Subject: Food & Diet

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

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*] June 2, 1843

My dear Parents, Sister & Brothers,

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

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

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

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

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

It was not very convenient for me to write much on the boat, so I just noted down a little now & then on a slip of paper which I will transcribe after writing a little before we left Albany — We just drove up to Mr. Butlers & talked a few moments with Jennette she said Ann Phelps was going to Chicago soon 90 miles from us — called at the school house & <*just*> said "Good Bye" to Desiah — as we passed along a little below Mr. Sam Gaylords Daniel sung Bounding Billows

&c. several verses — some quite pretty & appropriate — it did me good — perhaps you can get them of some one — The first day as you probably learned of Joel, D [*Daniel*]. rode with him some leaving me to drive then Joel rode with me a little way saw no pleasanter farms coming to Wisconsin than in Sheffield & beyond — the next morning Joel & I went on to Albany 26 miles had a good visit reached there about 10 — called at a public house where I remained until 2 o'clock then I went on board the canal boat. Brockport, Capt. Chappel <*Capt*> when we reached Albany Joel went immediately to ascertain about a passage for us. Daniel arrived with the goods past 12 — & for some reason I was taken to the boat without looking for any carpet filling — J [*Joel Grant*] said he would get some I want to know about it I did not get any sacking for the settee because I thought we could get it here without the money & Joel said he presume 'twould be as cheap. Soon after we went onto the boat Jo [*Joel*]. came down & almost immediately word was given that we were to go to the other side of the river — So he bid us good bye & hastened out — an hour or so after Capt. brought from him a note saying that he had been looking at some stoves & thought twould be well for us to get one — D. [*Daniel*] looked & purchased one for $16 — funnel two spit boxes $5. I think it a very pretty stove — should think rather smaller than Uncle Silas' & much handsomer —

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* boat weights 30 tons

exclusive of the passengers about 52 tons for which the Capt. has to pay about $86 totl. It is considered a light load — In West Troy is an arsenal — are several buildings — do not think they

are quite as handsome as those in Springfield — between 3 & 4 P.M. passed Cohose falls — thought of [M?] Calo. Butler & the little mineral on the shelf — the falls are no great sight — though very pretty —

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

Sab. [*Sabbath*] morn awoke & found our boat going — notwithstanding we understood [...] to stop on the Sabbath — All along the canal [...] & shops were open — if I had not remembered it as Sunday I should not have known it — it seemed dreadful I felt wicked enough — conscience smitten — afraid but I could not help myself — Daniel spoke to the Capt about stopping — he said a little & went off — [on?] — D [*Daniel*]. staid in the cabin most of the day & we read in the Bible & the Reformation Book & slept some for the first few days I sat down on the Settee & slept an hour or so each day
& slept soundly nights too — so you see I got rested Sab. [*Sabbath*] P.M. we came in sight of a place that reminded us of the gorge between Holyoke & [Tom?] — it really looked beautifully & more — as we approached it & passed between the mountains & saw the ledges of rocks the trees & shrubs on the mountain side — 150 feet perhaps was conscious of emotions of sublimity — I enjoyed it much — very much —

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

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

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

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

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

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

ache — but we staied 3 hours or more & had we known we should might have gone — we learned before we got to Buffalo not to place much, if any dependence on what the Capt. said —

Friday — our progress to day is faster than any preceding <...> at 9 in the evening reached Lockport — we sat up waiting to go out & see the locks as there are 5 or 6 together that is we got from one right into the other [...] rise in some of [...] but the banks are very high — [...] a thunder shower came up & prevent — Sat at 12 reach Buffalo — [...] 4 miles on the lake — You have probably concluded before this that we did not go to the falls. If our old Capt. had only [...] in Rochester 1 hour sooner than he was we might have gone from there for 25 cents each! there were 2 boats went out — opposition then did however a [Cat?] go out at 7 in the evening in which we might have gone — the fare was more considerable (dont remember how much) but suppose we might have gone from R [*Rochester*]. that day to Buffalo for 7 or 8 dollars — now I suppose you'll say, why didn't you go? We did not know what was best to do. hesitated & doubted — the reason of our doubt was, that if our boat went as fast as the Capt. affirmed it should, we might go from Lockport with probably 4 or 5 dollars less expence — be in season there to take the Sat. morning cars — but we did not know as it was best to depend upon him — thought if we went from Rochester we should be sure of it — & might possibly be sorry if we didnt but we concluded to try him once more & went on — & he went beyond our expectations so that we arrived at Lockport several hours <*several hours*> before we anticipated about an hour after the evening cars left — we might have got off & staid over night & taken the morning cars at 9 — but the Capt. declared we should be in Buffalo before that time, said he should wish to unload the boat that day, & we were afraid some of our things would be lost were we not there to attend to them — thought we might get to B [*Buffalo*]. in season to attend to [...] things & go to the falls from there — but we were unexpectedly detained a few hours, after we left Lockport as we met a boat that was very heavily loaded & had struck a ground so we could not pass it

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

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

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

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

There are several plum trees near our house — a great many strawberry blossoms, & wild flowers — I enjoy them much believe there is most every thing to be bought in Milwaukie — such as dried applies. peaches &c — believe lard is here 5 or 6 cts. lb. [tallow?] twice that — wheat [flour?] $4 or 5 barrel — Muscovado sugar 8 cts — molasses 62 gale — butter 12 1/2 usually & 25 the last winter no shakes have been seen this spring but expect they will be plenty — musquetos are thick better get that broad cloth from Miss Dowd Want to know how much that

brown broad cloth was worth in N. also how much strained pails cost. Levi's folks want one of ours very much — there is about 9 2/3 yds. of that black cotton cloth All that we had broken was largest looking glass, wh. was broken very fine, one tumbler, one light, <*tea*> cup. one quart bowl, one white deep plate, one blue pie plate, & our blue edged pie plate can mend most of them with little trouble — Dont feel bad about me — think I shall feel well enough if you do

Very aff. [*affectionately*] Caroline

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

Prairieville, W.[*Wisconsin*] Aug. 1. 1843

I will endeavor to write this letter more legibly that I did the last —

And first to my dear little Ralph. [*Ralph E. Burr*]

So you like to go a fishing yet as well as ever. I have thought that perhaps when you were a very good boy, & helped nicely & did not make a cry face in the whole forenoon that Ma & Mary said you might go & get some fish & Sis Mary would cook them for your supper — I hope you will keep away from the deep water, bearing in mind that you are not yet a full grown man & probably have not the judgment of one.

