Subject: Female Seminaries

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

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

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

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

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

Norfolk [*Connecticut*] July 4 1837

To Miss Mary Lyon <*Dear Madam*>

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

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

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

Mrs [*Pamela Benton Burr*]

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

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

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

Mrs Burr,

Madam,

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

Respectfully Yours
[MA?] Osterhout
For Emma Willard

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

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

Great Barrington [*Massachusetts*] 6th April 1836

Dear Sir

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

Respectfully Yours

Sturges Gilberts
Rector of St. James Church

Mr. Ebenesar Burr

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

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

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

My dear Madam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your respectfully,
Nancy Emerson

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

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

Thurs. morn Mar 15, 1838

Dear Mrs. Burr,

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

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

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

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

Wellington O}
Sept 24th}

Brighton September 3 '' 41

Much respected Relatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[*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

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

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

Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

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

My dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My dear Caroline,

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

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

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

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

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

With love from,
Caroline E. Bois,

Tuesday Eve.

[*Added in another hand:*]

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

Caroline Grant

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

[*Addressed to:*] Miss Caroline Burr.

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

My friend Caroline,

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

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

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

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

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

In Haste

Your aff. [*affectionate*] friend

Susan Reed.

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

C. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*] –

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

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

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

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

Miss Jane Benton

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

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

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

My very dear Caroline
I just bid you farewell, the carriages at the door, their rumbling wheels soon will tell that you are far away, but the fond remembrance of these happy hours will remain while life lasts
When your happy home remember Again [dear?]
Levina Moore

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

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

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

Seminary. Friday Morn

My Dear Caroline
I cannot let pass so good an opportunity without writing you a few words
How is your health now? I hope it is better than it was last fall
I am anticipating the pleasure of having you for a class mate next year, and hope I shall not be disappointed. I often think of the many happy moments we have spent here together. Do you remember our reading class? "The frost and the flower garden?" ?
I have been here but a week and consequently have become acquainted with but a few of the new scholars, from appearances should think them a very pleasant circle of young ladies — you probably know who are our teachers
I think they demean themselves with the utmost propriety
It seems more like a dream than reality that our dear, sweet, [little?] Helen has a seat with them.
I need not tell you how much we all regret to part with your dear sister [*Mary Burr*]
I had anticipated <u>much</u> from her society, and now as soon as I get here she goes away, but so it is with all our earthly hopes. How thankful should we be that there is a hope which will not disappoint, that there is a home where friends will never part. Oh, Dear C. [*Caroline*] how I wish I could see you & have a good long talk with you
Good bye
Affectionately yours
Mary W. Chapin.

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

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

[*Addressed to:*] Miss Caroline Burr. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Mt Holyoke [*Massachusetts*], March, 1840

My <u>dear</u> <u>dear</u> Caroline,
Sister Mary [*Mary Grant*] is going to leave us tomorrow for her <u>own</u> <u>dear</u> <u>home</u> where she has so long wished to be, I do not need to tell you how sorry we <u>all</u> are to have her go, but still

much as we love her, we would not keep her from those dear ones who know best how to cheer the drooping spirit, of a fond sister and daughter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Miss M. Burr.

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

Dear Caroline ~

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

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

philosophy in Bowdoin College]. We have just finished the first volume & the arrangement is so good & the whole work so beautifully transparent that it seemed as though we could look back through the whole & follow him from beginning to end in such a manner as to afford real satisfaction to the mind. O, you will have fine times here next year.

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

Yours truly

Catharine L. Leach.

Miss C. Burr.

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

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

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

Miss Mary Burr.

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

My dear Miss Burr,

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

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

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

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

1st page

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

L.H. [C?]lark

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

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

[*Addressed to*:] Miss Caroline Burr [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Norfolk
Ct [*Connecticut*]
By Mary Burr}

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] March 20, 1840

Dear Caroline

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

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

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

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

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

Most affectionately yours
Abby Moore [*Abigail Moore Burgess*]

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

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

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

Miss Elizabeth Cone will be
happy to see Miss M. & C. Burr

on Wednesday eve at 7. o'clock

Tuesday July 27th 1840 ——

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

Distresses of Marie —

Grant Temple of Luince [Lands?]

My dear Carrie

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

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

P.S. Love to all inquiring friends

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

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

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

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

My own dear Caroline

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

But dear Carra. I could not let Mary go without at least a note to you, for I have many things to tell you. And first I must tell you my own delinquencies, and my sorrow because of them. I have been an unfaithful friend and sister to Mary dear, and perhaps she will tell you that weeks have passed away in which she has had no proof of my remembrance. Could she have seen my heart she would have known herself beloved and cared for — but I fear that now she thinks me indifferent. I will not attempt to exculpate myself — for Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] tells us the want of time is generally equivalent to a want of "character," and this is my only plea.

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

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

Are you still an inhabitant of the school-room? the guardian spirit of the little group? Mary has told me you were so engaged in the early part of the winter. And I suppose you find much to

[make?] you happy for the consciousness of being useful makes us so. I have often thought of you — and desired for you the smiles of your Heavenly Father's countenance.

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

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

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

Julia

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

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

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

Holyoke April 28, 1843.
Frid. Morn —

My dear Caroline —

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

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

Yours truly
Susan Reed.

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

Caroline Grant

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

[*Addressed to*:] Miss Mary Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]
Care of Lewis M. Prevost Esq.

Erwinna P.O.
Bucks Co.
Penn. [*Pennsylvania*]

Folio post.

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

My own precious Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Nichols
Clayton, Mass.
Nov. 4, 1879.

Dear Mrs. Nichols,

Pressing duties have caused this long delay in noticing your request and I beg you to excuse this want of courtesy. But if this does not reach you in time, you will lose nothing, for

altho' I have a general idea of Miss Lyon's [*Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] character, & teaching etc. but really recollect few particulars so as to put them in shape on paper.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How strictly were all days of fasting & prayer observed

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

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

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

Oberlin [*Ohio*], Aug 1st 1876

Dear Cousin,

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

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

Mr & Mrs Smith came to day from Ill [*Illinois*], Mrs S. & Prof. Cowles are sister & brother to Mrs. Corbin, If you see her you may say they are very well. We are all well here, I saw Miss Hill your Cousin this morn. in usual health. Has been pretty warm to day but we have no such excessive heat as about two weeks since, I suppose Theodore is now at Phila. [*Philadelphia*] Do you know Cousin John's whereabouts? I got here the eve of July 6th, Shall start for Grinnell, Iowa Aug 3rd I think. Hope to hear from you there at your earliest convenience, I was a good deal worried about you But had made all my arrangements for going on the evening train & thought it extremely doubtful about my being able to find you if I waited over, I had a very

pleasant ride through Penn'a [*Pennsylvania*] I thought the mountain scenery very fine, & there certainly were never more beautiful views than the Susquehanna & Juniata, When did you reach home? How have you found the friends? When you write Cousin Abbie tell her, I shall not much longer neglect her very kind & pleasant letter. Give love to your Mother, Uncle Auntie & the others when you see them, In great haste

Affectionately your Cousin
Wm [*William*] Burton

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

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

My dear Parents,

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

Mon. morning. I rose about sun rise sea sick, & hastened to go on deck, where the fresh air & some vomiting soon relieve me. No place about a ship is so pleasant as the deck. I never became weary looking at the waves & the motion of the vessel mounting a wave & then descending sometimes appeared very majestically. I rested considerable the first two nights indeed. I slept pretty well, excepting two nights all the time. - Tues. A. M. was cold & cloudy, though I stayed on deck most of the time because I felt much better than in the cabin. We had a fine turky for dinner. It rained in the P. M. & the wind blew hard from the S. E. The boat rocked very much. I had not been able to support myself for some time, but now this was not only my case, but that of all on board. You would be amused to take your meals on board a ship when the wind blows. The table is made fast to the floor, & the dishes are prevented from sliding from it be a frame. Even then it was often difficult to keep our seats & see to our coffee & plates. The Capt. first mate, Mr. Herring & myself took our meals together. Tues. evening about 10 o'clock the wind suddenly changed to the N. W. & blew in a gale for 12 hours. No one slept any more, or but very little that night. It did seem that we certainly should capsize. I never passed such a night, & I then felt that nothing would ever incite me to take another voyage. I found some comfort in committing myself to Him who controls the winds & waves, & in feeling the Judge of all earth does all things well. The Sab [*Sabbath*] before I committed those verses in the 10th Ps. [*Psalm*] which contain an interesting description of a storm at sea from verses 23 – 31. Perhaps some of the children would like to learn those verses. In the serm [*sermon*] at Ips [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] just before I left about $70.00 was collected for the Seamens Friend Soc. [*Seamen's Friend Society*] & almost 100 for a Theological Sem. [*Seminary*] in Jefferson Co. Ohio. Miss Lyon mentioned four reasons why the seamen had a claim on our benevolence. 1. Because they were exposed to great hard ships in this life. 2. Great exposure to a premature death. 3. The salvation of their soul. 4. Their instrumentality in converting the world. These increase in importance the last outweighing all the others. Mr. Hubbard of Boston thinks no society more in need of assistance now, than this.

Wednes. morn. Was rejoiced to find the wind abating. I went on deck the sea was high. The spray often rose so high as to sprinkle me. It repays for some suffering to see the ocean in such a situation. I do not think I have language to describe it to you. At one time the waves were from 30 to 40 ft. high & they were several times from 15 to 20 or 25 ft. Sometimes a hill of water would be moving towards the ship much higher than we were & it seemed as if it wd. [*would*] soon bury us, but the ship wd. [*would*] rise, or the wave die away. It is wonderful how the ships do avoid them so much. I saw a great number of porpoises darting through the water. They would weigh 100 pds. [*pounds*] are chiefly valuable for their oil, & are caught with harpoons. I suffered very little more from sickness. Friday I finished reading a tract "The Backslider" which I think very good. Wednes. P.M. The Capt. & mates kept trying the heat of the water to ascertain of we were in the Gulf Stream. At four o'clock the thermometers rose to 76 degrees so that the Capt. had no doubt but we were in the G.S. [*Gulf Stream*] He hoped not to get so far east as the stream, but the wind was unfavorable, & it cd. [*could*] not be avoided. The Gulf Stream is from 60 to 80 m. [*miles*] wide, & extends to the coast of Newfoundland. Sea weed is floating about it in great abundance which resembles ground pine. The air here was peculiarly soft & warm as May days in New Eng. [*England*] Wednes. night the rain fell in torrents. Squalls were frequent all the time the ship was in the G.S. [*Gulf Stream*] Thursday stayed below because of the rain. Spent most of the time reading Memoir of Felix Neff. The gale I mentioned on Tues. night, should have been Thurs. night. This was much more violent than the first. During the evening there was much thunder, & sharp lightning. After this, the wind blew from the N. W. One of sails was taken away. The Capt. thought it very fortunate that the sails were furled, otherwise he thought the whole might have sunk. Fri. I went on deck before breakfast, & remained there about five min. The ocean was indeed a grand sight. I did not go on deck again till Sat. We saw three vessels sailing most of the day. Sat. P. M. was very mild & Sab. [*Sabbath*] very pleasant I read the book of Hos. [*Hosea*] When on deck saw large collections of sea weed. At a distance it appeared yellow. Its color depends in a measure on its situation in the water. If two or three ft. [*feet*] below the surface it was a beautiful green. When on the surface, not so lively. Probably this is in part owing to the age of the weed. About sunset on deck I witnessed a scene which I fancy had I been blessed by the muses I should have seized as favorable to write poetry. The waters were gently undulating, & on every side of each [.... ....] hill of waters were numberless ripples. The

