are hoping to get Carrie off to school somewhere this next year. Where has not been absolutely determined upon yet. Carrie is very miserable this summer. so is Harold. Arthur is well & happy as usual.

Please remember me to Mrs Richardson & Mrs. Ticknor. also Mrs. Howell. Was glad to hear of Edward's people. Hope that this year will be a better one for them. Just a few things to day, that were Arthurs.

With love to you both,

Your aff daughter

Abby E.G. Burr.

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Bolton March 28, 87 (Mond Eveng.

My Dear Niece -- Thank you for yours & the other letters. You said I need not answer immediately. I delayed. I think I told you I anticipated coloring. I am happy to be able to tell you I have accomplished the delectable job quite successfully although not quite to my mind but as well as I could expect with no knowledge of the science. I have colored considerable in my life but always felt as I do now that I dont know much about it but I have always succeeded so that I rather have the articles after I had colored them than before. This time I colored Thibet or something that looked like it, all wool, a light brown for Sue a dress. It had a faded look, now it looks fresh. I also colored an all wool dress that <*that*> Sue had worn & soiled so that it was of no use as it was, [alittle?] darker brown for Mollie I dont think any one would suspect they had been colored. I colored some dresses that were soiled & faded, Enough to make me two morning dresses & a few other little things, I feel glad that I have got that disagreeable work done. I hope I shall not find it necessary to color again for a good while if Ever. Mary hopes so too. <...> She did the pressing & helped what I would let her but I would not let her put her hands in. She was invited up to Miss Osborns to tea the first day I commenced coloring. I did not undertake to do it all in one day I got all through with Sue's & Mollie's the first day that I colored for myself was part cotton & gave me more trouble but I got all through & I cleared up the third day. I took it so moderately that I did not get over tired & am well rested now. I had my common housework to do in the mean time. Tomorrow I expect to wash It stormed so today I concluded to wait for a plesanter day. Mary usually washed rain or shine. I dont know as I told you that I was braiding matts I have made one good sized one & have another about half done, If you never braided one you dont know anything about the labor of it. I dont know how to do it very well & dont have the best materials but is such as I have been saving up for some time & when I get a matt done it looks very well. I made two last & am making two this Spring

Thurs. Evening I meant to have finished this letter before now. How time flies, the last day of March I can hardly realize, "The Winter is over & gone" although there is some snow to be seen now, We heard robins this morning

I hope you will persevere & get the old letters read over & burned most of them I hardly think any of your relatives will have leisure to read them over There is so much to occupy the whole time of Every one who can do anything & there is so much interesting [reading?] I presume your husband will read to you the Commentary your daughter sent I should think she was quite pleasantly situated & has good society &c I am pleased to read her letters I judge she has not much leisure time. & the Flemington girls are just as busy as they can be I am glad they can so manage as to pay a $100. on a note. Minnie seems to keep up pretty good courage which I am glad to see I wish her strength was Equal to her ambition. It seems that Lizzie Anderson Hyde

has got to help pay for the new house if she has one I dont know as you have ever told me how much she had from her father & mother.

Sue & Mollie got through with the school examination very credibly & performed their parts in the dialouges very well indeed The High school gave an entertainment at the Hall in the evening which was very enjoyable the scholars were at liber[*ty*] to invite who they pleased & the Hall was pretty well filled.

Sue is hired for the year to play the church organ <*for the year*> is to have $50. which is the usual price paid here Mary & Bessie have been to Clinton today (the mildest day we have had this month I think) to have some dentistry done for Bessie & to get some trimming for Bessie's & Sue's spring dress Bessies dress is almost finished only to put the satin <*ve*> vest in. Sue is to have a velvet vest in hers her school dress is about finished [Amory?] uncle in Acton is to have a golden wedding the 27 & then the whole family is invited & I think we shall have some hurrying times to get them ready but I guess we shall be able to do it. That family is quite dressy. It must be quite an undertaking for you to get ready to go to Mt Holyoke's [...] [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] 50th anniversary. I should think you much prefer to stay at home, but you are some younger than I am. We are all in usual health & all are in bed but myself. Write as often as you can. Mr Wallis is quite comfortable if he does not exert himself which he is careful not to do

With much love

S J Wallis [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

I send little samples of the spring dresses we are making. The greenish piece Bessies the lighter blue Sues & the darker brown Mollies. I hope you are both in comfortable health

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Beloit Wis. [*Wisconsin*]

July 7, 1887.