Wonder if you find plenty of chipmunks to shoot. There are here little animals very much resembling chipmunks, called gophers, when I see them I always think of you — When you come to visit us, had better bring your gun — I dont think you would find wolves, for I have neither seen or heard of any — but there are deer around — Daniel saw one the other day about the size of a little colt, & it looks some like one — If you should come this year, do not think you need fear snakes much for I heard but very little said about them, have not seen one of any description to D [*Daniel*]. only one — Last year they were here around considerable — When you went on a shooting expedition you might take a basket & gather of the fruit about here, as you could find, strawberries, raspberries, red & black, whortleberries, blackberries, gooseberries, high bush cranberries, grapes, plums, crab apples, choke cherries, black cherries, hasle nuts & walnuts, or you might gather herbs & roots, wild balk with purple instead of red florets, wild summer savory, mint, pennyroyal, thoroughwort, mayweed, tansy sweet flag, leeks & cattail — And I am sure you would not leave unpicked some of the lovely flowers you would — thousands of wild rose bushes bearing sweet scented, single red roses, red, yellow, white & pink ladies slipper, painted cup, wild sunflower beside a few scores of which I know not the name

But should you go into the woods in a warm day you would probably encounter several of musquitoes & gnats, <*but*> perhaps you would only feel the bite, & then think no more of it, as Daniel does, but should they poison you as they do me, & cause smarting, & itching & blotching, then salt & water or salt & vinegar is very good to put on.

Almost every thing wild grows much more luxuriant here than on old farms in New England, pennyroyal & sweet flag are not nearly as pleasant as what you gather but have a strong rank taste. It is said that crab apples grow to considerable size, are hard & sour, but still quite eatable, if one can get no better —

Should like to know if your <... *some*> prettiest kitten catches mice. We were quite troubled with mice & brought up Levi's [*Levi Grant*] cat with six small kittens to clear them away — we put them in the chamber & the first night I awoke hearing the cries of a kitten & after a while rose, lighted a candle & found it on the kitchen floor with the cat by its side — It had fallen through a knot hole in the chamber floor seemed to be bruised & had a stiff leg — I had a great mind to cut its little head right off with the hatchet or if D. [*Daniel*] had some percussion caps for his pistol, dont know but I should have shot it — but I finally lay down again, & the next day it seemed better & after a while got well

Now my dear brother if you can think yourself of some thing to write to me & do it without troubling Ma & Mary I should love to have you.

Very affectionately your sister,
Caroline Grant

Prairiesville [*Wisconsin*], Aug. 25, 1843

My dear Mother [*Pamela Benton Burr*],

Is often very often in my thoughts & sometimes the tears run down my cheeks as I think of her in her feebleness, oppressed with care & anxiety, or as I think that perhaps now is suffering by that disease with which she has at times been long afflicted O my dear mother, I want to ask your forgiveness that I have not always waited upon you with all the cheerfulness & patience becoming an affectionate dutiful, christian daughter. I know I labored to alleviate your distress, & should love <*to*> again to have the privilege, but then I think all would be of no avail without the blessing of Heaven, & with it all will be well — I am comforted by thinking that Mary is home, I hope that you will give your self as little solicitude about us as possible. I do not feel that we are peculiarly fit subjects for it, we are blessed with health, a sufficient supply of food & drink are among a Christian people with a devoted pastor, are in a Ter [*Territory*]. where with the Divine blessing we hope in a little time to be able to obtain everything desirable for our taste & I was a going to say comfort but we now have things for our comfort — There <*are many more*> is much more to enjoy here than I supposed, & it seems much more like N. England

As for myself I have a kind husband whom I dearly love who is constantly striving to promote my happiness — I am not obliged to labor hard but have considerable leisure — I have not read very much — hardly know why — some of the warm days I feel languid & as if I didn't want to do any thing or sit up — then I lie down & sleep an hour or two & it is considerable work to keep my dresses & stockings & D's [*Daniel*] clothes in repair — & I do a little of this, & a little of that [*text too faded to read*] don't really sit idle much — & read all the Miss. Heralds [The Missionary Herald, *monthly publication of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] & most of the newspapers & some in the Bible & in my cook books & a little moral. [...] pick fruit & write letters & read Mary's compositions.

Whenever I feel as if I wished for any thing go eat a bit of cheese or dried beef or raisin or black berry pie or stewed dried apples I remember what Ma said go right off & get it — & I believe it is a good way — Cas. E. Pinne put up dried blackberries for several pies — that bit of cheese that I brought is not gone. I do not often care for it & when it is gone I know where I can let a little stocking yarn go for some first rate — a year ago cheese was sold in Milwaukie for 18 cts pound — dont know the price now

Last Fri. Aug. 11 we received a sheet of foolscap well filled from mother Grant [*Elizabeth Phelps Grant*] — said was at our house not long before, sat to the table with you all & drank pure cold water — 'twas a good letter — we also rec'd one from John — were glad of it — said he spent an hour very pleasantly about two weeks previous with Martha Woodward — she <*was re*> & her beau Mr. Cummings were riding about & visiting their friends with the hope that it might be a benefit to her health which is not good —

We also at the same time rec'd [*received*] a paper from you & the letter send by Mr. Woodbridge & it was mailed at Milwaukie, have not seen any thing of Mr. W. or any of the Canaan people — You enquire what I did with those tins that were borrowed to bake cake in — I cannot tell — I think I clearly remember that Bill[al?] took only three, & I believe she brought that number — possibly I might have sent to Mr. Pendleton more than we borrowed of her — & her woman not have known — but I intended to make no mistake — Aunt Norton has only the one & I dont know as there was any other sent her — You also say you wonder what I took one of Mary's good corsets for — when I read it I did not believe I had one — but I looked & found it if I put it in 'twas by mistake — Mrs. Levi Grant expects to start for Ohio this week Sat. Aug. 9. & I will send it along by her for her Father Grant to take to you if he goes — I wish I had some dried plums to send but they are not ripe till Sept. I did not injure any of my clothing coming on more than one would rather fall — The Crocha shawl is in a good condition & I have thought some of sending it for M. but I do not think I can well get along without it — there are many here that dress genteely & with taste & I think this is no better [than I?]