horizon was skirted with broken clouds. The light of the fading day still lingered in west for some time only one gem twinkled in the heavens then one & another peeped out. The wind was soft & refreshing. I silently enjoyed it till the Capt. asked me down to tea. About poetry.....Abigail & John would learn to love poetry. When I was in Taunton [*Massachusetts*], Mr. Reed's children I thought had a pretty way of amusing themselves by capping poetry as they termed it. One would repeat a line, then another wd. [*would*] repeat one commencing with the same letter which ended the previous line, as if one should say, Deep in the waves is a coral grove, E is the last letter. The next line might be, Eye hath not seen it, my gentle boy, the next line begins with Y I think. Martha & even Marcus would like to it sometimes Mr. Joseph Emerson said at I. [*Ipswich*] last summer that poetry ought to receive 1000 times the attention it has yet received. Repeat poetry proper lines if you repeat at all. Mon. morning the waves were quite high but the motion was pleasant, no rocking but resembling swings, the head of the ship rising & then the stern. the waves usually break to the leeward that is if the wind is N. W. they fall away to the S. E. Tues. & Wednes. we were nearly in the latitude of Savannah but 300 miles from the coast & the direction of the wind such as the render the prospect discouraging as to what time we shd. [*should*] arrive at Savannah, but Wednes. night the wind changed & continued favorable the remainder of the passage. We were soon wafted over the Gulf Stream & Friday morning the land was in sight & a pilot was received on board. Sat. about ten o'clock I arrived at Savannah & sent to the P. O. for a letter which Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] had lodged there that I might know where to find her. About 11 I found her & now am pleasantly situated in a boarding house with Aunt & Miss Hubbard. Coming up the river the scenery was very pleasant. Flocks of duck, crows & rice birds were flying about in all directions – Aunt & Miss H. [*Hubbard*] are expecting to accompany me to Forsythe [*Georgia*]. They will probably remain there about one month. Aunt expects to be in Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] next summer. We expect to go by steam boat to Augusta [*Georgia*], from thence by stage to Milledgeville [*Georgia*], then to Macon [*Georgia*]. Forsythe [*Georgia*] is 24 miles beyond Macon [*Georgia*]. I do not know what my school is to be yet. There are two departments male & female. Mr. Parsons the principal has a general superintendence of the female department though I suppose they are principally committed to me. You may direct your letters to Forsythe, Monroe Co. Ga. [*Georgia*] The accent of Forsythe is on the last syllable. The th has the aspirate sound. I expect to remain there a year. My dear father have you though that you have not written me one word since I left home, though I doubt not I have your best wishes & parental regard but will you write me one letter this winter. I suppose you are not so pressed with business as in summer. I wish you wd. [*would*] describe to me the state of the church & society in Colebrook [*Connecticut*], also the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school. Brother Daniel will you write me a minute description of our house? Abigail, will you write me about the school & our friends. Give my love to our cousins, aunts & uncles. Aunt received a letter containing the news of Aunt Pettibone's death last Sat. the day I arrived here. We sympathize with them & hope they will be comforted.

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

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

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

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], March 22, 1834

My dear Brother,

Most sincerely do I thank you for your affectionate letter, mailed the 18th & received yesterday. The evidence, that it proceeded from a heart filled with fraternal tenderness, was most grateful to my feelings. As the number of my relatives diminishes, I seem to cling with increased ardor of attachment to the few that remain. Doubtless my heart too much resembles the vine by

seeking support from near earthly objects. While I prize these blessings, may I always keep in mind their author.

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

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

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

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

[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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

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

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

My dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Friends,

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

I suppose Marcus has grown a good deal & continues to be a kind good boy. I dare say <*you*> M. [*Mary Grant Burgess*] J. [*John Grant*] D. [*Daniel Grant*] J. [*Joel Grant*] & A.[*Abigail*

Grant] and especially Mary have altered some, but I think I shall not be at a loss to call your names, when I see you.

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

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

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

There is to be a protracted meeting here next week.

This week Thursday is fast.

Much love to all of you

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

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

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

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

Was the letter mostly written by Miss Cowles [*Abigail Cowles Grant?*] duly received? I suppose you perused it. Aside from one letter mailed about two weeks since to Elizabeth, & one business letter I penned for Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*], I have written but two letters since I came here. Miss Cowles has not heard, neither have I from home. Cousin Lovina received a letter from Grant and Miss Beach has heard a number of times, so that we have felt contented feeling that you all were usually well, yet I feel that a letter from home would indeed be acceptable My health has been good, for a week past a cold has troubled me some. Miss Cowles has been gaining strength, she has been absent from school but one half day — then because of the sick head ache. We enjoy rooming together well. Lovina is making good improvement I think, & is happy. Half of the term is gone, we are to have a short vacation soon here. The school is very pleasant, I do not know but I mentioned in my last that one section of 24 young ladies were committed to me. They are generally about 17 years of age from five different states. I never felt the privilege of living and laboring so great as this summer. I have often felt grateful that a kind Providence has brought me again to Ipswich [*Ipswich Female Seminary*]. I ardently desire that my principles may now become so fixed that I may be prepared for more extensive usefulness than formerly. Miss Lyon I think is more & more spiritual & enlarged in her views. She is confident one way in which the renovation of the world is to be accomplished, is the more general diffusion of correct female education, & I do think schools will eventually be formed where the domestic labor will all be performed by the pupils, & Miss Lyon will do something. It is known that she intends leaving Ipswich & she often receives applications, but she says, she thinks it would be wrong for her to accept any situation however desirable, unless on the domestic labor plan. She has given two lectures on fem. [*female*] education of about an hour each. She would have the intellectual advantages equal to any school now in operation. A few ideas in one of her lectures follow. Learn to philosophize upon what educated men & women ought to do in various ways, & what you ought to do & then do your part. I mean fem. [*female*] ed. [*education*] in general not principally our relations. The man without children may have that benevolence & comprehensive view of the subject as to render his interest ten times deeper than many men with ten daughters Throughout the country a man interested for himself alone is considered mean, but not so mean for an educated female to be contracted as an ed. [*educated*] gentleman. Females cannot rise so much above those around them as men. This one reason why the mass shd. [*should*] be raised — Aspire for an enlarged view. — education to go forth into the world to be actively useful. — God has blessed fem. education, & next to the preaching of the gospel a means of bringing forth the glory promised. — Investigate — write upon the subject find out what is lacking, what is superfluous. — physical system to receive attention — to understand philosophy of the mind, & of human nature, how the passions are excited & allayed, & prepare for action on society, eminently philosophical able to investigate general principles on every subject. — Should be no incongruity between theory & practice. Her own passions under perfect self

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ipswich, Sept. 18. 1834.

My dear Mother,

I thank you for your letter, & wish you to write as often as possible. The preceding pages will show you that the time for efficie[nt] action on the behalf of the proposed Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] has come. I do think there will be some difficulty in collecting the $1000. as soon as desirable. Will not the maternal association rejoice to lend a helping hand. If mother, you can do any thing for this object, it is the cause of God & virtue. And from this fountain many streams will flow forth fertilizing the men[ta]l powers, & enriching moral feelings. Not on[ly i]n New Eng. but the example will be imitated by the West & South. <*If*> Whether we may live to see this, or not we shall never regret we made vigorous efforts. I never have been more interested in the success of any project, for I do think it intimately connected with the prosperity of the church. If the educated will show they desire such an institution, by very soon raising sufficient to support an agent it is to be hoped the school will be opened one year from next spring. $.10 now may do more than 20. or 30 when the agent presents the subject. Hand this circular to Mrs. O. Stillman would she not contribute $10. also. Dea. [*Deacon*] Stillman's wife & daughters. I do hope Colebrook [*Connecticut*] ladies will avail themselves of this opportunity to do something to raise our country, & benefit the ch. [*church*] I trust they will not merely coldly approve, but be willing to sacrifice some thing to aid this noble, & very important enterprize. For further particulars I refer you to cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*]. I am expecting the stage every moment to call for her. I remain here during vacation, study Ecclesiastical Hist [*History*] some, &

sew some. Pray my dear mother, that such young ladies may come here next winter as may be profited, remember the teachers, & me particularly. Love to you all.

Your affectionate

Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*].

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

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

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

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

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

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

busy days, or still at work or reading by the kitchen fire. I hope not sick or any of the family. Good night to you all.
Affectionately your daughter, Mary. [*Mary Grant Burgess*]
Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] sends love to you all. She is a mother to me.

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

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] Nov. 23. 1834

Dear sister Abigail,

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

Ipswich, Dec. 18, 1834

I wish to write a few things to my brother and sisters at home when I can get a few moments. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] remonished ? to day in school that duties never clashed, that all duty could be done. And I thought I would be industrious, and complete a letter to get to you before next new year. I will write a few words first to brothers John and Marcus & sister Martha. I suppose they are now attending school. I hope they daily improve their minds, hearts, and manners. — Dear brother John, you are more than 12 [? *paper torn*] yrs. old, you have heard the Bible read every day since your remembrance, and have been to the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school a long time, but when Pres. [*President*] Edwards had studied the bible more than any one book for many yrs. [*years*] at the age of 53 he thought he knew in comparison of what was contained in this precious book, but as a drop to the ocean, and how much do you know. Have you ever read the whole Bible? do you try to receive its meaning as it is read in the family? and do you try to practice it as you know it. Do you feel that your Creator has a right to require you to do what ever he pleases. His requirements are tended to promote the greatest happiness, are suited to promote your happiness and mine, and in no way but in obedience to

these holy and just commands then it be secured. Are you studying geog. [*geography*] this term. I think your knowledge of the planet we inhabit may be sufficient for you to devote your attention to some other branches of Arithmetic, I believe you are fond. I think you would find it so, and only regret that I did not avail myself more of the privilege. When you study or read about any place, get as vivid a conception as possible of it, so clear that you will seem to see it.

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

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

Dear sister Martha,

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

From your affectionate sister,

Mary Grant [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

My dear Marcus,

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

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

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

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

My ever dear Mother,

Your letter was duly & gratefully received. I have often thought of you, & did not think so long a time would pass without writing you a single word. I study a part of the time this term. Have studied a small work on Geology & Butler's Analogy of natural & revealed religion to the constitution & course of nature, & attend to singing & drawing. These things with the care of my section, with what I teach & visits, walks & necessary writing & reading have so filled up my time that I have deferred it till now. I have filled out a large folio sheet to sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] & cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*]. I received a letter from sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant*] to day. She is very well, better than usual, had a good visit with Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], says she loves him more than ever does not think of returning this fall, & I think I choose she should not. Miss Bridges & Miss Adams the teachers who were with her last winter spent two days here a few weeks since. I was very happy to hear so directly from E. & her school. Miss Bridges left Granville in the latter part of May, & expects to return the forepart of Sept. She is to spend a few weeks here first. Mr. Rose a clergyman from a town joining Granville, is now in New Eng. [*New England*] as an agent to procure funds for a boarding house in G. [*Granville*] He went from Gran. [*Granville*] Mass. [*Massachusetts*] at the age of five years to Ohio, saw the first tree felled in Granville. O [*Ohio*] in 1806. He feels as well as the people generally that the school at Granville must be sustained, though the teachers as useful or more so than many ministers there. Was quite acceptable in his remarks, I wish you could see him. I received a letter from Elizabeth Rockwell this week in which she says she has just heard indirectly that brother Phelps has come home. Is it so? Miss C. Beecher [*Catherine Beecher?*] spent some time here a few weeks since I wrote to Miss Palmer after it, & expected you would hear from me thro' [*through*] her. I hope she will answer mine soon. Mr. Laberce, president of a college in Tenn. [*Tennessee*] next came into school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & gave an account of the state of society, education & religion, also the productions, face of the country &c, of that state, quite interesting & valuable — great want of educated ministers & teachers. Next Mr. Lewis agent for the school in [Ind.?] which Mr. Twining plead for last winter, & which Mr. Twining is now engaged in teaching. Then Mr. Rose of Granville — & Monday this week Rev. Thomas Brainerd, Cincinnati addressed us, giving us an idea of the vast tide of population crowding into the western states, of the principal periodicals in the Miss. [*Mississippi*] valley — of the state of Catholicism, all these statements were valuable, & suited to lead to self denying action. I have read most of Maria Monk, people generally believe it, & I see no reason why they should not. It seems that the great principle of the papists is, that <*the*> any thing is right which promotes the interests of their church. There are now 600 sisters of charity who have taken vows of celibacy & to teach for life, planted in schools in different parts of the land. They are like nuns, except not secluded.

