**Subject: Entertainments**

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

Dear parents brothers & sisters

I suppose you imagine us nicely settled in our own home ere this — But we are not there yet — House painting & preparations for house—keeping occupy time & we shall not be thoroughly fixed probably before the last of next week or the first of week after — Father, Hetty & myself went to New York last week for furniture, going Tuesday – returning Friday — It was thought best for father to go rather than William [*Hill*] because he is better acquainted with New York & more accustomed to shopping — The goods are all in Somerville & most of them here — A woman has been here this week helping make the carpets – Carpet for parlor 28 yds. [*yards*] at 81 cts. [*cents*] the best of ingrain. Colors – the various shades of blue & buff — It is considered handsome & is quite showy — Carpets for dining room & spare room are alike – colors various – quality good price 62 ½ cts. Mother gives <*me*> a carpet for my room – not a new one but one suitable for the place — Mother also gives chairs & wash stand for our room – so you see that she furnishes the room completely – all except my <...> <*rear*> bureau — William takes his own case of drawers – pretty ones of black walnut — <...> Friends of the family a lawyer & wife – have just left Flem [*Flemington, New Jersey*] – going a considerable distance they sold their furniture. I took a handsome mahogany bureau with mirror affixed at 14 dollars — Mrs. Clark paid 18 dollars in New York about three years since — I also took her own mahogany bureau an old one for five dollars – am getting it dressed over for three dollars — Have got a high post bedstead for 6 ½ dollars — Beside the double bed in spare room there will be room for a single one – shall get it when convenient — Have a cot for the woman – whom we have engaged – an Irish – stout & strong — Mother seems to take the same interest & care in getting me ready that she would in her own daughters — & so do they all — I received from every member of the family the utmost attention & kindness — I feel perfectly at home & shall be sorry to leave — Have attended 4 tea parties & one large party since writing — Have written Laura Kennard – but received no answer — Want to hear from Carrie exceedingly — It will take all my money — & more too to set us up – beside all that mother has given us — Dont know exactly how much William will have to do – but a good many dollars worth — The whole interior of the house is being painted — We have a nice closet in our room beside a small one under the garret stairs — William gets in this [town?] a set of pretty maple cane seats for dining room – also a sewing chair — In New York – got a secretary for 29 dollars – the style you wished – an enclosed wash stand mahogany for 4.50, hair seat chairs for 2.50 – hair seat rocking chair 10. Cane seat & back maple rocking chair 4. Card table 12.50 table cover 3. Sofa 22. Mirror for sitting room 4. for our room 1. Counterpane 3. 1 doz. tea knives & forks 5.50. 1 doz. best dining knives & forks 3.75 9 common knives & forks – price I have forgotten — Block tin tea pot 1.12. Block tin coffee pot 1.12. — Lamp 4. — Bill for china including tea set, dinner set & chamber set & two waiters & 1 doz. tumblers 30.72, tea set white porcelain – dinner set white stone china — Oil cloth for [entry?] 5. Stair carpet 3.19 —

Mother has given me a nice calico comforter beside what they wrote about & will lend some covers for the boys. My comforters both quilted & one bonnet made &c.

For three weeks or more I was obliged to dress every day for receiving calls. But they <...> have all <*through*> been I believe & my return calls are nearly finished My comforters are liked & quilts too, & every thing else too I believe — I often think of you & want to see you all – the darling little Mary I want to kiss — Love to all — Dont fail to write soon — Remember me to Kendleton & Canfield families & all friends & relations.

Your aff [*affectionate*] daughter & sister

Mary B. [*Burr*] Hill

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

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

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

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

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Flemington [*New* Jersey] May 26, 1849
Saturday P.M.

Dear parents brothers & sisters

We are in our own home now & have been here just two weeks to day — I am writing by our nice pretty Secretary in our nice little sitting room — But before going into description, I will answer all interrogations. The money came in. My pocket perfectly safe <*every cent of it*> — The box of goods came perfectly safe from home — The box came near bursting in one or two places – but nothing was lost out. All goods came from New York without damage. Should like Mr. Wolcott to get me three plated silver & 4 German silver table spoons & 6 German silver tea spoons — Have got no new spoons except three iron ones — Shall endeavor to get along with those & what I brought until I go home — Did not like to purchase them in the city fearing I should be deceived. William tells me not to ask for more money — I do not remember to have shown or read to Marianne a single letter Am quite sure that I never did. She & Ralph were in the school room with me the day you allude to when I received a letter — From Ralph's manner she knew from whom it came — I do not remember to have been at all communicative to M. respecting my own affairs — Am confident that I never said any thing of them to Marianne that I would not just as soon have said to Elizabeth — Should like some of that maple sugar. I feel exceedingly pleased with Ralph's good success — Remember me to Mrs Byrrell & family especially Elizabeth Am glad to hear that Ralph has joined Dea. [*Deacon*] Phelps class. Love to M. [*Maria?*] Phelps & Elisa When Ralph wishes to use Erastus in the possessive case – he must not write Erastus'<u>es</u> but Erastus' — Am very much pleased with my letters from home — Ma & Ralph both do charmingly — I am now writing with William's gold pen – but I think it must serve him better than me — Catharine my girl has just been washing the kitchen floor. I hear her churning now — We have one cow from which we make as much or more butter than we Shall use Catharine is a widow woman — <*hardly*> middle aged I should think – she is neat – rather slow – but does her work well, — seems to expect to do it about all — If she stays with me – think I shall not have to work hard at all this summer — She washes & does up fine clothes beautifully — She has been here two weeks next Monday – does all the washing & ironing – there goes the door bell —