Dear Grandma, --

In the bustle of coming home the half finished letter to you was laid aside & between Mamma's ups & downs & mine, also the little Latin I am trying to do. It has lain in my desk untouched. However I hope it will be better late than never & so shall send it on as it is.

Papa has but just returned from Oberlin Commencement. He found all well as usual at Grandpa Burr's & Cousin Minnie bright as ever. A call on Miss Malthy, who still lives there was one of the pleasant doing he had to tell us of. She too is well.

Uncle Giles family are strong again except Aunt Mary, who has at last given out.

In a week of so we must move from this house. A Chicago Lady has bought it. There is some prospect of our going into Prof Emerson's house for this year. It will be partly furnished & has a pleasant yard. The family which is in it now, has the lease of it till the first of October, when they expect to leave. Though we hope <*they*> they will be willing to go this Summer.

Papa's new Academy building is really going up this year. The Architects were here last Thursday to see about it. The money has been given for it, & the two hundred thousand raised.

Papa himself seems to have come through the year better than usual and will be here most of the time during vacation. He is to preach four Sundays in Chicago.

Mamma & the boys are about as usual I think I am some better this Summer.

So far the weather has been comfortable, & our numerous rains has made the foliage beautiful, the Farmers complain of there not being enough heat for their corn & every shower makes it so much the worse for them.

How is Uncle now, & all of you? We think of you often & wonder.

With a great deal of love to you all from <u>us</u> <u>all</u>

Your loving

Granddaughter Caroline L. Burr

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[Printed letterhead] Beloit College

Beloit, Wis. [*Wisconsin*], <u>Apr 8</u> 188 <u>5</u>

Dear Mother,

I have just read your letter. It came while I was away last week, and I did not know until a day or so ago that it was here. It had been opened and then put away. You know Carrie puts every thing away so faithfully!

I expected to spend the spring vacation of two weeks here, but heard that Uncle Harmon & wife who lives at Morrison, Ill. about 100 miles from here, were very sick.

I went last week Monday and spent most of the week. I found them just beginning to mend. My visit seemed to cheer them up a good deal. Uncle Harmon is father's <*B*> youngest brother.

While there Cousin Harmon told me a good deal about Southern Kansas. He has been living for three years near Wichita. From his account of the hail storms, hot winds and dust, I do not think that country can be a paradise. The bad water must be very trying also. He could not have been more than forty or fifty miles from where father was.

We have all been in pretty good health so far. I have not felt so well at this time of year for a long time. Nor do I think Abbie has ever been so well as she is now. Harry has been ailing in one way and another most of the winter. Has been to school very little indeed. Has kept up part<*t*>ly by studying at home.

I have done nothing with my "Pamphlet cases" since I came here. Have been too busy with other things. I may give some attention to the matter next summer. I enjoy my work here very much My associates also are very enjoyable and helpful. I have been doing also a good deal outside work in the way of preaching here and in the neighboring city of Janesville.

I have not had the time for extra study this winter that I hoped to have. The severe cold weather has taken a good deal of my time, running my fires etc.

I am glad that you and father have had a comfortable winter. I should like very much to pay you both a visit next summer, but do not see much prospect of it now. I was very glad to have father write when he did, and expected to have written in return at once, but the press of winter crowded it out. I ought to have done better. With affectionate regard both for yourself & father,

I remain your son
Almon

[Written in pencil at head of letter] Please return when you write a few weeks hence.

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Beloit, Wis
Oct. 14th 1885

My dear Mother & Father

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

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

amounts to a little sermon, he did have a Sabbath school class of < … > from 30 to 40 members beside, but he gave that up two or three weeks ago, because he could not stand the strain of quite so much.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff daughter

Abbie

[In pencil] Please return Ohio letters.

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