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

July 29. We have beautiful weather now tho' [*though*] the season has been uncommonly variable & damp this summer. I have a pleasant room & room mate, & Ipswich Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] I think one of the most blessed places of earth. Here is intelligence, refinement, benevolence & piety. Half the school are professors of religion, one gives some

evidence of having been recently renewed. Miss Caldwell has been spending a few days at her mother's in town. I enjoyed visiting with her much.

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

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

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

Aunt says she thinks it will not be consistent for her to visit Ct. [*Connecticut*] this fall. When does P. expect to be married. when leave for Ohio. I have invited Mr. B. to come to Colebrook [*Connecticut*] this fall, as I thought he might never see Phelps unless he came then. He has been here once to see me. He asked me if you would like him to send you the Evangelist, as he could as well as not. He heard you speak of that paper, I told him I thought you would. My best love D.J. M&M also Aunt N. Margaret & Desia. Aunt Phelps & all cousins. Has Uncle Phelps returned from Ohio Did Mary Ann Coweles get her bill?

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

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

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

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

Ever Dear Friend,

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

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

Last Friday I received a letter from Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. She was at Ips. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] said she was intending to be there till the term closed April 11. & she anticipates being able to be there next summer, to give instruction upon moral subjects more or

less every week. Her health has improved the past months. She says she shall insist upon Miss Farrar & I being at Ipswich if Miss F. [*Farrar*] can leave her relatives. Miss Caldwell goes to Amherst tomorrow, & I have concluded to accompany her, & remain there with her till Mon. when I shall go to Boston Providence permitting, & soon after to Ips. [*Ipswich*]

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

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

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

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

Sister Martha,

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

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

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant

Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Con. [*Connecticut*]

Paid
No. 6.

Boston, March 29, 1839.

My dear Parents,

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

Ipswich, April 9, 1839.

My dear Brother, & Sister,

On Saturday March 30, the missionaries Rev. Messrs. Burgess, French & [Hume] & their wives with Miss Cynthia Gannan, came from Boston to Salem [*Massachusetts*]. On Sat. eve. private instructions were given them at the house of Rev. Mr. Worcester, by the Rev. Messrs. Anderson & Armstrong. Judge Darling of Henniker, N.H. the father of Mrs. Ballantine of the [Nahvalta?] Mission was admitted, & such relatives of the missionaries as were in Salem. Judge Darling remarked, that his love for his daughter had increased every year since her absen<*t*>ce, but he did not wish to see her in this country; he wished to have her a devoted missionary. Mr. Anderson very familiarly told the missionaries what was due from them to the Capt. <*&*> mates, helmsman & sailors on board the vessel, what would be due to the English Consul on their arrival at Bombay &c., & exhorted them to render unto Cesar the things which are Cesar's. He gave them good counsel also, in reference to their deportment towards each other.

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

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

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

My dear Brother, Your letter was most precious to me. That I have such a friend in you, affords me great consolation. I suppose that Christian parents are often blessed, when they, in faith, educate their children, & that <*generally*> if they can they shd [*should*] educate them [for?] faith, even when the children are not pious. I know not what the Lord would have you do with your son John, but I trust that he will make known to you his will in this matter. You cannot safely lean much upon your children, in such a way as to depend on them in future. But if you do all you can to fit them to glorify God, & give them up to him, he will be better to you than sons or daughters. The course of obedience to God, is the only happy, as it is the only safe course. We must not

desist from commencing a good work for fear, that we shall be unable to carry it through. David did well to commence what he could not finish. Every good work is commenced in the mind of some deviser. I mean when commenced & carried on understandingly. May Heaven guide & bless you. – Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*] handed me $50. in return for my loan. I do not want the funds from Mr. Bass's estate forwarded to me

My connexion with Ips. Fem. Sem [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] closes on Tues. the 10th. I have no doubt, that it is my duty to give up all care of a school for some time to come. By quiet, & much exercise in the open air, together with the blessing of Heaven, I may again have comfortable health, & enjoy the luxury of laboring for others. But to obey the will of God seems to me more desirable than any thing else. In my abundant cares in closing business, my poor body suffers, but my spirit is wonderfully sustained Teachers & pupils are as kind & faithful as possible, & so are all with whom I have to do. The Lord deals with me in great mercy. – I do not expect to visit Colebrook [*Connecticut*] for some time to come. Whether I shall be moving about in [a hass?] next summer, & be stationary I do not know. My health will be my object. Miss Elizabeth [Heaton?] expects to go where I go, to stay where I stay. She can write such business letters as I must have written, & <*perform for*> gives me the sisterly attentions I need. – The future in this world is a blank, but I doubt not, the Lord will provide – I hope you will write me again before long. Direct to Ipswich [*Massachusetts*]; This will be my head quarters for six weeks to come. After that, I shall keep the P. M. [*Post Master*] here advised of my movements. I send you an Essex Register.

Much love to all your children.

Your ever affectionate sister,
Z.P. Grant.

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

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

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

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

Loved and honored Parents,

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

Thurs. morn. The motion of the vessel was less, the sun, through one sky light shone pleasantly, & we all felt better. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] hastened on deck. I rose & washed my whole system in salt water (a practice I have since continued, & probably shall to the end of my voyage) & went on

deck. From that date I have been most of the time entirely free from sickness. Thurs. noon I took dinner at table with Capt Ward, Mr. & Mrs. French, Mr. & Mrs. Hume. This was the first time we had been to the table. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] & Miss F [*Cynthia Farrar*] were not able to be present & they are still on the sick list. Fri. & Sat. we had some social reading.
Thurs. P.M. April 11. A favorable breeze is wafting us along, & the day is beautiful. The sea is less rough, so we are on deck more & suffer less from s. [*sea*] sickness. I will go back to last Sab. [*Sabbath*] It was warm, & mild. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress spread on deck, & I read to him most of the A.M. I read some from the Bible, & several tracts. About 3 o'clock, P.M. a little meeting was held in the cabin, opened by singing. Mr. F. [*French*] led in prayer, Mr. H. [*Hume*] read a sermon by Chalmers, a little time was spent in conversation, & the pleasant meeting was closed by prayer, led by Mr. Hume. Capt. Ward was present. He is a member of the Bap. chh. [*Baptist church*] in Salem. He is willing that all suitable measures should be taken to benefit the crew. The number of persons on board is 20. Missionaries, 7. Capt. & two mates, steward & cook, & eight sailors. The steward & cook are colored men. We have far more to do with the steward than any one else excepting the Capt. The steward is good natured, active & kind, & rather neat. None of the crew are pious. The sailors were all strangers to the Capt., but he thinks them a very docile, respectable set. Six of them are from Salem or its vicinity, & the others are foreigners, English I believe. They spent considerable time in reading last Sab. [*Sabbath*] & almost entirely religious books. We hope this may be a voyage they will love to remember in eternity – Mon. Tues. & Wednes. (the past three days) have been very rough, the rocking & tossing of the vessel have made us all dizzy, & about ½ of our company sick. However we have had social reading on deck, each day. We have in this way read John's first Epistle, & about 50 pages in Malcom's tour to India. All our company sing, though Mr. F. [*French*] sings but very little. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] is very fond of it, & sings well, & much. I am glad of it.
April 14. Second Sabbath at sea. There seemed a stillness & sacredness even on board ship, as if holy time was recognized. Nothing is required to be done, that is not necessary. To day seems like a Sab. [*Sabbath*] at home when there is severe sickness in the family. None of our company are able to be up much, except Mr. & Mrs. French & myself, therefore we have no sermon read. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has his mattress on deck. I sit by him, & read much of the time. The sailors sent back the tracts Mrs. Hume sent them last Sab., [*Sabbath*] saying they were much obliged for them, & liked them. The Capt. said they considered that a polite way of asking for more. I sent them about a dozen, most of them stories such as Conversion of Mrs. Eleanor Emerson, Col. Gardiner, Bob, the cabin boy, etc. We have evidence that they were read. They are not well supplied with Bibles. We regret we had not procured some cheap Bibles & Testaments to give them.
April 15th Lat. 28% Long. 40%. For several days the wind has been almost ahead (S.E.) & we have been compelled to go farther S. than is desirable. This morning the ship tacked, & our direction is now N of E. This change brings our state room on the windward side & in consequence our side of the ship is several feet higher than the leeward. It is not quite as easy keeping our place in our berths. Had some cheerful, pleasant conversation with our company, read an hour in the Ladies Wreath & heard Mr. French read in Malcom's tour. I feel almost impatient for Mr. Burgess's recovery. He does not relish his food, is feeble, & exceedingly averse to exertion. He hardly walks at all.
April 16. As this day terminates the existence of Ips. Fem. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] I have thought much of them, & my emotions are indescribable. For years, associations, tender & strong, have been clustering round that institution, & what a day there, this must be. I would praise the Lord for his blessing upon those who have assembled there to receive instruction for his loving kindness & tender mercy to the teachers, & for that providence which permitted me to enjoy its privileges. May Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] be comforted & sustained, & I doubt not she will be.
While writing the above in the cabin, I was apprised by the tone of voice on deck, that something out of the common course had occurred. I found the second mate had brought a dead flying fish, which probably flew into the ship the night before. It was smaller than my idea of them, though the Capt. says it is of medium size. He has seen them twice as large, but often smaller. It measured 13 inches from the extremities of his wings, nine inches in length, & five in girth. Its eyes were large, color on the back & sides silvery grey, under whitish. We judged it to weigh 1 ½

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

We sang again; then listened to a good sermon from Mat. 3:18. All were very attentive. The occasion was one of uncommon interest. We were forcibly reminded of our distance from the assemblies with which we have been accustomed to worship. I believe all are pleased to have religious exercises. Family worship is regularly attended at eight o'clock each evening. Half the sailors attend each evening alternating. – Last Sat. eve Mrs. H [*Hume*], Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself had a little season of social prayer. It was pleasant, & I trust but a foretaste of what we may hereafter enjoy.

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

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

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

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

May 6. Lat. 1% 23" S. Lon. 26% 14" W. Ther. 81% Yesterday P.M. we crossed the equator. It was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] Mr. Hume preached. There was a fine breeze all day, & though the

thermometer stood at 82, (I always give the thermometer in the shade) it was very comfortable under the awning. Sat. evening an arched squall (as they term it, occurred. A cloud in the form of a perfect arch, covered the whole eastern horizon. Soon the wind blew, & though not properly a gale, it approached nearer one than any thing before on our voyage. The wind was so steady upon one side, that the vessel did not rock much, but was constantly turned down upon the leeward side.

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

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

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

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

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

May 15. An interesting female social prayer meeting in my state room. Miss G. met with us for the first time. We value having her with us. — We have made us some little blank books for translating common phrases into Murathee. My task in this department is three sentences a day. I write them in Eng. [*English*] on one page, & in Murathee on the other. We make some progress, though we often feel vigorous for reading & writing letters, when we do not relish Mahratta. (I suppose in writing letters, I had better spell <u>Mahratta</u> as this is the usual way in Eng., though I find it Murathee in the books from India, & I often write it that way before I think). We were so far west as to fear we should not see any vessels, but to day <u>a sail aho</u>, caught our attention. Our flag was immediately raised, & so was hers. It proved to be a whaler, out 10 months from N. Bedford.