My dress is very good for the place — I have nothing but that I am glad I have — have seen no prettier hat than my white one — the roads are so filled with black dust that I cannot avoid getting it more soiled than if at home — but I am careful — wear a handkerchief over it —

I wear my buskin calfskin high shoes when I walk at all, almost always change to go to Levi's The socks are just beginning to wear through a little so as to need underlays D. [*Daniel*] says he can mend them — in the house I wear those calfskin [run?] rounds — the heels all stand erect yet —
& I have not [burnt?] them —

I feel as if I should on no account suffer that large silver spoon to be made over —<*I*> intend to mind the suggestions in the letter so far as I can, but you know that I cannot exactly with regard to the spoons as we lost some — I wear no night dress & a plain coarse cap mostly — Should like the sheep skins — do not need the iron hook much as we use the holder & two crane hooks that D. [*Daniel*] brought. — presume we shall sometime be glad of the churn but have not needed it this summer — we nearly fill a six quart pan at a milking usually, set it in the cellar, & skim it in a 2 qt. pan, when it is nearly full of [cream?] I stir it with a spoon or paddle & have <*from*> generally about 1 1/2 lbs butter — have made this summer about 16 lbs. have put down three or 4 lbs for winter — & hope to more.
Shall like the beer keg —

We did not find the pendulum belonging to the clock — D. [*Daniel*] also left a box of percussion caps for his pistol & a map of all <*the different*> missionary stations — he has two or three light vests here that need new button covers there are no pieces suitable — perhaps you or mother Grant could find some — do not put yourselves to much trouble — think perhaps you might send these articles by Mr. Harvey Grant & Lucinda Levi's wife can bring them in the Spring —

Of our neighbors you enquire — Levi's people live down north east 1/4 of a mile — Mr. Hubbard the next nearest neighbor — lives 3/4 mile east — they are not religious people neither should I think them blessed with a great share of knowledge, nor a capacity for receiving it, but seem to be very clever, well disposed, & accommodating neighbors — very near them lives Tim Mayor & his wife, young Irish people — believe they are very <*pretty*> clever & accommodating —

North west from here not farther than a mile lives Mr. Eggleston's people English suspect they are not in good
Mr. E. rather [is?] a mean man — near them lives old Mr. Brown & his wife — Mrs. Brown is a smart, intelligent cheerful old lady — are Baptists — have a son an Anti Slavery <*lecturer*> & moral reform lecturer His wife delivered a lecture on slavery to a crowded audience the other evening when she had concluded sung a song — we did not hear & not far from them lives Mr. Crocker — another Baptist family, believe Mrs. C [*Crocker*]. is called an intelligent lady they have a fine garden filled with vegetables & flowers We have no garden as we thought it necessary to go immediately to clearing — I miss it more than I supposed I should — but we have had sent in some lettuce, a few beets, squash, string beans new potatoes & green tomatoes — the tomatoes are pretty good fried & make very good pies —
Fri. Eve 10 o'clock. I intended to write Ma every little incident that occurred daily for several days in succession, but I thought I must write what I have I will endeavor to sometime Good night dear mother My health is good as it was last year — am not sick any only sometimes
very aff — Carry — [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
don't feel much like work — Daniel wants me to give his love to all our people — he has intended to write in some of the letters but found no time —

I want to tell my dear Father that I many times look at that little lock of hair that I cut from his head with a great deal of satisfaction — I do look at all the others too, but there is a peculiar emotion on seeing that, because there are silvery hairs there — I fancy that the next time I see my father I will find about the same number of black ones that I now do of grey —

Believe we have not heard since we last wrote whether our boxes are in Milwaukie — Levi is going there to morrow & says he will search —

By all that we enquire & hear abou[t?] stocking yarn don't think that we can do any better with it than you & perhaps not as well — Give our love to Father Grants people — we wrote to Joel about a week since & directed to Millbrook —

If Mr. Harvey Grant has left for Conn. Before Mrs. Levi reaches there, or if he does not go shall ask her to mail this in Ohio

D. [*Daniel*] is now cutting grass on our marsh south of the house 1/4 mile should think — has quite a stack a little distance from the house

My dear brother Erastus,

Before <*I*> leaving we took Ralph's height but I have forgotten it will you please see that it is taken again & sent — if you have grown any would like to know it — <*You may*>

The time that the kitten fell D. [*Daniel*] had gone to Tenessee to [Ruluf?] & Frederic Grants for some potatoes they have been worth 50 cents [*writing very faded*] [a bushel about?] […] [very fair?] at that — the prospect of an abundant crop this year is very unfavorable it has been so extremely dry — we have had but about two bushels potatoes — wheat bread, & biscuit with milk & butter griddles & hasty pudding & milk of which last D. [*Daniel*] is a very fond — He has eat since he came to Wis [*Wisconsin*]. About as much as you do — says he never eat so much before

People that come here & settle on uncultivated <*new*> land are obliged to labor very hard to out & burn bushes & gather together & burn old logs dig a few stones & "break up" after the land is once broken then one can get [al?] with less hard labor then in N. E. [*New England*]

My [dear?] brother I think of you often this summer & [in?] my prayers too — O I have wept again & again to think that I did not pray & labor & agonize more for you last winter when It seemed as if you had almost entered the kingdom of Heaven but O it is not now too late — the Savior says "come go to a meeting all you can, wont you" & try to be good every day — be assured you have my most sincere love & regard — very affectionately your [sis]ter Caroline

I want to know how your back is also your lungs —

To my <u>dear</u> sister Mary what can I say — My heart is full — You have my sincere sympathy a[s?] I think of you this summer laboring hard &c I suspect I don't grieve as you do not because I love you less but because I have an aff. [*affectionate*] sympathizing heart here that <u>lightens my heart</u>

You are remembered at the throne of grace —

<u>O dont</u> grieve for me so — I trust we will yet spend part of our remaining days together —

We want to hear from home often

[*written in pencil, upside down on bottom of page*]

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], Sept. 18.

My dear Mrs. Grant,

We received this last Saturday by Mr. Harvey Grant — Think perhaps that some portions will interest you Would like to read the letter which you last received from D. [*Daniel*] & C. [*Caroline*] & shall be much obliged if you will send it us the first opportunity should John not come with it you will notice that Caroline would like some pieces like D's [*Daniel*] light vests — You may know what they are — We do not. Shall probably send something by Mr. Grant

Yours &c.
Mary Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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Box 1 Folder 13

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

Folio post.
[*Post stamp:* Prairieville, Wis. [*Wisconsin*] Feb 25 1844]
Dear Parents,

I have just returned from the office with the sad news of sister M's [*Mary Burr Hill*] sickness. I wonder we have not heard it before. Fear much the next we get will be more melancholy, but we wish to hear <*all*> particulars.