Just received a call from two of the elite one – a new house keeper like myself Have been receiving calls nearly every day since I have been here – sometimes four or five a day. Miss Clarke made a small party for us (William & self) last Wednesday. The men have not come yet – presume they will do so on Monday. Catharine sews neatly – though she has found little time as yet — Forgot to mention in last the present from Miss Elisa Hill – very pretty work stand

which stands in the sitting room under glass – received it soon after coming to Flemington [*New Jersey*]. Shall be anxious to hear all about Carrie immediately upon her arrival — Mother father & sister are kind as possible — I have hitherto said nothing of William in my letters because new wives I believe are always thought to talk so silly — Will just say now however that he is all that I had thought & hoped & I am very happy — I like the house & it is "decently furnished" just as Ma always "meant" it should be. My silver spoons are considered beautiful Catharine usually rises a little past 4 AM. – makes the fire – milks – then puts the coffee boiling — The clock striking 5 is the signal for me to rise — We are generally through breakfast by 6 or before — Am sorry Ma has been sick — Mother feared that the girl would grumble at only a hush bed & so made a new hen's feather single bed & gave me – got a cot for her room – thought it better than to get a double bed stead — <*William's bed*> The tick & feathers of William's bed are new – 40 lbs. in bed, bolster & pillows — Mother gave me a tin cake box which is a large tin pan with handles like my dish pan & a tin cover to it — In the pan I found nearly half a large loaf of fruit cake – it was made last Christmas for our wedding party — & will probably keep nice a year from this time – there was also in the pan a loaf of beautiful sponge cake – sister Hetty make — Mother gave us bread & pies to last a week & a boiled shoulder which is not gone yet & will continue good for two or three weeks to come — Mother, father Kate & Miss Allen drank tea with us the first night. Soon as we find it convenient – Shall get a Single bed & bed stead for the Spare room Expect a man that owes William to make our cherry tables — Have a pine table in kitchen — Mrs. Emery (merchant's wife) sent us a stone jar of <*preserved*> dried and sugar plums. Mrs. Wirts (lawyer's wife) a jar of preserved carnation cherries. Mrs. Clark (lawyer's wife) preserved raspberries. — Your aff [*affectionate*] daughter & sister – kiss little Mary. I want to see her —

Dear Ralph,

Mary has written to so many of you, such a jumble & so many blots that I am afraid if I write to the same address, I would do likewise, so write to you. Expect that by this time you are very busy farming. We finished planting our corn last Saturday week it is nearly all up thought it did not come as well as usual. This spring has been very cool, have hardly had a week of warm weather yet. Fine season for grass, have 25 acres mowing that looks very fine all timothy except five acres, & that is very fine clover (small red) today I cut 3 spears not taking the very longest, two of them measured ½ a yard long & the other 21 inches, fear that it will all fall down before it is fit to cut. Oats are growing finely, — wish that you could come on and see us this summer before your mowing commences.

The fly is in the wheat, — whether they will injure it much or not remains to be seen. They generally show their work before this time of the year, wheat is just now coming into head. How "the time flies in about three weeks we will be mowing our clover crops. Mary has an industrious fit and is sewing by candle light, 15 minutes of 9 oclock. That'll please Ma" Wont it? Fanny Prevost was married last Thursday morn and started immediately for Boston; on her return goes to her own house & housekeeping without delay. We received a little box of wedding cake and card, on Sunday last from the happy pair. Laura Kennard is not coming this spring. Remember me to all, joy along through life with some end in view and be happy as possible all the time, save one cake of that maple sugar for me and believe me as ever

W [*William*] Hill

Love to uncle, aunts & cousins — Will endeavor to write Aunt Eunice & family soon – as I promised to do — How is Matilda? When the beautiful boxes of cake arrived William said "this is aunt Norton like is it not"? We have radishes fit to pull and peas in blossom also potato tops six inches high in our own garden, and plenty of weeds. Have an acre of potatoes in the field just coming up and ½ an acre of pumpkins planted a week ago. Today have been white washing over house inside. Converted the top of Box (Yankee) into a table to wash dishes on under piazza the other day.

the same W. H. [*William Hill*]

Date 29 ''
Good Night

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[*In envelope addressed to:*] Ralph E. Burr Esq
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut

Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 4th 1849

Dear Ralph

Have been trying to get Mary in the humour of writing for some days but have not been able, not to say that she is disobedient for I have not commanded her so to do, but she has kind of put it off until the spirit & flesh were willing & ready at the same moment.

Our town is as quiet today as sunday with the exception of a few firecrackers among the boys and once in awhile a gun shot from children of a larger growth. I have taken advantage of its being a holiday have not done much except in the way of chores, picked peas for dinner, staked up tomato vines, burnt up some weeds that were cut in the field, hoed quite a bit in the garden, and now at 1/2 past 3 oclock P.M. am writing to friends far away. We had some very hot weather week before last and first of last week, since that time it has been much cooler with a deal of easterly wind but no rain, the country is getting (just about here) very dry, pinching the gardens & oats very much. Last week and latter part of week before we cut and got in without the least damage by wet 22 loads of hay, 15 clover & the rest some early […] suffering with the dry weather. Found it very hard work mowing down clover in that hot weather, but made out to 'hang' on by taking it easy. Shall begin to mow again next week & harvest wheat also. Some people are cutting wheat & rye on hilly land. The hay crop is very abundant, think that we will cut about 56 loads from 25 acres of grass, The warm weather has started the corn forward pretty fast. have ploughed all of ours twice some three times, and one piece the 4th and last time, about half (11 acres) of ours looks very good indeed and the rest <u>so</u> <u>middling</u>; the best stands up over two feet high, and we have every size from 6 inches high to 3 feet.