Capt. Maxwell. They were more desirous to have communication with our ship, than we with theirs; & they sent one of their boats manned with six men to us. They wished to learn respecting the war of the U.S. Capt. W. gave them a file of papers & they gave him some Liverpool papers of March. They also brought us a half bushel of [potatoes] oranges, & the Capt. gave them a half a barrel of potatoes. We hastened to seal our letters, our company of seven sent off 23. I sent three, one to Mrs. Stickney, one to Mrs. Willard Holmes, & one to Elizabeth Rockwell. The Capt. & crew sent as many more, I presume.

May 17. Lat. 7% S. Almost becalmed – the sea nearly as smooth as glass & the weather very warm. We are near the shoals of Brazil. They sounded last night and found the depth of the water 25 fathoms. They find bottom today. fish of various kinds are sporting in the water. They have been trying to catch some, & I suppose they have put out for bait some two pounds of pork, which the fish have taken without being caught. A shark too, made its appearance a few rods from the ship, it appeared to be of brown color, its only fin of consequence is on its back, it resembled a horn as seen from the ship. The ship's progress the last 24 hours, only 40 miles.

May 18. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] continues to gain strength, & has a good appetite. If the sea should be rough, however, he would be sick. He now studies the Mahratta lessons, & reads considerable, & to day finishes his third letter, all of them short. Kindness, good nature & forebearance characterize all our company; & the officers & crew seem contented & happy. — On Sat. our bedding is carried on deck to be aired, & to day our state rooms have been washed; so you will perceive our health & comfort are consulted. Our cup does indeed overflow with blessings.

May 20. 22%56 S. Lat. 35%30 W. Lon. Yesterday was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] There is not the perceptible difference between it & other days as on land; yet there is a quietness & sacredness in unison with the day. We felt rejoiced to have a still pleasant Sab. [*Sabbath*] Our Bible lesson was instructive. We occupy in reciting from one & a half, to two hours, & spend more time in previously studying it. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] conducted the exercises of public worship for the first time. Christ's interview with Nicodemus, formed the basis of his remarks. — Some of the sailors read their Bible every day, & I doubt not some of them will be benefitted by the efforts made in their behalf. — Venus, the moon, numerous stars & the balmy air conspire to render our evenings delightful.

I have been much amused today in seeing Mother Cary's chickens tipping on the water, then soaring generally near the water. I never see them remain long on the water, hardly a moment at a time. They are about the size of a robin of black, white & chestnut color. Numerous sperm whale birds have been flying around for two days, probably a dead whale or a whale ship is in the vicinity.

May 21. Lat. 24%30" Lon. 34%30". We crossed the Southern Tropic about six o'clock last eve. To day is much cooler, & rain is fast falling. They catch some for washing. An Eng. [*England*] brig from Rio Janiero bound to N.Y. [*New York*] passed us within two rods of our vessel, bound to N.Y. [*New York*] Capt. W. [*Ward*] spoke it with his trumpet & told the Capt. he would give him some papers if he would stop, but the wind was briskly blowing, & they stopped not. I have read H. Newell two days passed. I admire her spirit. Our comforts exceed hers. I fear our gratitude does not. — You now have three hours more sunlight than we. Our sun sets before ½ past five, & every day diminishes our sun light.

May 22. Not a day passes, but we think of our dear native land, & raise our petitions to our common Preserver for the many dear ones we have left behind. The Lord bless, guide, & keep them all in the way of eternal blessedness. Our country, seen from the point of observation we now occupy, assumes a greatness, a glory, an importance, which I cannot express. Much is seen to excite gratitude & hope, but still there is much corruption. We keep up a little idea of what is going on in our native land. Miss. F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] says she thinks far more of her home in India than in America.

May 23. P.M. A ship has been in sight all day, & all have been busy in getting out letters, hoping to send by her, but now we relinquish the hope, as she is too far off.

May 24. A little discussion upon dress occurred, & it was decided to read Mr. Judson's tract on that subject, & Mrs. Torrey's little book, entitled <u>Ornament</u>. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] read while the ladies sewed.

May 25. Lat. 28%S. Lon. 32%W. Cool & damp, very heavy dews. Sat. my first work after breakfast, is to put everything in order on my premises, i.e. in my state room, & then see that the

clothes for the succeeding week are in readiness. I have just finished that work this morn. I take pleasure in doing it. Yesterday Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself made six dried apple pies. This is the fourth time we have made them; twice Mrs. Hume & I, & twice with Mrs. F. [*French*] We partake of them for tea, & they relish well.
May 29. Lat. 35%S. Lon. 20%W. Ther. 66% distance from Salem 7,000 miles. The air [however] & all around is damp, yet the day is pleasant. No fire is kept except for cooking. Miss G. has two soap stones each about the size of a brick. These, after being heated we apply to our feet, & they are really a comfort. By the way, missionaries ought always to take them. It is past seven when the sun rises here, & it disappears before five. Six is my time for rising, besides attending to my morning work, I get some time for reading my bible before breakfast, wh. [*which*] is about 20 min. before eight. Last Sab. [*Sabbath*] the sea was in great commotion, & public worship was attended in the cabin, only one watch was present. Mr. B[*Burgess*]'s remarks from John 3:13, 14 were clear & faithful. Yesterday & the day before very damp, embracing a variety of weather. Our female prayer meetings which are held three evenings each week, increase in interest. Last eve. the season was precious.
May 31. Lat. 37. S. Lon. 14% W. Yesterday an albatross flew several times round our vessel, favoring us with a full view of the largest of aquatic fowls. It is brown upon the back, & almost white below its wings. Its flight is rapid, & graceful. It is remarkable for the length of its wings. It often measures from 9 to 12 ft. from tip to tip, & is about twice the size of a goose. Its flesh is not valued for food, though sailors frequently eat them. We saw many at a distance sometimes sitting in companies on the water, at others soaring aloft. — Cape pigeons begin to be numerous. They are spotted, black & white, about the size of pigeons in New Eng. [*England*] They resemble ducks. One was caught, by getting its wings entangled in some lines thrown out for the purpose. All the fowls we see are webfooted. Very few can raise themselves to fly from a level surface, like the deck, & they all walk clumsily spreading their wings & slapping their webbed feet, but they move elegantly in either water or air.
June 1. Sat. Rough & damp. Wrote & read some in the A.M. after dinner. I was in severe pain. Mrs. Hume very kindly & efficiently nursed me. She is apt, at almost everything. June 4 at night a gale commenced, but was not very powerful till Sab. [*Sabbath*] morn. Then every sail, with one exception was entirely furled, & that was reefed, the helm was made fast, & the vessel was in a state called lying to. Everything at such times must be made fast, or be thrown from side to side. Passengers keep principally in their state rooms. Every few minutes a high sea washes over the ship, & though our vessel is well built, the water found many entrances at such times. The wind continued strong & violent till Mon. A.M. Twice I ascended the stairs which lead from the cabin to the deck, & there gazed at the mountain waves. The view was fearful. Our vessel seemed very small, when compared with them, & as a high sea approaches, it is difficult for one not long used to such scenes not to feel that it will overwhelm us. None of us stayed on deck, everything there was lashed by strong ropes, & the Capt. feared every high sea, that the deck would be swept clear. To see nothing but bare masts & rigging, was desolate. None of us attempted at such times to do much, & though it was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] there was little thinking, reading or praying. I occupied our upper berth, the lower one was too wet to be occupied. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress on the floor, just outside the door of our state room. Considerable of my time was spent, in covering the things that they might not be injured by the salt water which came in every time a wave broke over the deck. When one cloth was thoroughly wet, I furnished another. I had rather a severe headache, but felt that I had much for which to be grateful. Mon. my head pained me still, but about 11, Mr. B. [*Burgess*] came & said I must go up & see the birds. I put on my overshoes, cloak & hood, & went on deck: the wind had subsided, but the sea was still very high, & we were obliged to hold ourselves constantly. Albatrosses, cape pigeons, stormy petrel (alias Mother Carey's chickens) & two other kinds of aquatic fowl were very numerous, & soaring around in every direction. Some were very near the vessel, & they often seated themselves on the water & afforded us much amusement, in seeing them ride the mountain waves. A line with pork on it was put out, in the hope of catching them, but though they were attracted by it, & many pitched near it, & some took hold, yet they all contrived to release themselves before they could be drawn to the vessel. An albatross was drawn several feet, we thought he was secured, but were disappointed when he freed himself, & flew away. A little before noon some of the sails were unfurled, & we were again under way, having been lying to, more than 24 hours.

June 5 Lat. 35 S. Lon. 3% W. The sea is still very high. Every few minutes a large wave dashes over the deck, but the fair wind is driving us rapidly towards our destined port. Around the cape is the region of gales, thunder & lightning, & variable weather. Our Capt. who has been around 23 times, says he dislikes this part of the voyage. I have not felt fear at all. I am assured of the skill & prudence of our Capt. & I have an impression, that some of our company have a work to do in India. I often try to bring myself to view death near, & aim to be ready to welcome it, but have never been disposed to feel, that the deep would prove my grave. — Today we resumed our Mahratta studies, which since Fri. last, we had laid aside. Time seems almost lost in rough weather, as it is more than we can well do, to take care of ourselves & the leaks. My room is yet very damp, & we are anxiously looking for fair weather. Health we consult, & I enjoy it, in general. Gales, & damp, cool weather will tend to make us value, & be grateful for more pleasant circumstances.
June 7. Lat. 36%S. Lon. 5% 15" E. Ther. 55 ½ Last eve a shower accompanied with thunder & lightning occurred, & to day the air is pure & delightful. I have almost continually felt, that gratitude should flow forth for this fine day. Our progress is not so rapid, but the deck is dry, & our mattresses & bedding have been aired, our room is dry again, & how agreeable is our situation compared with what it has been for five days past. The sun rise & the sun set were both beautiful to day; finished reading the 3d vol. of Brit. India. Some part of the volumes are rather dry, yet the mass of the information was interesting; all except Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] read them, & their contents have often been the theme of conversation. To day for the first time washed a few articles off, 5 pints of fresh, hot water only were allowed me, & owing to its being so long in a cask, I suppose it will make suds only with difficulty. Soap, as I rubbed it on the cloth, changed to a brick color. I rinsed in salt water. I had before supposed they would be sticky, if rinsed in s. [*salt*] water, but the steward said that was only the case with flannels. Towels, sheets, etc are very liable to become iron rusted. I have been glad that I took such a quantity of old clothing for the voyage. In addition to what I had laid aside when I arrived in Boston. I found a bundle of articles from the Ips. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & Mr. B. [*Burgess*] found a similar bundle from Andover Theol. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*], forwarded at the suggestion of Prof. Emerson. Clothes become tender, and very yellow by remaining so long without washing. It is economical to be supplied with old clothing for a long voyage.
June 9. Ther. 55% Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve. 6 o'clock. Just about time for the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school in Colebrook. I think of the churches & Sab. [*Sabbath*] privileges of my native land. May they be abundantly accompanied by the Spirit. The weather is so variable, that the Capt. thought it not best to have preaching. This was a disappointment, but it may be for the best. Our Bible lesson was interesting this A.M. & it has been I think a profitable Sab. [*Sabbath*] to me, & I judge to all the miss. [*missionary*] company. Mr. Hume conversed with one watch of the seamen, & found them all ready to admit the truth, & acknowledge duty, though none seem to feel deeply. All have been still.
May 10. Lon. 12% 10 E. Lat. 36% S. Ther. 55% to 59%. I have studied with unusual delight & vigor today. What a great work to learn the languages of nations. We make some progress. Evening brings us all below this cool weather. We sit around the cabin tables & either write or silently read. The Capt. is one of our number. Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] spends her evenings in her state room, & reads reclining in her berth. I sometimes sit with her. She does not need much done, but I love to sit converse, & sympathize with her.
June 12. Ther. 55% Damp & uncomfortable, so rough that some are sick, & all are affected. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] read another of Wiseman's lectures, while I sewed. Yesterday for the first time, our eyes were feasted with the sight of a whale. Though he shewed himself finely a number of times, I do not know how to describe him. He was but a few rods from the vessel when first seen, & while we were eagerly on the watch to catch further views, he passed to the other side of us. Its color was very dark. Its skin smooth, & it seemed a huge mass moving undaunted & rapidly through the water. We saw from 25 to forty feet of its length, which was probably 50 or 60 feet. The mighty ocean seems a fit residence for him, & his species. From a large fin on its back, it is called fin backed. It is rarely taken as it is fierce & frequently sinks before it can be secured, & yields less oil than other kinds.