I hardly know what to write, but think as I have neither time nor room to say much I will confine myself mostly to some particulars which C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has noticed. You wish to hear more about our land & I will make you as well acquainted as I can with the limited time and room which I have. It is as you know 3/4 of a mile long from east to west, & 1/4 wide, containing as nearly as I can guess about as much marsh or wet prairie as dry land, the wet, pretty wet, and the dry, very dry. Many people think the marsh will be the most valuable land in a few years & I think there is some reason for such a supposition but our upland is not as good as I wish it was, it being white sand or gravel, that is, considerable of it. There is however from 20 to 30 acres good land and perhaps a little more, but that is but little for such a farm. The object I wish to accomplish is to sell 40 or 80 acres here and buy forty on sec. 11, the E. line of which is <*a*> due S. line from the W. end of this farm. the S.W. corner of this 1/2 mile worth of the N.E. corner of that. Besides preserving all the advantages of this, it has a good many in addition some of which C [*Caroline*] has mentioned. The tract contains 80 acres, 40 of which Joel owns. We cannot sell this at present for money, but presume we can in a few months. have two opportunities in view not room to tell about them. If we buy where we wish to at the price C [*Caroline*] named we <*have*> must decide soon, for others stand ready to take it as quick as it is to be had. It is land under a mortgage & not likely to be payed & the mortgagee has made the mortgager an offer for it in lieu of foreclosing & he says as we have one half of it he will let us have the other half for what he pays. The land I bought for J [*Joel Grant*] sold for $8 per acre last spring J [*Joel*] paid but little more than half that & suppose that I can get the rest for $4 If you can furnish the money, we can use the avails of this land if we should sell part of it, to build a house, if not we must let the opportunity go. I feel that if such an arrangement could be made our condition and prospects will be much improved, at least, I believe I shall be contented. wish father would advise as much as he can in all my affairs

We wish to know what you will do as quick as possible, lest we lose the chance. we get the mail only once a week and the delay of one day may put us back a week, write if possible within one day after receiving this. If you pay Capt. Thayer be sure to get it indorced on the receipt which I gave him.

My time is all occupied with work but I dont work very hard think it not best. much love to all

Your affectionate son,
Dan'l [*Daniel*] Grant

During the latter part of Dec. & Jan. there were meetings here days & night for 4 weeks — the methodist, Baptist & Congregation churches united — quite a number of conversions — I was down to the village 11 days — attended meetings most of the time — Hope I rec'd [*received*] a few mercy drops — Kind friends invited me to their houses & so freely too that I sometimes scarce knew wh. [*which*] way to turn We have presented our letters to the C. [*Congregational*] church & have been rec'd [*received*] — We feel distressed to hear of Martha's illness — feel anxious to hear often as is consistent — have rec'd [*received*] no letters this winter from Father Grant's people at home or from our brothers at New Haven [*Connecticut*] — We sent Joel a letter — think in Dec.

My love to all our relatives & friends,

very aff. [*affectionate*] Your own Carrie — [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

[*Written across side*] D. [*Daniel*] says that the price of men's labor depends altogether upon the number of laborers — sometimes it is high & sometimes low — the price now is about $12 now for good hands — when navigation opens & laborers come <*in it will*> wages will doubtless be less —, pork is $5. per. hund. [*hundred*] wh. [*which*] is very high for this region it usually being $2 or 3 — potatoes in the fall were 25 cts. [*cents*] bushel we engaged 5 bushels for that & paid mostly with oxens work — they are now 37.

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Frenches Hotel. Wed morn, Sunrise

Dear all of you

Have just washed myself all over, counted my money & put on my California suit. I have $14<2>4,20 cts. [*cents*] have to pay my bill for room & get some Quinine & Ipicac yet think I shall be able to get off with a little over $140 which I think will be enough. I left the Flemington [*New Jersey*] people well Monday morning. had as pleasant a time as I could have expected under the circumstances coming up here. came up on the river from Elizabethtown [*New Jersey*]. sent the trunk here. paid .25 cts. [*cents*] went right to D.B. Allus office to see if the tickets were all right. found they were, & that we must pay 15 cts [*cents*] pound for trasporting luggage across isthmus. I asked them if we had to pay here. They said no at the Isthmus. & we are to board ourselves on the isthmus. The boat is to sail this afternoon at 3 oclock. we shall be sure to get on in season. From Allus office I came here & in a few minutes found Levi [*Levi Grant*] soon as our trunks came we took a room & had our three brought to it. locked it up & went to Gasts store & got my tin trunk & in the evening went to the museum. Yesterday morning got some breakfast at an eating saloon for 18 cts [*cents*] & have lived from then till now on 10 cents & walked as far too as I ever did in one day in the forenoon we went round with Gast & Luth Roser to buy what we wanted Levi got his money changed to gold. bought a blanket for 1,25 & money belt for 1,00 & we bought each of us a rifle. Levi bought a Stub & twist barrell for $28,00 I got a steel barrell for 32 the […] was 35 I think there is more than that difference in the guns John Stevens says so too. They warrentee mine to shoot 40 rods & gave us permission to try them & if we did not like them to bring them back we went over to Hoboken in the afternoon to tried them. Levi thinks mine is a good one says he would not try to do any better. he got so fierce loading his that he rammed in a ball without any powder & could not get it out. so he did not shoot it but 3 or 4 times did not shoot as well as I did then. he is going to get the ball out this morning. They gave a large cannister of Rifle powder each of us a flask bullet molds & 50 dolls & a large box of caps 250 in each & a sheath for Rifles. I wanted to see about Russen but where to do it or how to do it I dont know, after we got back from Hoboken we went up to Belleuwe hospital & found John had come down here, we called on Dr Cockey. & Dr Philo Rockwell when we got back here found John waiting for me he gave me some blue pills said they cost him nothing he is coming down to day to see us off so is Philo Rockwell & M the rest I suppose I sent home that black coat because it looked so bad I did not want to wear it. Kate put a pocket in each side of my broadcloth & put a pretty little testament in one of them. She made me a lot of good ginger crackers more than I brought from home & they are all in my trunk & every think else sleek & nice. I am perfectly well for all I know without a pain or ache

[*Written across first page*] & am glad I am going never have been sorry the first minute The small powder flask is Levis & says he has but $136,00 now he appears to want to go. Dr Rockwell is coming to introduce us to a Dr Pollard a friend of his who is going out with us & he says he is a good fellow & will take good care of us if we were sick

John is going to give me a letter to Dr Raison Physician on the S. S. Lewis

So I guess we shall be taken care of I shall send a line to Will & Mary am going to send the trunk by express shall leave the key with Gast I guess Goodbye

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

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

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

My dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Give my love to all relatives & friends — Rec'd [*received*] letter from Mother Grant soon after Joel left us — have heard nothing from any of them since — feel very anxious — expected Joel would write soon after his arrival there — but we shall not wait much longer before writing to them — am anxious to know how the [...] Ma gets along with her work — is the <*old*> house

comfortable? — hope Ralph is not at Mr John Shepherd — I do not think a tavern is <*the right*> a good place for him to be. I fear he will acquire bad habits —

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

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[*Fragment cut from top of sheet*]

Philadelphia, Feb. 13. 1847.

My dear parents & brothers

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

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

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

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

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

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

My dear Parents & Brothers,

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

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

It is comparatively healthy here at present although there are a few cases of typhus fever — quite a number are again having the ague as the Spring is opening Daniel did for two or three weeks feel quite aguish but has taken medicine & hopes to escape it — he is better now — he has been in school a little more than three months & expects to close soon. he gives good

satisfaction for aught we know & <*does*> is not so tired of teaching as to feel that he will never again engage in it.