Had our first green peas two weeks ago tomorrow, have had them most every day since but the hot & dry weather is cutting the crop short, the second crop are fast coming in but will not do much. First string beans day before yesterday, new potatoes are not quite fit to dig yet though I have pulled up a hill or two just to get a taste. Cherries & raspberries are ripe & currants nearly so (Mary says that currants were ripe 10 days ago; she wanted to be at them because they were red) also goosberries, We have no goosberries cherries or raspberries here but plenty of currants & can get goosberries plenty at home & cherries most anywhere. Well Ralph it must be something of a job to lay those thumping stone fences yet there is one consolation, once done they are a fixture, they always stay where you put them, Dont they? Now here we have to build a new post fence every twelve or fifteen years, sometimes sooner than that according to the kind of ground on which they are built The rails will last longer but the posts seldom do. Say to your Mother that a short time ago good molasses sold in New York for 36 per gallon by the barrel and tolerable nice brown sugar fro 4 3/4 & 5 cts per lb by the barrel. Just had our house painted outside a light brownish red, window shutters & frames white down stairs, up stairs Venetian shutters green window frames white, are getting pretty well snuged up except some fence to white wash which will be one of the is to be <u>done</u>'s for some time yet I fear. They are about to build a large hall in our village 60 feet by 30, 3 stories high, by stock subscription, for the use of the Odd fellows, Sons of Temperance & co. with one large room to let for lectures small shows & so on. 'Twill be quite an ornament to the village and is to be on a new street that has been laid to induce others to build in same street. Am sorry to hear that your Mother has had a sick turn again. Tell she must expect to find me somewhat mysterious sometimes in my writing. I was sure that she would say rather that M [*Mary*] was in bed than sewing. well we do go to bed pretty early and find it very comfortable after working hard all day. Give my love to Mrs. C. [*Caroline*] Grant with all the rest, Tell Mrs. G. [*Grant*] to write to Mary and that I would be glad to see her in Jersey any time. The Californians appear to be getting along pretty well, keep up something like a government among themselves are building up several little towns quite rapidly. Have one Presbyterian Church organized among them, & stern necessity will develop the agricultural resources of the country & after a while a civilized man might feel half at home there. Do you take any interest in foreign politics? I rejoice with the Hungarians & the Romans & hate the French for their foolish interference at Rome, with their cowardly folly in sticking to the wrong after

they have found themselves out to be decidedly so, but that cursed false honour of the human race which drives men deeper & deeper in the wrong for the sake of others praises or blame is a prominent point in French character. Hope that it will not be long before the whole of Europe will bid adieu to kings & Emperors, and they be counted only as things that were.

('Tis mans inhumanity to man)
(Makes countless thousands mourn!)

And will be until men act out more fully the precepts of the New Testament.

Good-bye dear Ralph
Write soon to Me & Mine
Ever Yours
W [*William*] Hill

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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 January thaw 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*] [*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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[*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 Pamela Benton Burr?*]

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

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

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

I hope you will be able to write me soon & enclose Wm. [*William*] Hills Christmas letter. Tell me how the Flemington friends are getting along. I want to hear about all the friends, Abbie, Edward & Erastus & New Haven friends if you hear from them I dont expect to <hear> have a letter from there under year if I do then unless there is a death of some one of them. Well, I suppose their time is fully occupied among themselves as there are so many of them within calling distance of each other. I presume Cornelia's time is fully occupied it was when I was there. She has gone through a great deal in bearing & rearing so many children & burying some & such poor health as she has always had. If you know any thing about Alberts & family & about Jennie Baldwin & Sybil & any body I know. I hear nothing of them only through you, you are pretty good at writing. You get a good deal of information in a short place which I can not without re writing & have not time to spare for that. I have written most of this at odd minutes & part of it when I was quite sleepy which may account party for the poor writing & composition. Perhaps it is about as good as usual I hope you will not send it off to any body as I write for you only to see & I hope you will burn it when read Do not keep my letters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Affectionately

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

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[*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 long hard siege. 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 is leading us every step, although the way does seem dark, and mysterious. He cannot make a mistake, trust Him, 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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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Dec 18 1846.

My dear Mother & Sister,

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

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

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

The audience on the Sabbath is increasing but of course, if they come & find no minister nothing but reading meeting, they will not be so anxious to come again. To be sure, we hope every shake, or fever is the last, and on that live till the dread reality appears again. Joel is not the only sufferer in this place. Almost all who had the fever severely in summer, have attacks of it, on ague, now. At One of our neighbors where there are 10 in family, three or four will have it one day, & another four or five the next. They break it with quinine, but in two weeks it reappears. Some families do not have it at all. In a letter recently received from one of Joel's friends up in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] we were told that persons in that territory, suffer, as well as here. And so they do, more or less, throughout this great valley. No tongue can tell the suffering that has been endured along the [line?] of the canal. They are better now, but the money is gone for medicine, they are weak, their hovels unthatched, their children naked, and all discouraged. Persons bred in New England can have no possible idea of poverty. Within two miles of us there

50 hovels not half as good as old Isaac's. Children are abundant, but alas; for the means of clothing, feeding, & sending them to school. The parents are making a great effort to get them to school, as the school is a free one to them this winter. We have been making some clothes in our Sewing Soc. [*society*] for some of the children, and oh that we had a few hundred yards to make up. I have often wished I could get to some of your old flannel petticoats, that you could no longer use. They will cut over four small girls & are so much warmer than cotton.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope we shall soon hear from you.