“13. Ther. 59% Clear fine air, our bedding on deck for airing. We passed the Cape of Good Hope yesterday & are now in the longitude of Cape Lagullus, 72 days out & are now where Capt. W. [*Ward*] was in his last voyage when 58 days out.
June 17. Lon. 26% E. Lat. 36% S. Ther. 65%. Anniversary of the battle of Bunkerhill. I remember how the cannons are fired in Ips. [*Ipswich*] & other towns in the eastern part of Mass [*Massachusetts*], at the dawn of this morning. — The whole animal economy seems animated & invigorated by the balmy air around us, & the soul partakes of the delight, how inexpressibly delightful would a view of the verdant hills & forests & gardens of home, be for a few hours. The Capt. thinks that while the weather is so unsettled, public worship had better be omitted. The time for our Bible lesson is the only time, which the passengers have the cabin uninterrupted, & it was decided to spend the hour in conversation & prayer, & defer the Bible recitation to the round house in the P.M. It was a precious session, & the same arrangement is to continue till the weather is more favorable. Last Fri. night, we were visited by another gale from the West. It continued 15 hrs., the sails were nearly all reefed, yet we were driven over the mountain waves at the rate of 8 miles an hour. Sat. P.M. the ladies went on deck, the waves presented an appearance similar to one caused by a high wind after a fall of snow. At the head of each wave as it rose, were innumerable drops of water & much vapor, which looked white & moved as snow before the wind from the summit of the drifts. We dined in our state rooms for the first time.
June 18. Yesterday at twelve o’clock, the course of the vessel was turned to the N.E. Now our faces are set towards Bombay, & we anticipate reaching Zanzibar in time to spend Independence, July 4. To day the air is balmy, & delightful. “Every sense & every heart is joy” Though it is winter, to us it seems a spring day. After dinner yesterday as we were singing, as is our practice after dinner, Capt. W. [*Ward*] called our attention to the fishes which were gamboling in the water, astern of us. It was indeed an amusing sight, to me more so than the whale. They were very large, some of them 30 feet long, with great heads. They would leap from a large wave, first throwing their heads, & as these descended into the water their backs. We were glad to see them, but heartily wished them either to stay longer or soon come again.* They were a species of black fish. Muratha & writing letters is my principal business this week, & I may add, that of all the missionaries.
June 21. Lat 31% S. Lon. 34% E. We are having a favorable breeze, & fine weather. Ther. 68% or 69. A little before sunset a shoal of porpoises secured our attention. They passed the ship, often leaping entirely out of the water. The mate tried to harpoon one as they passed the bow, once he succeeded, but before they drew it into the ship, it got loose. — Every thing is pleasant as we could wish in our circumstances. Bedding was again aired to day.
June 23. In our little state room. Past 9 P.M. I seem unwilling to retire while you have so much Sab. [*Sabbath*] I think of you as now in the sanctuary, P.M. service. That the Sab. [*Sabbath*] privileges of my native land may be blessed & sanctified, is a desire, which rises spontaneously as often as I think of you. My mind first recalls those parts I have visited, or where I have friends, & from them extends over the whole country. The temperature & clearness of the atmosphere, with a favorable breeze wafting us four miles an hour, render our outward circumstances agreeable, & what is far more desirable, I think God has been with us by his spirit. This P.M. Mr. Hume preached from Rom. [*Romans*] 3:20. For by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight. After being bounded in our prospect by sky & water for 83 days, it was pleasant to see land this morn, which continued in sight till darkness came. The land is in Africa, Cape Corientes, & the coast for many miles below. It is principally sand hills, barren & uninhabited. At Inhambane near Cape C. [*Corientes*] is a Portuguese settlement from which we could perceive ascending smoke. Such an evidence of the presence of our race added interest to the view. We could not but feel for oppressed, degraded Africa. The Portuguese own the coast from Delagoa Bay to Cape Delgado embracing 16% of latitude, & have numerous settlements. The slave trade is carried on more extensively on this coast than in any other part of Africa. Many vessels leave every year laden with slaves, though the traffic is a violation of a treaty between the English & Portuguese. Many are taken to Brazil. It is for the interest of the owners to treat them well on their voyage. The dealers use fast sailing vessels, & have agents in Africa to collect cargoes, & put into port one day, & ship the cargo the same day, at night, to avoid detection. Eng. [*English*] cruisers are constantly on the coast, but few comparatively are detected. Our Capt. thinks the Portuguese on this coast a great curse to Africa, & says they are remarkably destitute of moral

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

they will gain many correct ideas, & increase their enjoyment. The town contains probably from 15 to 40,000 people. The houses line the shore for about 1 ½ miles, & for some distance back into the interior. The better class build of coral rock with which this, & the neighboring islands abound; & cover with chunam. The walls are from one to two & a half feet thick, have few windows, & less window glass. Their stairs & roofs are of the same material. These roofs are flat. Many however, have a thatched roof above, sloping four sides, made by fitting poles, then covering with the cocoa nut leaves. The lower class build of poles, then wall the sides with mud, & thatch the roof. The streets cross each other like the threads in a tangled skein. We walked yesterday through some of them. They are rarely over 10 feet wide. The houses so cover the ground as to leave no room for gardens, & next to none for trees. A few slender cocoa nuts find room. But three white females have visited the isl. [*island*] before us & we are quite a curiosity. The people merely assemble & gaze & occasionally laugh. The first day the gentlemen went on shore with the Capt., & the following day July 3 the ladies went with them, to Mr. Waters' of Salem. He is the Amer. [*American*] consul, & has been here three years. He is pious, & aims to do good to this people. There is also an Eng. [*English*] mercantile house here, so that I suppose there are at this time as many white persons, as ever at one time before. We took a short walk in a cocoa nut grove, saw the cassada growing, also alocs & mango trees, picked several wild flowers. Returned to Mr. Waters' in a boat. His Highness (the Sultan of Muscat or Mascat) as soon as he learned that our vessel had brought to Mr. Waters the tidings of his brothers death, sent assurance of sympathy saying that he would come & see him. In the evening, he came, & we were introduced to his Highness, his eldest son prince Haleed, & two of his officers. His Highness prefers the climate of Zanzibar to that of Muscat. He has made Zanzibar his residence for the last three years, one of his sons being in Muscat. His palace is between two & three miles from town, though he has one nearly completed in town. He comes up, either on horseback, or in a boat. His age is about 54, his size above medium, his beard long & gray. His manners easy & dignified. He is always attended by a retinue, though he is not fond of display & would often be gladly relieved from it, yet it is their custom. He shook hands handsomely & affably with each of us. He is very well versed in the Arabic, but does not speak Eng. [*English*] but by an interpreter. He first said to Mr. W. [*Waters*], God does all, & he does right & good. He inquired respecting the prosperity of our country, of our passage, of our health, & a few other things, & then bidding us good evening, departed. We then took tea at Mr. W. [*Waters*] & after singing & prayers returned to the vessel about nine, so tired that I almost felt that the Arab custom of keeping ladies at home, the best. This morning we went by invitation to Mr. Thorns, the agent of the mercantile house; dined there, ladies never dined with him before, quite a parade. We had a fine view of the town & harbor from the top of his house. The slaves around were amused. A little Arab child of three years was brought up, that we might see how they paint their faces etc. They begin to wear ornaments from infancy — This little child had three strings of beads of various color, material & size upon its neck, bracelet on the wrist & bangles about the feet, & 6 or 7 rings in the ear, extending round the rim of the ear. Some have ornaments as large as a cent, inserted entirely within the lower part of the ear, then of different sizes to the top of the ear. Some have rings in their noses, but this is not common. Slaves have as many ornaments as any, but in general, not so valuable; though the rich slaves <u>wear</u> those that are valuable, though they do not own them. Slaves are from 7 to 20 dolls. [*dollars*] apiece here. They are sold every day at auction, at five o'clock. They are well fed, & do but little; die off fast, from 7 to 10,000 come here from the continent every year. They wear but little clothing, besides ornaments. They look as if they needed only favorable circumstances to make them valuable, intelligent people. None of the Arabs or Sowalies are slaves. While the gentlemen went out to walk, we remained & were treated with fruits. We are here in the season for oranges, mangoes, plantians, papau & various other fruits. Cocoa nuts are abundant. The exports from this port are gum, copal, frankincense, cloves, & shells. The natives are becoming more industrious. An evident improvement is in progress among them. May the day be hastened when they shall have the light of the gospel. Mr. Waters & Mr. Thorn have spared no pains to make our visit here, profitable & pleasant, & I think it has been so. We have acquired some acquaintances, with this part of the world.
July 9, 1839. Last Sat. we visited by invitation his Highness. The ladies were permitted to enter the harem, & see his daughters. His Highness has been very kind; he sent up a boat manned to take us to his house; he furnished us horses & donkeys to go six miles into the interior & every

thing else which would contribute to our comfort, provided refreshments as we went & returned, & presented each of the ladies with a cashmere shawl, worth from 20 to 30 dollars a piece. He is very kind to all our countrymen. We surely feel under obligation to him. He, of his own accord, sends letters for us to his son at Muscat. We leave this place to day in good health & spirits. We feel that soon we shall reach the field of our labors, & shall rejoice to enter it. I did not intend to send this memoranda until I arrived in Bombay, but it accumulated so much that I decided to send it now. I wish it to be preserved, & as neatly as consistent. I have written you, my dear parents, & Martha by mail.
Ever your affectionate daughter, M. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Uncle,

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

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

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

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

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

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

How many weeks of sleighing have you had this winter.

Please write soon to

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

My dear Grandmother,

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

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

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

With love to all and a great deal for yourself. I am

Your aff. [*affectionate*] granddaughter
Abbie E. Grant.

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

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

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

Ahmednugger
July 3, 1842

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours in deep affliction --

M. Ballantine.

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

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

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

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

Yours truly as ever,
E. Burgess

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

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

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

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

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM MRS. BALLANTINE

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

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

EXTRACT FROM ANOTHER LETTER OF MR. BURGESS. JULY 16

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

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

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

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

Dearest Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother
John

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

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

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

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] May 18 '44

Dear Martha,

To the great joy of us all, Tuesday eve has come and we can have a little rest from study. You cannot imagine what a sleepy set we have been since vacation, owing partly to the warm weather I suppose. Is it not curious that the heat should return with our returning here? I have felt a little as you anticipated since last Friday, though on the great whole as Miss [*Mary*] Lyon tells us about, I am quite happy. Cynthia Bowen has not returned yet, and as she is soon expected, and Miss Moore says "she would be clear killed up" if she should give another room mate, I am living an unsettled life as usual. A part of my things are in 39, and one draw full in 44, where I stay with Jane & Hattie Miles if I am a mind, and have permission to sleep with L. Pomeroy with whom I stay considerable. I love her very much.