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

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

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

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

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

Little Abby is well most of the time, several weeks ago she came very near having the croup. she was suddenly taken about bed time with a very hoarse dry cough & oppressive breathing so we gave her some lard & molasses & put a little oil upon her throat she seemed a little relieved but continued so bad that we rose twice before morning & bathed her in cold water pouring it most freely about the neck & chest. we then rubbd her off briskly, wrapped her in flannel & laid her in bed — for sometime we kept a cloth wet with cold water upon her throat & chest over this we put a flannel one — we think this method of treatment vey good indeed — it is said to perform wonderful cures in cases of croup — Mrs. Curtis cured her baby by the application of water — I should mention that Abby had some croupy symptoms remaining in the morning but they seemed much abated Abby does not seem much more fleshy than she was last summer, but grows tall is 2 ft. 7 1/2 in. in height. she will attempt to say almost any think that she is told to, & speaks very plain for one of her age, so all say, she puts words together considerable she will say "Papa gone spool", "here comes Mama". Yesterday Mrs. Root put her rag baby on a little cup — Abby says (after being told I suppose) "here 'tis baby on cup." you cannot know how pretty all this sounds, as you do not hear the peculiar emphasis with which she speaks. here Papa comes, she accents the first word half sings & half laughs — Mrs. Root she calls Anny for Anty & Antoinette she very distinctly speaks Annette. she sometimes hops & dances. when things do not go to suit her, but she is usually a very good little girl to mind. I take her to meetig week days, but Sundays one of us stay with her — when she goes out she wears that scarlet flannel dress & pantalets & white apron — I have made her that little black hood wh. [*which*] she wears common & have got most of her summer clothes in readiness making them shorter with

pantalets &c. . In answer to your inquiries I will say that I did not pay any thing for extra baggage when coming. I did not materially injure my new delaiu on the journey through I got it some soiled. but cleaned it — it makes me a very pretty dress, but is not going to wear well my velvet hat was repaired in Milwauk [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]. I gave a dollar for it — was glad I did not have it done before I left as the style was not such as is worn this winter — I lost on my journey [...] scissors, a little [...] of sweet oil & that calico loose dress that was Mary's — think I left the scissors at Aunt Emeline but am not positive I intended to have mentioned them before — none of our things that we left were injured of any importance —

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Waukesha [*Wisconsin*], Nov. 3, '48.

My dear Parents, Sister, & Brother,

I intended to commence a letter before my confinement & had Daniel finish it & send it on soon after, but that took place the first day of Oct. & my letter was then untouched but we <u>did</u> intend you should hear before this will reach you, but time passes before we know it. D.'s [*Daniel*] time & mind have been variously & busily occupied, & I have been negligent I will admit.

We have a little son, a pretty child, plump & apparently healthy – he has thus far slept a great deal, but likes to be tended when awake. — his father has given to me the selection of his name & I am at quite a loss what to decide upon. Would like to name him after all of our friends, but our Parents & Grandparents gave to <u>most</u> of their sons names that sound rather graceless to my ear, have thought of the several names of our brothers with the letter E. for a middle name wh. [*which*] is an initial of the name of our Father, two of our brothers & other relatives but wh. [*which*] of the brothers names shd. [*should*] we take! I think John sounds the best. — I have always fancied the name of Edward, & have thought of the name Edward Burr or Ralph Edward. what say you to all this? — I got along very well indeed after confinement & at the time too had slight pains 16 hours or more but not [some?] more than 1 or 2 hours had some fever two or three days took a little cold I suppose the second week, but have had no trouble with caked breasts or sore nipples. I now feel quite well & strong – had good help – was with us between three & four weeks, & Daniel has since, as usual, been very kind & good to assist me. He has for several weeks past had some trouble with a weak & sour stomach – has & is taking some medicine — two or three weeks ago he sprained his left wrist & has not been able to use it much since — he has seemed to endure labor better this summer than for two years before & has earned a good many dollars. he is not yet decided what to do this winter, thinks <*te*?> of teaching school if he can.

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] is healthy – is generally a very good & obedient little girl – as you always wish to know what she says & I often think when she makes remarks that I will

recollect them & tell you, but <*all have*> none come to mind now except these – when her Pa was putting out pea brush last summer she said Papa was planting trees – we last summer asked her who made the stars. she says why they come right out from the sky. once as the clouds were passing over the <*sk*> moon she says, "Mama see the moon run." She uses such words as she hears us, as perhaps, probably, commenced, indeed &c. — We rec'd [*received*] the barrel about the middle of Oct. the things are all valuable & highly useful & we feel very grateful for them – the dried fruit we highly prize – have used the currants in the little <*dipper*> cup. Abby said they were very nice & we agree with her. Want Sister Nancy to receive as many thanks for those she sent as there are number of currants. the hankerchiefs & gloves I think a great deal of. there were two pair of india rubber,: one pr. [*pair*] had fur around them, were they yours or Martha's. I am glad of them — & all the other things too — You need not worry to get me any more stockings. Nov. 4. I did not get time to finish this to send by to days mail am sorry – baby is in my lap, Abby is playing around the room & Daniel has gone to preparatory lecture. this forenoon I made six pumpkin pies & by the way we have a very good supply of pumpkins – have also an abundance of cabbage, beets, turnips & onions & a few beans shall probably be obliged to buy some potatoes before Spring have some corn & expect to have enough soon for our winter's use — I have six gallons of cucumbers salted — the fore part of July got 5 hens – one died in about two weeks they have found their own living & laid 18 dozen eggs, but I suppose this winter will tell a different story – have 8 doz [*dozen*] in salt, sold 2 dozen Last summer we bought some berries – dried 6 or 8 quarts of blackberries – some while I think of say that I will have quite a curiosity to know what kind of dried fruit that is that was in a small bag in the large bag of apples – it has the appearance of sweet apples dried 2 & chopped 1. — From the first of Oct. last year to the same time this year we used about 50 lbs. sugar & 7 or 8 gallons molasses. so you see we had quite a supply, though we should have used more if it had been convenient to have always just as much as we would like.

Nov. 5 Sab. [*Sabbath*] P. M. – babe is 5 weeks old this P. M. – feel that we have got reason for thankfulness that I am so well & smart as well as for other mercies that we are constantly receiving — There has been considerable sickness here this fall but not much that has proved fatal — in the summer the<*re*> summer complaint prevailed considerably among children & there were several deaths — I learn by your last letter (wh. [*which*] we rec'd five days after my confinement) & also from Abigail [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] that there are cases of dysentery around you & some of them fatal — think of you a great deal – dread to hear from there, but still I wish to — we cannot too much feel the importance of being at any time prepared to die — O that we all might make that our chief concern — heard a few days since of the severe sickness of Mother Grant [*Elizabeth Phelps Grant*] – feel anxious about her – hope she may be spared to us yet — I did intend to write this time to Erastus & Nancy but am so anxious to have this letter on its way to you that I will not this time — do believe I shall before long, hope they will receive my love & many thanks for the beautiful currants — kiss the baby for me & Abby — love to all relatives & friends — Mrs. Pendleton

Abigail says she hopes Mary will spend some time with them this winter. I should be glad if you could but dont suppose you can. O dear.