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

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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:*] 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*] --

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[*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 call 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 dearly 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 sorry 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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[*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*> academy 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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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 in 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*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Norfolk
Litchfield Co
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Sept 16th1856

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

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

Her teeth have not shown themselves as yet only by the looks of the gums. Last week, I went to Newark [*New Jersey*] to the state fair. Went by the way of New Brunswick and made that my staying place as Newark was very full of people and I had an Invitation from Uncle John to come that way. The fair was not as good as it ought to have been and in many respects did not do justice to our State. The show of grains was very meagre -- & so it was in many of the manufactures for which Newark is celebrated. They had some fine sheep and Short Horned cattle, and some bery good horses The turn out of people was very large on wednesday and thursday, how it was on firday I cannot say as I was so tired in two days that I came home Uncle J., Capner & Aunt went with me—or I went with them. We have this year for the first a County Agricultural fair and have purchased and filled up twenty seven acres of ground as a permanent fair ground. it has a permanent fence round it and a good sized building in which to exhibit articles that meed protection from the weather. Tomorrow the fair is to be opened and continue three

days. The people of Flem[tn] have been making great preparations to reap an abundant harvest of the ready from those that come up to see them on the occasion, and all things eatable will be quite abundant but the sleeping accomadations will not equal the demand if there is a good turn out

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

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

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

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

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

W Hill [*William Hill*]

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

Conn. [*Connecticut*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Bristol, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 19, 1859.

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

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

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

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

Your remarks concerning caution were not amiss, nor do I take them so. I feel that every obligation bind both you and me to use this money sacredly. I am aware that it requires caution, I am aware that it requires caution, & Judgment to make these things right, & moreover that even these qualities cannot make matters absolutely sure. I have no fear but that I can invest it safely, but ere many years <*long*> perhaps, the investment will need to be changed, & there will be the danger. At that time unless you have some one here in whom you can place entire confidence it may be well to put it into land. But land even here does not year by year pay even 6 per cent, and an investment in a loan, secured by land, is as safe as the land can be. The questions to be answered have reference to the title & value of the land -- If the title is good, & the value sufficient, the loan is safe. If the title is not good & the value not sufficient, a purchase would not be safe.

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

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

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

Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

your aff. [*affectionate*] sister Abby –

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

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

[Bollius?] Jan. 9th 1864.
Tues. Eve.

Dear Cousin Carry,

I am alone in the house this evening and at last the long awaited opportunity for writing to you has arrived; and I am so glad for I have thought of you a great deal, and of writing, ever since a little while after I reached home. I presume you know that I had a pleasant and prosperous journey. Mr. Anderson accompanied me to New York. As pleasant as I can expect travelling alone, for I usually have as much, perhaps useless, but nevertheless unavoidable, anxiety as real pleasure. And yet I am very fond of travelling; with company, if possible, if not with my worried, for baggage and the like for companions. Are you surprised that I have waited six months for an opportunity of writing? If you could know the quantities of work I have performed you would sympathize and not wonder. I have had no leisure. In the Fall, mother was sick six or eight weeks, then I had a very great deal to do, and would get dreadfully tired. I was not disturbed nights, father took care of her then. She had rheumatism and suffered very much, it settled in her knee which was swollen badly and so lame that she could not raise it or put her foot to the floor. We hired a woman two weeks. When mother's knee was setting better her eyes became very sore and painful. She is quite well now, not so strong as before her illness but very comfortable. Father and she have gone to a lecture, the object of which is to fill our quota (twenty three) of volunteers, only six are wanting and I hope those will be gotten this evening. It is the third meeting of the kind, the audience is addressed by one or more <*two*> speakers and a brass band is employed to give music. I attended the other two but did not care to go out to night. One reason that I have so much to do is owing to a change in my ideas and habits in regard to certain things. Quite unconsciously to myself I was acquiring a taste for mending and neatness while at cousin Mary's. I learn often times a great deal more than mother thinks is necessary, but she is quite pleased with my lately developed talent for mending and brings forward piles of old things to repair which had been laid aside for want of time on her part and inclination [...] mine. Now I mend every hole and sew on all my buttones which is a change indeed in me. I read some, and have read two large books to mother and a third we read together.

O, cousin Carry you can not imagine how I have wanted to see baby and cousin Mary and all of them, the sweet little thing I have felt much a longing for her. I have not heard from Flemington for a long time. I suppose they are as busy as ever.

We have an unusually lively time this winter a great many of my evenings are passed out. Christmas Eve we had a Festival. There was a Christmas tree which looked beautifully and was loaded with gifts and the Hall was trimmed beautifully, then there was a man to act the part of Santa Claus which he did wonderfully well. New Years Eve I invited the Reading Club to our house to watch the Old Year out and the New Year in, we had a very nice time, we made molasses candy and played. There are about sixteen in the club. I am a member of a French Class, which meets once a week. I am quite well and [fleshy?] We heard to night of cousin Fanny's death. It seems very sad. How is Abby? I want to hear from her very much. Willy Stone is in the Invalid Carps & is in Phila. [*Philadelphia*] very pleasantly sits [natid?]; he doesn't recover the use of his hand and arm. I hope you will come and see us whenever you can. I want to see you a great deal, do come when you can. How are Mr. & Mrs. Grant? My love to cousin Daniel and Erastus and family and to Abby when you write to her.