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

[*written across side of first page*] Wednesday 10 o'clock. June 12. I have finished my extra work spent half an our in the reading room, & combed, washed and dressed for the day, and am now determined to finish this letter, which has been begun as you see by the date more than two

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

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

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

Dear Martha,

There is a sort of strange feeling in taking one's pen for the first time to address a friend, however dear, but it shall not prevent my fulfilling the promise I made you. If what I can write will make <u>one</u> long hour seems shorter I shall think myself most happy. This is the eve of a <u>long</u>, <u>pleasant</u> <u>recreation</u> day; made doubly so by the enjoyment of a social visit in town. A party this afternoon went over to "Pearl city," they numbered 45 including their <u>gallant</u>, "President Hawk" They seemed to enjoy themselves much. Indeed, we have the prospect of a very pleasant summer; the young ladies seem more than usually contented, for the summer term, You know by experience how long it seems. The last two weeks have passed more rapidly than my most anxious moments would have wished. Especially after an equal time of vacation spent so agreeably. That was a pleasant visit; and I shall love to remember it. My stay at your house was not so long as my wishes would have said; but I thought you must be so fatigued with company that my longer stay would weary you. And how are you to-night? I will hope "better." Yes really so. I often wish I might run in and sit with you a while -- but instead can only think of you, but that is some pleasure as I know how you look. You must sometimes have lonely hours I think; but hope they are few and far between. And no doubt in such hours you love to cast "all your care on Him who careth for you" knowing that "these light afflictions which are but for a moment work out for us a far more exceeding & eternal weight of glory." I hope you are able to enjoy riding this fine weather, we find walking very pleasant these days, if it comes at the right time. Abby is now in No. 55. with J. Miles, 'till Susan's return, We hope she will soon be neighbor to us. I left her not long since busily engaged in writing to her New Haven [*Connecticut*] correspondent from whom she received a letter a day or two since. Sarah wishes to be remembered to you in love, Please accept much also for yourself and your dear mother, (tell her I shall not forget her.) from your friend and sister Nancy A. Toole.

Professor Hitchcock is to finish his course of lectures of Anatomy, Physiology in a few days, I wish your mother might be here to hear the conclusion

N [*Nancy A. Toole*] --

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

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

Abigail –

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

My Dear Martha,

Abby has very kindly given me a place in her letter in which I may write you a few lines, and I very gladly accept of the opportunity of doing so, for I love to write to those I 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.

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

[*Original not in collection*]

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

Dear brother Daniel,

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

I received a letter from sister E. [*Elizabeth*] two days since. She wrote in very good spirits, I think, says her school far exceeds her anticipations. Miss Bridges has given up the primary department & assists E. [*Elizabeth*] They have 40 young ladies. She says some of them are ornaments to <*any*> the school & do as well as they can. She has changed her boarding place. She now boards with 18 or 20 of the young ladies. Their friends provided food, & the young ladies prepare it for the table. They have a matron to keep their fires, & attend a little to their dinner. She is pleased with the plan thus far. Her scholars have been studying Colburn's & Adams's Arith. Nat. & Mental <*Moral*> Phi. & Watts. reading chirography & spelling & composition. She writes so seldom. I thought perhaps you might not know these things. She mentions that the first Mon. in Jan. was to be observed as a fast. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] approves of such boarding establishments there.

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

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

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

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

[Ahmeduaggur?], June 10, 1840.

My dear brother Daniel,

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

make you happy. Improvements & arrangements upon the little spot made more green & lovely by your labor, will constantly tax your judgment, & the works of God, <*will often*> as manifested in the vegetable world, will often attract your notice, & raise your heart in admiration & love. Yours is a noble employment, & is every where considered so. Aim to have a plan, a system, & though often unavoidably [...] to deviate, yet do not give up. Consider your habits, perfect the good, correct the bad, & create the wanting. Be cleanly in your person, do not neglect the frequent use of water upon the whole system. Be temperate in diet & <u>especially</u> be <u>virtuous</u> in every <u>particular</u>, yes, be chaste, every where, alone & in company in thought, speech & manner. Be a Christian example. One point more, important though delicate. You will need ere long to select a bosom partner. O what circumspection, & what guidance from on highs you require here. Make this an important part of your intercession before God. Your usefulness & your all will be affected by this step. So do not be hasty, make yourself worthy of one of the excellent of the earth, not the rich, but one of the sensible, healthy, & virtuous daughters of new Eng [*New England*] I would say -- yet I would not choose for you. I think some of your New Eng. [*New England*] acquaintances would make you happy. In training your own habits, one motive may be, to make yourself what you should be as the head of a family But dear brother, from my interest in you, I have written thus much, it is for your own eye, & for your own good. Keep near to God. Aim to do every one good. Remember the Sab. [*Sabbath*] & the Bible & closet. I wish you to write me particulars about yourself. brother Phelp's family and all.

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

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

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

Dear Brothers, Phelps & Daniel, & Sister Susan,

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

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

We are about 170 miles E. from Bombay the intervening road is good a government road. The mail leaves for Bombay every P.M. & arrives here from there every morn, requiring two days in passage. Postage is cheap is determined by weight, so that I have been telling my Amer.

[*American*] friends that when convenient, write on thin paper. Our upper rooms are peculiarly pleasant composed of a sleeping & bathing room, & Mr. B's [*Burgess*] study. In front is a verandah where I often walk at eve for the fresh air. We have a thick cotton carpet on the study which cost about seven dollars. Here is Mr. B's [*Burgess*] library which consists of about 500 volumes, & I assure you we have no want of good reading (There is besides here a mission library.) a desk & table & about three chairs constitute the remaining furniture. Here we spend our evenings when we have no company. My room & our sleeping apartment has a much cheaper kind of carpet a wash hand table a towel rack, a dressing table, a bed, a wardrobe & some trunks, & a chest. It is of good size & is airy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I must tell you what a pleasant time we had here at the Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] last week. I know you would have enjoyed it very much — you would probably have

several old acquaintances. You know there are a large number of missionaries in this country now some of whom are formerly connected with this school, and one teachers thinking it would be pleasant to all parties to have a "reunion" invited over one hundred missionaries and patrons and friends of the institution to be here on the 30th last June. Among them were fifteen gentlemen and thirteen ladies who had in all spent 398 yrs of missionary labor. Of the ladies Mrs. Hazen (Miss Martha Chapin) Mrs. Stoddard (Miss Sophia Hazen) Mrs. Howland (Miss Susan Reed) Mrs. Webb (Miss Foote) Mrs. Mills (Miss Tolman) and Mrs. Wilder were formerly pupils and some of them teacher here. "Father Migs" for 45 yrs a missionary in Ceylon. Dr. Perkins 25 yrs. in [Aroomiah?] Persia, Dr. Anderson Secretary of the A.B.C.F.M. [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*], Ex. President Hitchcock and others of whom we have often read and heard were here and addressed us. — Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] and Mrs. John P. Cowles were here from Wednesday afternoon until Friday morning. They have both visited Austinburg, and it was very pleasant indeed to see them. Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] looks better and says she feels better than she did there. She is at present boarding in Ipswich. They both charged me to remember them to friends, when I wrote, with much love. – Another wrote me that I would probably have a call from Aunt Abby, but she does not come, and I fear I shall not see her.

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

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

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

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

From your aff'te niece
Mary E. Burton

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

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

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

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

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

This is all that I wrote and all that he wrote about it. You may judge of my surprise when I read in your letter that you had paid him $40 for 3000 rails. My letter to him as you see did not authorise him to get more than $30 worth at any rate I am very sorry I did not explain this to you, and until I read you letter I had always supposed I did, and it is with difficulty that I can bring myself now to believe I did not. But perhaps it is not too late now to do something about it. If you have actually settled all your accounts in reference to the rails, it probably is, but if you have not and will let me know it the next time you write, I will send a letter to Levi and if he does not pay you $10 I will see to the matter myself and I think I will make him pay $20 at least. I think however you had not better say anything to him about it at present. I have proof positive that he was not authorised to expend more than $30 for rails for at the close of my letter to him I say "The $20 left of this money is to go towards paying you for the house." If therefore the matter is at all as I left it there can be no doubt about it, but if you chose on your own responsibility to buy of him 3000 rails for $40 there is no help in the matter. I sent him at the time I wrote my letter $50.

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

But setting this aside, let us have a little talk about land &c. you do not think your land was very well chosen nor do I feel disposed to assert that you cannot now see where money could <*not*> have been laid out to better advantage. All I would claim is that at the time a better choice would not have been made. Still on some accounts your location is not so bad you already have a road laid out by your house, and it will probably be opened next summer, nor have I any idea that it will be many years before there will be one at or near the west end of your farm. But be this as it may, you evidently wish you were rid of your land and that you had an opportunity to

get some other place. Under the influence of this feeling and urged on by one of your neighbors, "who is considered by all who know him a man of good judgement," and who "tells you you had better leave your farm if you do not get a cent for it" I fear you will be parting with it for some trifle. Now I know the farm is not worth less, and all the talk of all the neighbors you have or ever had or ever will have would not convince me to the contrary. Now I am willing to take the farm from you for more than it has cost you although that will be much worse for me than if I had never sold it you. Last May you paid me for the farm $3000. I gave you then $100 making the expense to you $200. After getting there you had to pay Levi $55 (the whole expense for the house and rails being $105 of which I had already paid $50.) making the farm cost you $255 Next May the interest on that will be a trifle more than $15 making a total of $270. I will now offer you for it $300 and allow you to have all the crops you have taken the pains to sow, and you may go where you will. I might however attach one or two conditions to the payment of it for I do not think I can raise $300 at once. $150 I will pay at any time besides so much of my money as you now have in your hands (I know not how much it is I suppose $40 or $50 please let me know next time you write) and the residue with interest I will endeavor to make up next fall. Perhaps you would like to exchange your lot for the one you bought for me last summer, if so I will give you $150 to boot. In case you should think it best to accept my offer of buying your farm I should like to have you sell the 40 acre lot though I think it ought not to go for less than $200. I am getting to be in want of money or shall soon be especially if I buy your farm, but I am very sorry you are not permitted to suit yourself in reference to a place and will therefore do almost any thing to assist you. I would not have you think, however, that I wish you to sell your place to me, provided you can sell it to someone else to a better advantage, only I exhort you to be careful to whom you sell and do not trust any one without the very best security. I make this offer to you that you may know you can dispose of your farm on terms which will at least clear you from lop, and of two purchasers offering the same or nearly the same price, I expect you will prefer me. Beside if after purchasing another place you should find that its unforeseen inconveniences were greater and its <*anticipation*> conveniences less than you anticipated if I should not sell the farm I would let you have it at a reasonable price, though I will not promise it at the price I give you and the interest thereon. suppose, however, you are fully satisfied that once off from it you would never wish to come back. But can you get places equally convenient to town to meetings, post office, &. things which will be every year more important for you? I hope you will not delay a week to write to me what you would like to do and what in view of the offers I have made you, you are willing to do. I suppose Mr. Knapp will probably come out in the spring, and if he should I suppose you would like to buy a place where he does. I would on some accounts be pleasant to do so, but doubtless should you have him for a neighbor you would find in him some qualities you never dreamed of before, which would make him disagreeable to some extend. He is a very excellent man but has his fault, as all other excellent men have. We are perhaps liable to infer too much from the fact that any one has an excellent character, at all events we do so when we infer that all he does will please us.

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

March 11 I have delayed my letter a long time partly because Mother who is still a[t?] S. [*South*] Hadley [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], hoped we might be able to send you more decisive information concerning Martha. M. [*Martha*] has been much worse than when Mother send you the letter, nor is she now as well as at that time, though better than she has been at intervals between that and this time. Almost fifteen weeks have passed since she was prostrated on a bed of sickness (Nov 30) and she does not seem to make any advances towards the recovery of her

health of course we have very great fears that she will never be any better. She is very weak indeed not able to sit up any. She expresses perfect resignation to God's will respecting her and to him alone can we commit her as the help of man has proved indeed vain in this case. Physicians have done her no good nor does it seem probably they can. Mother has been with her about 11 weeks nor does it seem probably that she can leave her soon, unless indeed death should terminate the disease. The Dr. says it must be a long time before she recovers if she recovers at all. You can easily imagine that our family must be in the deepest affliction possible short of being called to mourn her death. At home they are there are only Father and Marcus. Father has been to S. [*South*] Hadley twice since Martha was sick.