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

Mrs. Root returned two or three weeks since with her children & Mother — her Father expects to come in the Spring. I intend to go there while the plastering is being done & drying.

Nov. 6, Dear Sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]

I am ver<*r*>y sorry I cannot pay you what I owe you now I know you ought to have it I shall make every effort to get it soon as possible think without doubt I shall be able to pay part in the spring if not the whole It appears to me I had not better make out a mortgage at present for it will be considerable expense and the probability is that you will get your pay in the spring and you are safe any how whether I live or not. But if I find that I am not likely to pay I will have the security attended to or if you really think it best I will attend to it at any time

Your affectionate brother D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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

Dear parents brothers & sisters

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

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

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

Your aff [*affectionate*] daughter & sister
Mary B. [*Burr*] Hill

Please don't scold us for not writing sooner have put it off from time to time, until such & such things were accomplished and here it is six weeks since we have written home. I have been very busy indeed this spring have had my house & garden to see to beside the farm and the business part of the shop. Could get no help to dig garden except for one half day have peas up, potatoes, onions, bunch beans, Radishes, beets, carrots, & parsnips planted. On the Farm have sowed 22 acres of oats, ploughed 6 acres, for corn 18 acres to plough yet made ¼ mile of fence, put down 300 ft [*foot*] blind drain. I shall be very glad when we get once settled & glad to hear

from or see any of you whenever we may have that pleasure find much more work getting ready than expected, but am still in a good humour with my wife and the trouble too. please write soon, once to our once, yet awhile

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

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

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

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

Dear parents brothers & sisters

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

Just received a call from two of the elite one – a new house keeper like myself Have been receiving calls nearly every day since I have been here – sometimes four or five a day. Miss Clarke made a small party for us (William & self) last Wednesday. The men have not come yet – presume they will do so on Monday. Catharine sews neatly – though she has found little time as yet — Forgot to mention in last the present from Miss Elisa Hill – very pretty work stand which stands in the sitting room under glass – received it soon after coming to Flemington [*New Jersey*]. Shall be anxious to hear all about Carrie immediately upon her arrival — Mother father & sister are kind as possible — I have hitherto said nothing of William in my letters because new wives I believe are always thought to talk so silly — Will just say now however that he is all that I had thought & hoped & I am very happy — I like the house & it is "<u>decently furnished</u>" just as Ma always "meant" it should be. My silver spoons are considered beautiful Catharine usually rises a little past 4 AM. – makes the fire – milks – then puts the coffee boiling — The clock striking 5 is the signal for me to rise — We are generally through breakfast by 6 or before — Am sorry Ma

has been sick — Mother feared that the girl would grumble at only a hush bed & so made a new hen's feather single bed & gave me – got a cot for her room – thought it better than to get a double bed stead — <*William's bed*> The tick & feathers of William's bed are new – 40 lbs. in bed, bolster & pillows — Mother gave me a tin cake box which is a large tin pan with handles like my dish pan & a tin cover to it — In the pan I found nearly half a large loaf of fruit cake – it was made last Christmas for our wedding party — & will probably keep nice a year from this time – there was also in the pan a loaf of beautiful sponge cake – sister Hetty make — Mother gave us bread & pies to last a week & a boiled shoulder which is not gone yet & will continue good for two or three weeks to come — Mother, father Kate & Miss Allen drank tea with us the first night. Soon as we find it convenient – Shall get a Single bed & bed stead for the Spare room Expect a man that owes William to make our cherry tables — Have a pine table in kitchen — Mrs. Emery (merchant's wife) sent us a stone jar of <*preserved*> dried and sugar plums. Mrs. Wirts (lawyer's wife) a jar of preserved carnation cherries. Mrs. Clark (lawyer's wife) preserved raspberries. — Your aff [*affectionate*] daughter & sister – kiss little Mary. I want to see her —

Dear Ralph,

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

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

W [*William*] Hill

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

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

Date 29 ''
Good Night

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut

Sunday San Juan Del Sur [*Nicaragua*] June 13

Dear all of you

Believe my diareah [*diarrhea*] or Alim passages commenced about the time we were at Castillo. Did not have but one passage a day but that was very thin it caused me no pain or trouble only as I gradually grew weaker I paid no attention to it for a day or two as Dr Welch told me [exactly?] to live very plain which was all we wer doing at that time all we were eating was a little piece of the bread which came from Greytown & a little dried Beet, At Castillo my appetite had been & was then so poor & I had had so little change for so long a time & was getting so weak with a regular daily cangee of the bowels that I began to think that if I could have a meal of victuals it might do me good the price was one dollar a meal & I had just paid out 20 cts for two junk bottles of rice coffee. the fellow charged me 20 cts for one bottle but it was very strong & I got some more hot water & filled the two, & I had not paid out but 1.20 before since leaving N.Y. I thought of the drummer & the dollar & finally concluded that if a [dinner?] would do me any good I had better get it & so did dont know as it did me any good & I have been sorry that I spent that dollar. When the Director got Toro rapids I did not feel like travelling 3 miles & so went up in the [baggae?] boat Suppose I could have walked it but had rather ride at Virgins Bay I sucked the the juice of an orange with some of the ginger crackers & started for here on a mule was pretty tired & glad to lie on a bed, <*c*>found that Dr Pollard a Dr which Dr's Cockey & Rockwell advised us to employ if we needed any. He told me perhaps had better use the pills Dr Welch gave me which I did for a time but did not get better every thing that passed me was as thin as water. The Dr finally gave me something & I am better He has not given me any thing for sometime I have taken some of my pills & think the diareah [*diarrhea*] is checked, have not been very sick have been round every day & have been into the ocean to bathe almost morning when it did not rain. Have had a little rheumatism in my knees & a little in my shoulder the Dr's told me it would do me good to go in bathing & then rub myself until I got warm havent hardly any rheumatism today, Sunday 8 o clock The S.S. Lewis just arrived dont know when she will start probably in a day or two, Monday 1/2 past 3 I went in bathing this morning & came to breakfast I never eat any thing but a little boiled rice & sugar & some plain wheat bread & drink clear green tea after breakfast [S.?] & I took our dirty clothes & started for where there had been a spring of water but it was dried. we found [salt] water in an old canoe in which [S.?] washed out the cracker [...] which I brought from Flemington & the handkerchief which was wrapped round the dried beef The S.S. Lewis is going tomorrow. I washed out my flannel shirt & towel & [S.?] washed his things we had some tubs & drew the water out of the well it is pretty warm though I would rather had some heat on a stove for my greasy woolen shirt had plenty of soap got it very clean. I have had but one passage today in fact I dont any day & it is not watery although it is just probably not as thick as it would be if I lived on heartier food. Shall have a change of food & air tomorrow when we get on boat. Shall have to pay 25 cts to put this into the express Dr Pollard gave me seven [papers?] of [powders?] to be taken one <...> hours & two messes of of liquid to be taken <...> half table spoonsful once in 4 hours he kept me in <...> 4 or 5 days & has given me all the advice I have asked <...> has charged me 1.50.