Your aff. cousin
Marry Wallis.

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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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[*Caroline Lynette Burr to Caroline Burr Grant*]

Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]

Nov. 6th 1880.

My dear Grandmother,

I have finished <*My*> my lessons this morning and think that I will write you a letter.

Last Monday was Harry's birthday. He had a very pretty knife and candies fruits a book and a boat.

Harry and I belong to a sewing circle which works for the Missionaries we are making a guilt out of red and white pieces. there are nice white pieces in a block. and we go about and ask the poeple to have their names put on them and pay ten cents each for the privilege. Harry and I are collecting money. we have been to all that we know around here and now we dont know where to go. unless we write to some one. Mama thought that you and uncle Edward would perhaps give us your names, If you do, you may send the money in postage stamps,

Papa and mama are well and send love. So do Harry and I.

Your loving little grand-daughter

Carrie L, 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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Flemington N.J *[New Jersey]*
Jan 4th 1891

Dear Auntie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

It is too bad that your kind letter with enclosure has not been acknowledged before, But we have been so busy & sometime too tired to write that we have put off writing from time to time.

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

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

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

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

Minnie received a half dozen pair of beautiful kid gloves, Father a handsome knife -- Jack knife with twelve different attachments or blades, for instance a corkscrew tweezers, a saw, screw driver & a lance &c. Carrie had two pins, one, Caroline in silver letters and a round one set with small pearls. Aunt Hettie had a silver bracelet. Sophie, a silver pin like Carries -- Sophie in silver -- Chalmers a little writing tablet to carry with one when traveling and I had a beautiful fairy lamp, gilt set with glass, cut in imitation of stones, blue, red, yellow, &c when a light is inside the effect is most lovely. Then I had beside a Russian Icon, which is really a picture set in silver and gilt, which is very handsome. Wasn't it kind in her to send us so much and think of us while in Paris, she has been there for three or four years. Aunt Hettie gave a Christmas present to the house this year of lace curtains for the parlor. She had quite set her heart on our having them, she thought they would add so much to the parlor, which they certainly do, and she wishes it to

look pretty for Minnie's wedding, They are Madras light yellow ground -- which does not show much -- with white sprigs of leaves over them, a very pretty pattern. They cost ten dollars for the two windows. Carrie and Minnie gave father a flannel wrapper, grey with stripes of red on bottom, something [*end of page*]

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

Dear Aunt Carrie

Have intended to write for the last two Sundays but did'nt find time one evening I went to Church and last Sunday afternoon went to the Sunday School Anniversary with the children, and that took all the afternoon we did'nt get home until half past five, and in the evening I did'nt feel equal to writing. We have been without a girl for more than three weeks now, and while the boarders stayed were kept pretty well on the go, but they have all left now, part went last Monday morning, and the other two on Wednesday. It is a relief not to have to fuss over meals so much. We began churning again the first of September churn two and three times a week and get from ten to twelve pounds of butter at a churning. We are having a very warm Fall, need summer clothing yet, and have had no<*t*> frost as yet. The thermometer now (4-30 P.M.) registers 80° on our front porch. Fruit is very abundant in this part of the country, the apple orchards are loaded, peaches very plenty and cheap, and Father says he never saw finer corn in his life. Father and I were out for a ride Wednesday. Father had business in Annandale and he rode over there, and took me with him. It is about twelve miles from here, and we had a perfect day, and the roads were in splendid condition.

Peaches are almost over and how good these last ones taste.

Mrs Grey was buried a week ago Tuesday. She was in Oswego with Helen at the time of her death. Was buried here in the Cemetery. Helen, Mrs Charles is still here, visiting at Voorhees! She and her little daughter, the youngest, called the other day. I had gone to Mission Band Meeting, and did'nt see her but Alletta & Auntie were home.

Sophie came home from Sunday School to day feeling very happy because she has been promoted to the big room Mrs Bell Thorton (Bell Mott) is her teacher. She received a copy of The New Testament this year for learning the little catechism. She was also promoted to the next higher room in day school this Fall. She has learned to read very well indeed, and is fond of reading to herself. Will started to school for the first this year. He doesn't enjoy it very much yet, it is pretty hard work for him to keep still. Alletta expects to go to Bloomsbury for about two weeks soon and I hope nothing will prevent her going. The change will do her good I think and she did'nt get up there this summer as usual. She will take Mary with her, but of course the others must stay at home to attend school. Mary does'nt look as though she needed a change. She is as big and fat and healthy as any one could wish. Was two years old on the twenty seventh of Sept. She begins to talk more now, but does'nt speak as plainly as the others did, is a little tongue tied. Sam took a photo of her in her "wedding dress" when he was home and I will get Alleta to send you one. We think them very good. We have begun house_cleaning have two rooms done.

Kate Capner is to be married on Thursday. I am invited to the wedding and expect to go. She marries Hirvey Finch Jr.

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

Aff. your niece
Caroline

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[*Addressed to*] 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

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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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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Bolton, June 19, .88 (Tues a.m.