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

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

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

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

your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

Dear sister Caroline, If I have not written any part of the above letter directly to you it is not because I do not think often of you, and rejoice that Daniel is permit-to spend his time with one who is so anxious for his happiness and so well calculated to promote it. I hope you will be able to cheer each other on in life's rugged road and find in each other a happiness which does not depend on the changing and capricious world around you. You have troubles in Wisconsin, so down here, and probably not many less, though of course as this is our native country it is dear on that account, and must be viewed by you with tender feelings. What good ma[y] [c]rown your days with joy is the prayer [...] [your?] aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

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

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

April 5. Received a letter to day from Cousin Abigail and Mother at S. [*South*] Hadley [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Martha is not any better that I can gather from their account. Cousin A. [*Abigail*] says "it almost impossible to tell who she is." She seems to change very little. She is

very weak hardly able to sit up at all, but notwithstanding all her suffering, all her protracted weakness she exhibits perfect patience and resignation to the divine will. Mother's health seems to begin to fail some, in consequence of her long continued labors and anxiety in taking care of Martha. She has been somewhat unwell, but when my letter was written she had nearly recovered. She has been now at S. Hadley about 15 weeks, a long time for her to be gone from home. She begins to be impatient to return home, but Martha is so weak and the going so very bad that any such idea is preposterous at present. After our terms closes [*at Yale University*] which will be in a little <*less*> more than two weeks John and I mean to contrive some way to get her home, though we hardly know how, and hope that her will forestall us by getting her home before we get there. She must be sick many months before she recovers

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

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

Joel.

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

Dear Brother & Sister It is indeed a long time since I have written off anything & I am glad to have an opportunity to finish this letter. Though you have not heard direct from me yet I presume you have a t least heard through other members of the family that I have been well & you of course know that as [...] as I am well I must <*of course*> be very busy. I will not however undertake to offer any excuse for having neglected to write you, or to plead want of time for such duties. Though my time is indeed pretty full occupied, I have enough for such purpose as these. The only reason why I have not written this long time is that when I have thought of it I felt that I <*ed*> could not fill a whole sheet with any thing that would be interesting & when I have had opportunities to fill part of a sheet, I have had just at those times some very pressing duty to perform, as a very hard lesson to learn or a dispute to prepose I will endeavor to do better in future, I am not [...] ever acknowledging hereby that you have placed me under any obligation by having written to me out I know how such things go & if one neglects [...] because others do nothing will be done. I have since I last wrote been very well usually. I do not however always take sufficient exercise & by this means I sometimes suffer some from a sort of nervous weakness – nothing serious though. I have not yet since the commencement of my College [*Yale University*] course been absent from a single recitation or asked to be excused from a single lesson. So you see that I must have had pretty good health. The hardest of our course is not past, & I hope to reap the benefit of the severe study of the few past years in increased mental vigor & power. You both know I doubt not that the life of the faithful student is a hard one – one of toil & weariness & often of anxiety & suffering. Though I have not suffered all the evils to which close study has brought some of my acquaintances, yet I can not but feel that this <*if*> has sorrows which other pursuits know nothing of. Even now I feel that I have not improved my time as I might have done, but I have not withstanding confined myself closely to my books most of the time I cannot say that I have not succeeded in my endeavors to my satisfaction I have even exceeded my hopes. I aimed at nothing more in the shape of college honors than an Oration, doubting even whether I should succeed in reaching that; but I have that & I am assured by my tutor that three higher appointments than orations had been given I should have had one of them. But as the difference between myself & some one or two was not such as others, to warrant a distinction of that kind now only had first appointments were given for the Junior Exhibition. You may readily believe that I am encouraged by this to apply myself pretty closely to my studies, I do not mean however, to be swayed by ambition or elations beyond what is right and proper. I have here spoken plainly as

you see & that too of myself, but I know that in the present instances such plainness is allowable, & I cannot believe that you will charge me with ostentation in thinking thus to a brother & a sister. Our Junior Exhibition comes in two weeks from next Tuesday – a time to which many of us are looking forward with much interests and some dread. I will send you at the time what account the papers give – I feel as though I can almost through College & soon to go out into the wide world. Some times I rejoice to see it so near that more usually feel that I should not be ready to grapple with its stern realities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It seems a sort of tantalization to be so near you and yet not see you. I sup-[*pose*] you must be regarded as about 150 miles off, for we are nearly south of Chicago and we must go to Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] probably to get to you. As soon as we can, we mean to come

and see you, but that will not be just now, perhaps however, it will be in the course of the winter. I want very much to see you and being so near you makes my want still greater.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rochester [*New York*] Dec 21st 1846

My dear Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

You perceive that I have disregarded all the rules of letter writing by commencing at the very topmost line in order that I may have room to say a great deal, You may be some what surprised at the receipt of a letter from R. -- NY [*Rochester, New York*] -- but in the name of Sarah Anna Sibley -- you will recognize an old and familiar acquaintance, no other than an old

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

Rochester [*New York*] March 30th 1847

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

I have two children my eldest Mary Alida, (named, for my brothers wife) was four years old in January, quite a girl you will say?, she makes me feel quite matronly sometimes, when I look at so large a girl & think she is mine, would you like a minute description? she is quite tall of her age rather light hair, but it is growing dark, blue eyes and a fair complexion she has never been to

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

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

Sarah [Aprin?] Alling. –

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

Lockport. Ill. [*Illinois*] Tues. Feb. 16, 1847

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

I need not say how glad we were to get your letter last Sat. evening. for you already know the joy of friends at hearing from those they love. I do not know that we had said “we will not write to Daniel & Caroline again, till they write to us,” but it is a general principle upon wh. [*which*] we act. to write in answer to letter received. Of course exceptions are sometimes made. but in general. I know not that we ought to do otherwise than as we are done by. (I now refer to nothing but writing) You both write as if you were enjoying yourselves well. I doubt not you find it much pleasanter living <u>in</u> the village, than out. You have now. easy access to meetings, lectures &c. the tendency of wh. [*which*] is. improvement in various ways. Is Mr. Curtiss in Prairieville [*Wisconsin*] still? I believe he owned the house in wh. [*which*] he was living when we were there.

We have now the pleasure of saying to you that Joel is quite well. He has had no ague for four weeks. and is now looking quite like himself. His appetite is good, & for the three last Sab. [*Sabbath*] he has preached all day. Our congregation is increasing: a good deal of attention is being paid to Sacred music. and we are causing tracts to be given monthly to every family, together with an effort to increase the number of Sab. [*Sabbath*] scholars. Our Sewing Soc. [*Society*] is flourishing; New Year’s eve, the ladies gave an oyster supper, the avails of wh. [*which*] are to aid in finishing the steeple to our church. The frame only is up. Near $100 were cleared. considering the time we had to prepare in (three weeks) we think it was doing well -- It is near four weeks since we heard from our homes, or John [*John Grant*] -- we are daily expecting to hear from both). John [*John Grant*] was then at Watertown. [*Massachusetts*] designing to spend the winter in the family of Mr. Woodard, teaching their children. and a few others. He then thought to have those tumors removed in the spring. hoping to be relieved from much of the

consequent suffering, by inhaling the “etherial gas.” of wh. [*which*] you have doubtless read. I hope much for him, but fear more.

I noticed in one of the recent papers an account of an uncommon outpouring of the Holy Spirit. in Mt. Hol. Fem. Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] “We could only stand still and witness the wonderful working of God.” said the writer. A friend wrote me a few days since, that Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyons*] had been very sick. and is now feeble. I cannot imagine how they get along with so many of the important one’s gone. How rejoiced we all shall be to get the Mem. [*Memorial*] Catalogue [*from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]! It will inform us of the residence of many a loved one, and make us feel how far separate Holyoke’s daughters really are. Three weeks since, I saw a notice of the marriage of Celia Wright. (sister of “Kate Wright”) to a missionary among the Choctau Indians. His name I have forgotten. Did I tell you in my last that “Miss Reed,” “Nancy Foote” & Miss Webster” that were, had each a son? I hope you see the Miss. Herald, [Missionary Herald *published by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] How much more are we interested in the missions where we know the missionaries. Do you hear from home often? Where is Mary [*Mary Burr*] now? I hope we shall not have to wait quite so long next time before hearing from you.

[*written along verso side*] I did not [take?] at all. when you said some of Daniels brothers & sisters did not write particularly enough, for Joel says I am too particular altogether. and that I ought not to write so long letters.

[*written along front side*] We have had a little sleighing. but it is gone, and we are now having an ice storm. I dread the wind of March and April. Should like to take a peep at N. England [*New England*] faces & scenery next summer. Perhaps we shall though we cannot now decide certainly about it. I fear Joel’s health will again suffer if he should spend the hot months here. Hoping soon to hear from you. I remain your aff. [*affectionate*] sister Abby. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Kiss little Abby for us both.

Are you sister C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] learning Phonography? I cannot get time.

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

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

Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*] March 3, 1848

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

Though it is a long time since I have heard directly from you, (the last intelligence being by your letter to Mary [*Mary Burr*] which she sent to your mother Burr) I am glad to write to you. We are all in usual health except that we have been troubled this winter with colds

I expect to settle in Avon [*Connecticut*], about 12 miles from Hartford. The society is a small one but will be pleasant I think, and will open a field of usefulness. I think we shall commence keeping house in two or three weeks.

We have had a letter recently from John and Marcus at Woodbury [*Connecticut*]. They are well. John’s school is small, numbering only about 27. We also have had a letter recently from Phelps, who says they are now well though during the past summer he has had three attacks of chill fever, one of them very severe. That class of diseases is increasing in that part of the country, we think.

Though I made a somewhat earnest request to be informed of the results of your teaming operations, I have, as yet, received nothing. I hope you are doing well.

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

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*], March 11

Dear Brother & Sister,

As you will perceive, this was commenced by Joel more than a week ago. A multiplicity of duties have prevented its being filled out, but I hope its time has now come. Many things occur to me day by day that I should like to write to you and I hope the more important will not now escape my mind. Joel has informed you of the usual health of father Grants family. My father's family are also about as usual. Pa is very much broken down since that long illness summer before last.

Parney has a boy three weeks old to day, and weighs 13 lbs. She is very comfortable. She think her sufferings previous & at the time of her confinement very much alleviated by taking "Mother's Relief." Tom is talking about going to Ohio next summer some time, says he shall work no more on the farm after April 1st. I know not what is to be done all around. Now that we are to be <*here*> in this vicinity I hate to have them go away. As Joel has <*told*?> written you, we expect to go to West Avon. I know not when Mr. G. [*Joel Grant*] is to be installed, but we expect to go to housekeeping next week. It looks like a mountain to begin for my strength is not great, still I hope we shall get along. I have a girl to go with me, but know not for how long. I have spent the winter past here and at my home. It has seemed short, very, indeed it has to every one, probably because it has been less severe than usual. We have had but little sleighing, but a great deal of mud. I came here to day upon a light snow that fell yesterday accompanied with sleet, so as to form a crust. I am to go to Collinsville next week. There to meet Joel and from thence to Avon.