Tuesday morn Suppose the Lewis is going today I have been at this hotel two weeks & five days they charge 10 dol a week when you stay a whole week & 2 dol a day if you stay only part of a week. I paid 20 dol at the end of the 2 weeks & now expect to have to pay 10 dol more for the five days & the passengers all have to pay 2 dol to get carried on board the steamer After paying all this I shall have about 97 dol I have been so weak I could not write until I have & now my hand trembles so I can hardly write remember me to all friends Kate in particular. tell her I have not forgotten her but that I hope to have better health & a better place to write t[o] her I have had kiss all the little children for me a dozen times apiece, wish I was in Cal [*California*] with good health & plenty to do think I shall soon be there Dont know as I can tell you where to direct a letter to me in Cal [*California*] unless you send a word to me through Daniel we expect to go to him now Should be very glad to hear from you

Your aff [*affectionate*] Son & Brother
R. E. Burr [*Ralph E. Burr*]

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Friday Morn July 9, '52

Dear parents brother & sisters

We are all well as usual. Mon. evening – I wrote Thurs for Friday when I felt that I could not send the letter away that day — I wanted to read it more — Ralph dear brother is almost constantly in my thoughts — I hope for the best but try to be reconciled to whatever shall happen. Sam does not walk yet, though he seems strong enough to do so, he is a plump solid little thing — If you have good opportunity wish you would ask Dr. Welch how he ought fed now that he is a year old — whether water should be added to his milk & whether he should eat bread with it. I think of going home this summer or fall – go alone from New York & William come for me — visit from 3 to 4 weeks long — When would you prefer me to come. I may not go at all — it is not decided — business is very dull. Ralph took the money for the stocking yarn. Kiss the children for me — Is Eddy [*Edward Grant*] in pants yet.

aff. [*affectionately*] Mary B. Hill.

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Corte Maderia [*California*], Jan 8. 1854.

Dear Friends

You see I am in a new place. Ethan went up to the Point forepart Dec. for the purpose of coaxing me down here to farm it, & as I had been thinking of going to farming the first chance that presented itself he had no very hard work to get me started although I was as well situated as I should ever expect to be working for wages, & could have had the place long as I pleased. They hated to have me leave & said that if was not suited down here to come back & I should have my place again no matter who they had hired But I am thinking it will be more pleasant to work for myself, have my Sundays to myself & feel that I am a free man, than to be tied from 4 in the morning till eight & nine at night year in & year out for other people, even if I dont make quite as much money which depends upon circumstances. I am in hopes of course that I shall do as well if not better. Ethan & I have taken a place of Capt. Van [Armon?] the man Al Hart is building a steamer in company with & of whom Al took his log job last year. The place consists of about two hundred acres well fenced & a snug little house which we occupy, about thirty acres have been ploughed & there is probably as much more that will do to plough. the remainder is covered with wild oats which makes the best of hay of which we can mow much as we please. Hay is now worth 50 dols. in the city a ton. it costs ten dollars to get it over from here. 4 weeks ago it was worth but twenty dollars a ton however. what twill be next year I know not. We do the work on the place & have half. Capt. finds team & seed & keeps the team. We commenced planting potatoes last Monday & ploughed & planted 5 acres & cut the seed last week the way we plant here is to drop a row in every third furrow & turn the next one on to it. we drop the pieces along about a foot apart. after the potatoes are all planted we take a drag & drag <*it*> the ground over to make it level & then let the potatoes grow till time to dig then take a plow & plough them out. Never touch a hoe to them. when it rains they say 'tis too [moldy] to hoe them & when it dont rain the grou[nd] will retain the moisture longer to have it perfectly level. We shall probably get in ten or twelve acres potatoes this year, & as much wheat as we can. There is a twelve acre lot ploughed ready for wheat which we intend to sow this week. The Capt had it ploughed before we came & it cost us nothing. We have bought 4 sows 12 hens & a rooster for $2 00 [&?] all the sows 45 each. the hens are worth two dollars each. are going to raise what pigs & chickens we can. got the hens home yesterday & they have laid 4 eggs ready <*dont*> It is about 12 miles across the bay to San Frisco. [*San Francisco, California*] Ethan went over week before last and bought some provisions & a cook stove paid 18 dols for a nice little stove & furniture, $16 for a barrel of as good flour as I ever saw $12 for 100 lbs butter, very good, 8 cts for beans $25 for a barrel pork &c &c &c. They seem mighty cheap to me after being in the mountains. but not to you I suppose except the butter. The pork & butter were bought at auction where part of a ships cargo has to be sold to pay freight round the horn.

Miles Hart arrived at San Frisco [*San Francisco, California*] the 20th Dec & gave me your letter of which I was very glad it being the first I had recd [*received*] from home since March [last?] I can get my letters now right from the Post Office in San Francisco as many as you will have the goodness to send. Am glad you farmers are having such a good time at home Am also glad that Pa has got a horse that suits him at last. If Erastus wants to kill himself why dont he take some easier way for doing it than by hard work I should think it would be the hardest way in the world.

You tell about Mary & Eddies going to school but I always think of them just as they were when I left & cant for my life make them look any different, although I know there is & will be still more before I see them again. There has been scarcely no rain here this winter expect it will come in March. So there is another little play thing for me at home is there. wish I could see her. 15th Meant to have finished this last Sunday but Miles Hart & others came in, & I have neglected & forgotten it since So it will not go till next mail.

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[*Addressed to:*] Mr. Erastus Burr —
Norfolk [*Connecticut*]

[*Extracts from Ralph E. Burr's letter, first date, Feb. 25 1845?*]

"Have recently had the extreme pleasure of receiving one letter from home which was commenced 14 Nov. Am still working for Wood & Clark. Mr. Clark & Mrs. Wood have both told me at different times that they would give me employment long as I remained in Cal. [*California*]" If they give him good wages intends to stay. He once wrote he had $65. a month — said nothing about it in this. Says. "I commenced here as waiter, & am now waiter, cook, Steward, Barkeeper, Store keeper & packer— do not have very hard work, but am pretty busy from before daylight till eight in the evening do not feel much like writing after work nights."