My very Dear Carrie,

I received your most welcome letter & letters last Sat. evening. I should be most happy to accept your cordial & urgent invitation to visit you & meet the New Haven friends. I should love to see you all, but it would seem a great undertaking if it were expedient but I rather think I could do it in present health & strength if it were best.

The addition to Mary's part is now being built which of course brings care & labor & with that & all the rest we have to do & see to we have just as much as we all can attend to. Tomorrow the 20th of June the (anniversary of Mary's & my marriage) the Unitarian society have a strawberry festival in which Sue <*& Mother*> takes part in a comedy in the evening which is one of the attraction, entitled "Snow Bound" There will be Select Readings Banjo Solos & songs, There will be strawberries Ice cream & cake. In conclusion there will be a social dance, which Sue & Mollie will enjoy most of all, as will most of the young people. Bessie never dances. We all expect to go & hope to have an enjoyable time. I like to see dancing & hear the Violin & always did. except a time when I thought it was wicked to dance which I do not think so now any more than parties where they play the "needle's eye" &c or games & the like A white dress has got to be finished for Sue for tomorrow evening besides many other things to be done, Sam came home Sat. Eveng 17th of June being a Holiday in Boston & coming on Sunday this year Monday was observed. We had quite a good visit with him He returned this morning, He likes & is liked & I think has no longing to get back into the country to live but he likes to come home on a visit & has not missed of coming every Holiday but one, Expects to come home the Fourth, We are all invited up to "Grand La Haynes' the Fourth. I presume if the weather is favorable we shall all or some of us go from there to Clinton in the evening or some part of the day to see the display there. Our addition is 20 by 22 feet which gives a good sized kitchen & pantry in which the kitchen there will be a pump & cupboards the upper part is to be done off in one large sleeping room & a clothes room. We are all much pleased with it. It will cost considerable. The children all like it & want it. It is built at Mary's & my expense & we have the planning of it & feel that it is planned to as good advantage as possible considering the location of our main building & grounds.

I have thought of you many times <*this*> long back & imagined you were having repairs made on your building & knew it must be hard for you both with your not very good health but I had no idea you were both suffering <u>so much</u> with rhuematism. I trust you will get better fast as the warm weather increases, I am very well & have no pain to speak of but I find as the warm weather comes on it tires me very much to excercise. We are all very well but have enough to do to keep us tired

Thurs. morning before six oclock. The strawberry Festival passed off nicely. I wish you could have seen how prettily Sue looked & did her part in the comedy & how pretty she looked dancing. The white dress was finished, but it showered in the afternoon & was cool in evening she concluded not to wear it & wore another dress which was very becoming. We all went & staid through it all & got home about 12 oclock. The Hall was filled Mollie was dressed in white & danced. No one in the house is up but myself. Mary told me to send a great deal of love from her to you & the New Haven friends <*give*> I am glad they can visit you if I cannot which I should be, most happy to do if constant & all have a good visit together, I am glad Cornelia feels able to undertake the visit Please give my love to them all & accept much for your self. I hope to get this in office this morng,

SJ Wallis

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

Flemington NJ *[New Jersey]* Oct 30 1888

Dear Sister

Your last letter made me feel somewhat ashamed of my long silence but I thought you were getting most of the news from the others -- I have been for a little over a month here in McEmery's office looking after the collection of the accounts on the Books amounting to something over 14,000 Dollars. Have sent out last week over 200 statements, and people have been coming in lately to pay, and see about their accounts. It feels like old times to be writing and adding up the accounts --

Have a very pleasant office, and a man they have here looks after the fires. sweep out &c- I get 35 Dollars a Month for my services and come here at 1/2 past nine, have an hour or a little more for dinner and quit at 1/2 past 4 At first came up evenings for an hour but since selling out the Lumber Yard, only come occasionally when one of the Executors want to see me. My health has been quite good this fall and rheumatism much less than last spring & summer and am feeling the good effect of my long rest last July. How I did enjoy it and would very much liked to have made it two months instead of one --

Allie came home from Phila Monday -- was there about 2 weeks having a good rest and visit. Did not have the children with her as we thought the rest would be better if she had not them to care for --

Chalmers went down Saturday noon taking the two children with him and they returned as stated - Al was also in N York for a week some time ago and Sophie with her --

We get along comfortably with the [Sulphin's?] thus far -- though we cannot find any regular help. we can get good help by the day -- for ironing cleaning sweeping &c -- Have had to churn 3 o 4 times a week lately until this week, this week we have sold 30 or more quarts of cream --

The apple crop has been very good here this fall -- one man near town had about 2000 bushels and Mr [Hulsizer?] went up home and picked apples for us. we get them for 40 c a bushel and his Father gave him 2 o 3 bl for the children --

Politics are the chief excitement here at present and we will all be glad when it is over -- The Democrats in this County are very much divided on County Officer, and, 2 o 3 times lately we have beaten them -- we have some hopes of Harrison & Mortons election but can bear the disappointment if it comes --

Have had a very unusually wet fall and it has been hard work to do anything on the ground, We are almost through with fall cleaning, and Aunt H is looking forward to a visit to Vineland to see the new boy baby there. Will probably be away several weeks --