In Jan. we visited Uncle and Aunt [Banister?] at their home in Newburyport [*Massachusetts*]. We found them well & happy & very pleasantly situated. We spent a week with [...] except that Sat. and Sabbath of it we spent in Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] with Mr. & Mrs. John Cowles. They are teachers of the Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] <*once*> and occupy the building once used by Aunt B. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] Their school is prosperous: Mrs. C. goes into it morning & P.M. of each day, and has some ten <*th*> for boarders. Her moth[er] manages the domestic affairs. Ipswich is [a] very beautiful place, one of the pleasantest I have ever seen. We saw a good deal of Boston, but less is to be seen or enjoyed there at th<*i*>is season than in summer. On our way home found some S. Hadley [*South Hadley, Massachusetts*] friends in the cars. It was their vacation. An interesting revival was then in progress at the Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] You have probably heard of Mr. Condits death. I know not who supplies his place

I intended to write more, but have not time. The remedy for sore nipple is camphor gum & sweet oil, the latter will dissolve the oil. Camphor gum simmered in cream is an unfailing remedy for piles – Please to write fully to us very soon direct to West Avon Ct. We want to know all about every thing, for you well know we are interested in all that interests you. With much love to all I am your aff [*affectionate*] sister

Abby – [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

A kiss for dear little Abby –

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

[*Paper embossed Bridgman Childs Northampton Mass.*]
Mt. Holyoke Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] South Hadley, Mass
Jan 25th 1865

My dear Mother

I will venture to write as I think you must have reached Flemington [*New Jersey*] by this time. Things are going on as usual here at the sem. Miss Hopkin's sisters are visiting her. Miss Chapin was here a few days after you and spent a day or two. I wished that could have come when you did. How did you find the friends at New Haven and Newark? Well I hope. If I should want to go to Austinburg and stay with aunt Elizabeth awhile and get well, and study with Mary Shurtleff a little—could I? I do not know as I shall want to, but – if I should, can I? I am going to write to Auntie and see how she is situated now and whether she would like to have me come or not.

I am as well as I was when you were here, but no better that I know of. I dont study very much yet.

Will you please remind Eddie that he has bee owing me a letter for a long long time, and I want to hear from him very much. I think a great deal about him, and about his precious soul. It seems as though I could not have him be anything but a Christian [longer?]. I asked Miss Parmelee to have our section pray for him some night, and she did. I was so glad.

Miss Parmelee said she was very sorry that she could not have seen you. She was not well the night that you were here, and did not feel able to leave her room, but she supposed you were going to stay longer, so she would have some other opportunity. I would like to have had you seen her ever so much, for she is such a sweet woman. We have changed tables again, and I am at her table, and right by her side, so I am very happy as you may imagine.

Miss Grand spoke to me after you went away, and said that she was very much surprised that you went so soon, and that she was sorry too, for she wanted to have seen you more.

Tell me all about the friends in Flemington. How is Aunt Mary? The fame of [Minnie?] has not yet died away, every little while some of the girls has something to say about her to me.

With much love to yourself and all the family.

I am as ever
your aff. daughter
Abbie E. Grant [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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

[*From attached envelope:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant,
Millbrook,
Conn.
[*written across envelope*] From Mrs. Cowles Jan. '66
[*date stamp*] Ipswich Mass Jan 10

My dear Mrs. Grant,

Our school continues just nine weeks longer. I think your daughter might join some of our classes where they are & make some account of what time remains. We have a vacancy at a boarding house which we could give her. If she does come let it be as soon as she can move. We have no school from Friday night to Monday & she could attend to her clothes on Saturdays. We shall feel a special interest in her for the sake of her beloved godly ancestors & relatives & should she stay over a vacation we shall depend on her passing a week with us. The vacancy in our boarding houses is in the family where the Misses Foshite live & they will cordially welcome her to their circle. They are good common sense young women.

Mrs. Barrister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] wrote me, some two weeks since, from your brother's in Newark and was then considering the question of remaining [...] of New York until the Sun reaches the equator again.

Mr. Cowles burst a blood vessel on the 13th of December which delivered its contents into the stomach and then became stenched. He lost a great deal of blood & was so weak for some days that he could not lift head or hand scarcely. But his [?] habits, a good constitution & the blessing of God has given him a new lease of life. He is still comparatively feeble, but is able to walk to the Seminary from our house twice a day & to hear two classes now, & is gaining strength every day. If no new rupture occurs we are hoping he will soon be as well as ever. He

joins me in most affectionate regards to your father & mother, your husband & yourself & Sister Carline & her husband.

I want to hear what Miss Wright has done with herself.

Board is $4. per week but we will remit <*her tu*> your daughter's tuition or in some way reduce the regular expenses ten dollars or a little more in her case --

We have classes in Latin & French, Arithmetic, Algebra & Geography.

I must close for the mail.

Yours in love,

E.C.Cowles

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

[*attached envelope addressed to*]
Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Oberlin [*Ohio*], Feb. 25th 1867

Dear Aunt Caroline:

I did not think to have neglected answering your good letter so long. Housekeeping cares, new, and perplexing (sometimes), as you can imagine they would be to a beginner, together with the labor of getting regulated in our new home, must be my apology. Beside, I received news from Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*], which assured me that, for the present, she had no difficulty in deciding that it would not be wise for her to attempt to go on with study here. Another letter, which came last week, gives the cheering intelligence that she is much better—feels as well as before. I know not what is best in the case but am strongly inclined to think, as she expressed herself in a letter to Mr. Burr – part of which I had the privilege of hearing – that it will not be best for her to return to Oberlin to study, until her health is fully established. Has not the confinement of regular, student life proved too much for her <*her*> in every instance in which she has tried it? I thought it would be so much easier for her, here, than at Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] that she might get along without breaking down, but the result of the experiment, renders it questionable to my mind, whether she ought ever to try to go through a course of study. She has, already, a very fair education, and might so improve herself by reading and private study (as she is able to bear it) as to attain a higher degree of intellectual culture than half our graduates. If her health should continue to improve, what would you think of her taking a small school in the vicinity of Grinnell in order to test her strength? – If she bears it well, perhaps it might be safe to return here in the fall, and resume study. I am glad she has the disposition to do something for herself. If she is able I doubt not it would do her a great deal of good to earn something toward paying her own expenses. If I were in her place, I should be very doubtful about the expediency of expending now, what would be likely to take just so much from my final portion, or what I might otherwise have, upon my settlement in life. I know, by experience, what a satisfaction it is, to be able to help one's husband in procuring a home and home comforts. If she had not a definite prospect of having a home of her own, before many years, perhaps I should not think of this; or if she had rigorous health, and could make the most of her time in study, with a prospect of being able to replace by her own earnings, either wholly or in part, the expenditures of her education, the case would be different. You will not understand by this, that I do not esteem the improvement of the mind, above every other temporal good; but, as I have often observed, time spent at school is not the only way of attaining this.

I cannot see how her absence for a time, from Oberlin, will at all affect her affairs with Mr. B. [*Almon Burr*] He is evidently deeply interested in Abbie, and judging from what I hear and see of him, is not a man likely to change his views hastily. He expressed himself to me, as decidedly of Abbie's opinion that it would not do for her to try to study, at present.

Mother writes that it is a great comfort to her, to have Abbie with her. She makes herself very useful there, and is probably gaining somewhat in her knowledge and efficiency in domestic

matters. Whether she thoroughly enjoys so secluded a life, I have no means of knowing. If she can be comfortable and happy there, I know she would be welcome to stay for any length of time.

I spoke of "housekeeping cares" when I commenced my letter. I believe I wrote you of our having rented part of a house (the first floor) for six months, dating from the 7th of Jan. when we moved here. By that time we think we may safely calculate upon the completion of our own house. I do my own domestic work, entirely, with the exception of part of the washing, and we enjoy being by ourselves, very much indeed, and I am becoming quite accustomed to my new responsibilities as housekeeper. I should like much to be able to get along without hired help, permanently, but there will be so much to do in getting ready to go into our new house, that I shall try to find a good strong girl when spring opens.

You have perhaps noticed in the papers accounts of the great religious interest here. It has been unusual, even for this place, and continues in all its power. Prayer meetings, twice a day, (in the afternoon and evening) have been kept up for months, beside the usual meetings of the week. The number of hopeful conversions among middle aged persons, men in business, engrossed in the world, and apparently entirely indifferent to the subject of religion, has been a source of great rejoicing.

You will be glad to know that I had a dear good letter from brother Thedie, last week expressing the hope that he had commenced a christian life. He was such an amiable, conscientious boy, before that this seemed the 'one thing lacking'.

I have no special news from friends. Should be very glad to hear from Uncle John, but do not. Since I have been so busy, I have not been faithful to my correspondents, and consequently do not hear from them so often though my interest in all that concerns our friends and relatives is as great as ever.

If Giles were at home he would wish to join me in sending much love.

Your affectionate niece
Mary –

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

[Attached envelope addressed to]
Mrs. Daniel Grant
Mill Brook <*Colebrook*>
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

So. Hadley Mass. [*South Hadley, Massachusetts*]
Nov. 23. 1867

Dear Friend,

We are writing to the Graduates of the Seminary, and others who have enjoyed its benefits, upon a subject in which we are confident you will all be interested. For a long time we have felt that it would greatly promote both the health and comfort of our family to have our <*family*> halls warmed in some way. –

Physicians have said that it was perhaps the greatest disadvantage of our residence here that we are obliged so often to pass from warm rooms through the cold halls. –

We have realized the evil of it and hoped it might be remedied, but have at last concluded we must move in the matter ourselves, and interest our friends and the friends of education generally to aid us in the accomplishment of our wishes. As the seminary was built by contributions we think now that it has so many friends we may confidently expect that for any such needed improvement they will gladly render us assistance.

Our desire is to have the halls and public rooms heated by steam. –

We have had the building carefully examined by those who have practical knowledge in the matter, and they say the plan is entirely feasible and can be carried into effect immediately, if the necessary means are procured, so that we may enjoy warm halls this winter. On introducing steam into the halls care would be taken to have the pipes large, and so arranged that branch pipes may be added to heat all the rooms when we shall have sufficient means to do this, but as

it will cost $10,000 to have the whole building heated in this way, we can only hope for a part of it this winter.

The present members of the school are deeply interested in the project, and are writing letters to different friends whom they think they can influence. Some have been quite successful already in their appeals, others feel confident of success in presenting the subject during vacation.

If you feel inclined to aid us in this good cause, we should be very happy to receive a contribution from you, and if you know others <*to be*> interested in the Seminary who might assist us we should be very grateful to you for speaking or writing to them on the subject. – Even small contributions will be gladly received.

We are aware the sum to be raised is a large one, but if all our friends will respond to our invitation, we think we shall receive it.

We wish to have the money if possible by the beginning of next term Dec. 12th in order that the work may be accomplished at once. –

Any contributions may be sent to me at the Seminary. –

Yours Very Truly
Hannah Noble

By Ida Derby

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

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

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

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

[Many?] hope that as many as 200 may be subscribed for among friends and relatives. Mary is going to write to Uncle Marcus about it, but we thought perhaps you would be more likely to remember to mention it to the friends than he and see what could be down in Colebrook.

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

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

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

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

My Dear Aunt,

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

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

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

You may have heard something about an expectation that some money could be obtained from Mrs. Hale's estate, inasmuch as she made a verbal request that such was her

wish. Miss Guilford, at one time, has strong hope of such help, but has now given it up. Mrs. Hale's estate went to a distant relative, who feels no interest in the life of Mrs. Banister.

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

Affectionately your niece
M. B. Shurtleff.

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

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

[*Printed:*] Mount Holyoke Seminary and College Observatory.
South Hadley, Mass., [*Handwritten:*] May 13, 1891

Dear Mrs. Grant, of the class of 1841: --

Excuse a stranger for addressing you, but we both are interested in our dear Mrs. Stoddard, you as her classmate, I as her pupil. You received your diploma with her fifty years ago; twenty five years ago my class also received ours bearing her signature. You and we expected to meet her at our respective class meetings next month; but her place will be vacant.

My class wishes to have some memorial of her prepared for our meeting. If you can be here, (and I hope you will be) and we could have a quiet talk. I am sure you could tell me many things that would interest us. But at that busy time I fear such an opportunity might not be ours, and therefore I venture to ask if you would not like to make the tribute to her memory of some reminiscences of her in her school days or her later years, or any impression of her character that I might use for that purpose. Anything will be gratefully received, and an early reply will be doubly welcome.

Yours in Holyoke bonds,
Elisabeth M. Bardwell.

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

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

Dear Miss Bardwell,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours very truly,
Mrs. Daniel Grant

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

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

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

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