Am sorry to hear of Edwards long continued sickness. It must be a great trial and loss to him Hope he will have no more fall backs and eventually be able to make up the lost time. was glad to hear that he had some pecuniary help from some source -- When you see any of them give them my love & sympathy -- We are all sorry that we are to lose Mrs Anne Pierce, as a neighbor. She goes to New York with her sister Julia, and there will be more of the family at the old homestead. Of late years she has been a very fine and pleasant woman -- Her knee is still somewhat weak & stiff yet so that it is some trouble to go up & down stairs --

We picked some pretty roses this morning and our Chrysanthemum are just opening nicely

All Mr Emerys children will Miss the old home. They came here every summer to put up their fruit and they are packing now barrel after barrel of canned fruit for the different families They will divide most of the household foods so that there will be but little of it sold at public sale --

Am sorry to hear that you are so weak & miserable and advise you to take life as easily as possible as you have earned the right to rest and should do as much as you can --

Our new Furnace works very nicely and it is very little trouble to take care of the main thing is the ashes -- Do you still keep your cow or have you decided that it was more of a chore than a luxury -- Tell Uncle D, to take care of himself and not to forget to keep the stove warm this winter

Laye Democrat meeting to be here this afternoon & Fred Douglas speaks here tomorrow evening --

[*written at head of first page*] All the folks except myself were at church entertainment to raise Missionary funds -- Gleaners were the active parties and the attendance was good. Have not heard how much they took in --

Affectionately yours
W Hill

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Beloit Wis. [*Wisconsin*]
Feb. 22nd 1887

My dear Mother,

I can not let your birthday pass without a word to you to let you know that we do not forget this anniversary. I hope that it finds you well in body & in soul and that the coming year may be abundantly blessed to you in comfort & happiness in all that makes life worth living & death not a bitterness.

We have had sent to you & father a Cowles' "Pentateuch" which please accept as a birthday gift from Almon & myself. Carrie has returned from Janesville delighted with the friends which she has met there. She spent a little more than three weeks with Mrs. Little.

She & Harry have this evening gone to an entertainment at the church with Prof. & Mrs. Emerson & Addie. I think that Carrie seems little better than <*when she*> before her visit.

We are all as well as usual.

With much love to you both.

Your aff. daughter

Abbie. [*Abigail E. Grant 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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Bittersweet [*New Jersey*]

9 -- 11 -- 87

Dear Aunty,

It is a long time since I have written you The days have been so full with housecleaning, sewing and the thousand and one nameless things that after all must be looked to if the house machinery is to run smoothly.

This has been a rainy day and the house has seemed so very quiet as Allie took Sophie and Will to Bloomsbury on Thursday and yesterday Chalmers joined them

All coming home to-morrow. Aunt H. has been in Phila [*Philadelphia*] and is now in Vineland Returns next week

So you see our family numbers four Father, Carrie, Mr Warren, and myself

I received two "Woman's Journals" from Aunt Jane yesterday I will try to acknowledge them soon

Hope we may soon hear from you Has Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] returned to Beloit [*Wisconsin*]? We are all sorry that she has not come here

There is an item that I have had on my mind to tell you Think I have not mentioned it Aunt Hetty gave me her black silk for my birthday present It has been made over and in a very handsome dress and I think it was very good and kind of her to give it. Before Mrs [Sutphin?] left she insisted on giving Carrie and me Each five dollars with my five I helped to pay for the making of the silk Carrie puts hers into a new blue cashmere which Mr [Cornet?] is to buy this week I am glad to say that I need no new cloth or cashmere dress

We did not really finish cleaning until this last week because we needed sewing done and stopped to do it However we had only left Pantries and back porch, the rest all being finished before Thanksgiving

Chalmer's Father and Mother spent that day with us and after they had gone home we went to an Entertainment in our Chapel given by the Mission Band to which we belong Tuesday Eve of this week the "Hill Memorial" Band (named for Mama) give a supper in the Chapel. We are going to give cream and we are to help Lizzie Anderson Hyde make cocoa nut kisses for them tomorrow A. M. So it is first one thing and then another

I do often wish you could see Sophie and Will but they are noisy and you would not like that children How are Eds little girls? Of course the baby walks and talks now Give my love to them all which means Ed & Lucy also.

What has been done about the acct book What has Mr. Cowles to say for himself? Rather strange for a banker to make so many mistakes Carrie wishes to use a little of her money

But would rather know how much she has in Savings Bank before sending for it So if it is convenient will you write her how matters stand very likely you have not been able to attend to it yet If so you could tell her on a Postal I must go to bed A busy day tomorrow Do write and let us know how you are getting on

With love to Uncle Daniel

Affectionately
Minnie H.

We still milk seven cows sell cream and butter get 30 cts for butter now
You may return this please

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Boston, Mass
Jan 5, 1886,

Dear cousin Carrie,

We thank you for the Christmas card you sent us, we all think it is very pretty indeed and we like the one you sent grandpa and grandma. We had among us thirty five Christmas cards this year. When I promised to write to you before you went away from our house I did not think I should be two years in redeeming my promise but I hear of you from grandma and I am very sure you hear of us all from her. She says she has told you about the two Christmas entertainments here. I was very glad to be able to go to one of them. I am quite well now and Friday night went to a little reading at Mrs. Rud's and again last night. Saturday night I went to a Spelling Match at the Hall. Sue, Molly and I with some others go over to Mrs. Ruds once a fortnight to sew for destitute children in Boston, we work about three hours and each one gives five cents once a month. I am knitting a rug now for "take up work" I knit it with twine <*on*> and use two coarse steel needles—every other row I knit in little pieces of cloth. I have just finished the third strip and shall begin the border. I get on with it so slowly that they sometimes say they do laugh at me and say I shall never be out of "take up work" – it has been on hand a year but I really think we shall be using it before another year. We still belong to the Magazine Club here – there are five members and it only cost two dollars and seventy five cents to belong to the club – we have the Century, Harper's Monthly, Popular Science and St. Nicholas A <*gread*>great deal of good reading for that sum we think. I am taking charge of the hens now. I began late this Fall—they have a better place than formerly and are doing unusually well. I get thirty three cents a dozen for eggs. I have not begun to pay for the food yet so of course it is very profitable for me—may not find it so when papa stops supplying. I have twenty one hens and two roosters and hope I can make it profitable as so many people say they do. I tried keeping them once before and got discouraged but perhaps I shall succeed this time as I think the conditions are rather more favorable. I suppose you know that Sam is away from home—we all miss him very much but are glad he is so favorably situated—he keeps in good health and spirits. We think of you very often and wish we could have another visit from you. If you are not too busy please write to me some time.

With much love from all and best wishes for a Happy New Year
Ever your aff. cousin
Bessy

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Bolton Dec 22 .86

My Dear Niece,

I received yours dated 16th Ins. The next morning after it was mailed. I was very glad to hear from you once more. I had wondered what was the reason you did not write. I feared you might be sick but am glad to know you are able to

write & you & husband are in tolerable health. Mary & Bessie were in Boston all last week & did not get home till this week Monday night. There was a Woman Suffrage Bazaar gotten up to raise funds for the cause & to arouse more interest on the subject &c. & there were addresses & speaking & it was quite an interesting occasion & they are glad they went although came home pretty tired especially Mary but she is getting rested. They had some errands, & shopping to do & the stores were crowded (just before Christmas you know).

It was difficult to get to the counters & had to wait a long time for the parcels & the change. They got materials for each of the girls a dress & Bessie a hat & various other things. The Bazaar was open from Monday evng [ … ] Sat evng inclusive. I have seen it stated they netted about $5000. which was doing very well. Sue & Mollie kept house while their mother was gone <*b …*> but their father & grandma were about & lent a helping hand. They attended school all the time. Sue plays the organ in the High School & she also plays the organ for the Unitarian Church Sundays and she goes to Clinton once a week to take lessons on the Piano. She learns quite easily & is praised. I presume she will go only once more this winter as that will end the quarter.

Amory Bessie Sue & Mollie are down to the Hall this evening. The Baptist Society give an entertainment to get funds for something I don't know just what. I am glad you could get around & visit your friends & I am very glad to hear of them through you. I thank you for sending the letter from Minnie. I am sorry for them

It cost $4 for you & husband to make your weeks visit. It cost Mary Bessie to go & return from Boston $2.20<*4.12*> the fare is only 55 cents now. They of course had to pay for board besides. They had a good visit with Sam. He likes them. We expect he will come home to spend Christmas & return Mon. morning. Mr. Wallis has not wholly recovered from his lameness & does not labor at all & I doubt if he ever will be able to do much more . He's better than he was a month or two ago. He keeps pretty [ …]. If he even goes to the Post Office it makes him worse. He is pretty comfortably sick if he keeps still. I don't know what is the matter with him. He calls it rheumatism. It is different from any I ever knew about. I guess it is nothing very alarming. He is very careful of himself & is comfortable & has a good appetite but does not eat as much as he might for fear it might not be good for him. He takes Hood's Sarsaparilla & thinks it is going to purify the blood & cure him. I presume it is as good & harmless as anything he could take. I am unusually well so far this winter. I feel very much better in winter weather. The air is so invigorating to me. Mary's family are well. In getting out the mittens a month or more ago I found three pairs that our children had outgrown, two pairs I had mended very much but I did not know but they might come right for Edwards children to wear some time so I did them up & when I went to the office I found it would cost but two cents to send them but I concluded I would wait till I got a letter from you & when I answered it I would send them.

I think Mary & children are going to send you some Christmas cards but they are so busy I don't know as they will get them ready in time but I guess they will. They are to go up to "Grand Pa Haynes'" Christmas. It is nearly 12oclock [mid]night & I must stop writing. I see I have written crookedly. I have written hurredly & cannot see the lines. Write again as soon as you can. I shall be glad to see the book you speak of sending. Thurs. P.M. Bessie [ … ] invited by a friend she met at the Bazaar to go out to Watertown & spend the night with and she went. Had a pleasant time. From there she went to Waltham & spent the day & had a pleasant visit. I furnished the means of this expedition. I want them to have some of the good of my savings while I live & as they need it. They hired a room near Sam's boarding house for $2.00 a week, & took their meals part of the time at Sam's boarding place & some times at restaurants & got along comfortably. They also patronized the Bazaar tables which were very nice. Now Mary & the children & meself intend to send you some cards to go out tomorrow morning & Bessie sends some poetry which Sam gave them <*it*> the covers had become soiled in the store where he is & it was cast aside & Sam saved it. Bessie took off the soiled covers & put on a new cover & painted the ferns & flowers on it but while she was painting it accidentally got laid down on a wet blue brush & made a daub on it but nevertheless as the poetry was so good she decides to send it with the blemish. It probably wan not less than .50 cents when fresh. Now please don't take the trouble to send us any thing for Christmas or New Years. We would rather you would save yourself the trouble.

Mary & Bessie send a great deal of love. No one else knows of my writing.

With love,

S. J. Wallis

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