"The winter has been pleasant, much like your Oct. weather. Had the blues for a time after arriving in Cal. [*California*] & the worst when out of work. but say positively I am not disappointed in anything but the living & that is better than I expected. If I was to stay here until first Apr. could then start for home & reach N. York [*New York*] in a year from the time I left there & pay my expenses here & back & have a hundred dollars in my pocket — would not go home tomorrow if anyone would give me a free ticket." Has not been sick a day since he has been in that house & weighs 170 lbs. without coat, vest or boots — "People who expect to spend their lives in Cal. [*California*] Think no more of a bit (12 1/2 cts. I believe) than they would of a cent at home, but I do a little" "Feb. 27 – rec'd [*received*] two letters from home yesterday, one mailed at Flemington [*New Jersey*] Sept 2. & one at Norfolk [*Connecticut*] Sept. 17. & another from Flemington [*New Jersey*] & one from Daniel mailed at Parks Bar. Have written to him & one to Ethan Pendleton this forenoon."

[*P*]oint Defiance [*California*] is 30 miles Northeast of Marysville [*California*] at the junction of the South & North Yubas "Carrie asks if I find I know much about cooking – I don't know <u>much</u> about it, but they had a cook hired here when I first came who made cooking his business & they considered him good, but the boarders all say I cook better than he did."

[*written across side:*] Ralph wishes to be remembered to all friends —

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

Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 4th 1849

Dear Ralph

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

Our town is as quiet today as sunday with the exception of a few firecrackers among the boys and once in awhile a gun shot from children of a larger growth. I have taken advantage of its being a holiday have not done much except in the way of chores, picked peas for dinner, staked up tomato vines, burnt up some weeds that were cut in the field, hoed quite a bit in the

garden, and now at 1/2 past 3 oclock P.M. am writing to friends far away. We had some very hot weather week before last and first of last week, since that time it has been much cooler with a deal of easterly wind but no rain, the country is getting (just about here) very dry, pinching the gardens & oats very much. Last week and latter part of week before we cut and got in without the least damage by wet 22 loads of hay, 15 clover & the rest some early […] suffering with the dry weather. Found it very hard work mowing down clover in that hot weather, but made out to 'hang' on by taking it easy. Shall begin to mow again next week & harvest wheat also. Some people are cutting wheat & rye on hilly land. The hay crop is very abundant, think that we will cut about 56 loads from 25 acres of grass, The warm weather has started the corn forward pretty fast. have ploughed all of ours twice some three times, and one piece the 4th and last time, about half (11 acres) of ours looks very good indeed and the rest so middling; the best stands up over two feet high, and we have every size from 6 inches high to 3 feet.

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

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

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

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

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Prairieville [*Wisconsin*], <*Aug*> Sept. 23, – [*in pencil*:] 1845

Dear Sister [*Mary Burr Hill*]

<*Y*> I did not intend that so many weeks should pass away – before you rec'd [*received*] a few lines from me, but our little babe makes such an ado if most of one's time is not devoted to her little self that I find it difficult to get time for other than household duties – She is now in my arms & has just been casting up her bright eyes & laughing me in the face – we can hardly determine their color for they seem to be neither blue black or grey – we expect however they will be black – her hair is dark, her mouth pretty, her forehead good & she is getting quite white – she has been called a puny little thing – had a very ill turn about two weeks ago but since her recovery from it has appeared better & grown more than before

My health is good – my back is not as strong as before my sickness otherwise I have felt well ever since – have had a good appetite all the time

At the time of her birth expect I got along remarkably well – it was not nearly so bad as I anticipated – did not suffer more than I have many times before have since been afflicted some with sore nipples for a time they were quite bad I thought, but suppose they were not nearly as aggravating as many are. I kept them moist with whiskey loaf sugar & borax – think that prevented them from getting very bad – heard that the oil of hickory nuts was good – as we could find none of them procured some English walnuts & extracted the oil (by heating the tongs & compressing the meat between them) applied it – either that or the former application was quite healing, or the time had come for them to get well. *

*The oil extracted from Butternut meat is also very healing

I have been a little troubled with caked breasts. I will mention some remedies & when you know any one similarly afflicted you can communicate the information. A brown paper greased laid upon the breast & a flat iron <*as*> warm as warm as can be borne rubbed upon it until the cake is softened, that was efficacious in my case – Cabbage leaves wilted & spread with lard or butter & applied are good.

A poultice made of hot brandy or whiskey, (brandy preferable) & Indian meal is said to have done wonders – Also a poultice of blue flag root, the root simmered in milk, the root is poisonous so that caution is necessary to prevent the child from getting poisoned – some use scorched [tow?] & camphor, but camphor dries the milk . Sweating the breast is said to be good this can be done by covering it over with a small wooden bowl wh. [*which*] has been immersed in boiling water – and last a piece of new calico applied for sometime is said to be good by those who have tried it.

Daniel has been looking over my letter & says he thinks I have lost my faculty for letter writing, but you know Mary that I never had any to lose.

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Sept 19th 1849

Dear Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]

Now that you are at home (your Father Land) once again I have commenced this in the old style of byegone days.

Was very glad indeed to get your letter, expected it a little and only a little on Monday, told the folks that you were at home if any where because I did not receive a letter on monday.

We are getting along quite smoothly now, Catharine was a little cross at first but telling Aunt [H?] some of her troubles and getting much sympathy seemed to become quite reconciled to her new mistress.

The day after your left mother brought us over a rice pud., for dinner a squash pie for [H?] my self & an apple pie for supper which with the bread on hand when you left brought us through until Saturday, when baking was done up very well indeed; and to morrow is to be done again better than ever.

You must excuse the jumbled style of this on account of my having been up with the kiln last night and no chance of rest to day my thoughts are as upside down as they well can be.

Father left home for Trenton on Tuesday morning where he was summoned as a grand juror in a United states court, expect him home tomorrow though not certainly. So you see I have affairs all in my own hands once more.

By the way one would never suspect that you were a neat house keeper to look at the very neat style of your letters as they would most certainly think that you must neglect something of your other duties to be so <u>particularly neat on</u> this <u>one point</u>.

Sorry that Mr. Storms did not get his letter in time to meet you at the wharf. and glad that you received such polite attention from [M?] Muirhead and from the Estranger under whose care you were put.

Did not intend that your Mother should pay you any thing for those little article of [ware and?] would much rather that she would accept them as a present from me.

Did you walk home from M. Phelp's or ride if you walked just get ready for one of those violent scoldings which you are so used to since you have become Mrs. Hill, & thank your stars that you receive nothing worse.

Expect to commence cutting corn to morrow and as soon as we get through will start for strong land (as Ralph calls it) with quite as much pleasure as I would take a dose of <u>Castor</u> <u>Oil</u> Now don't <u>be too much</u> flattered with the infinite pleasure that I have expressed, because I don't like Castor Oil very much.

Remember me kindly to all our friends, and if you can persuade any of them to make you a visit I shall be well pleased to see them at any time they may take for coming.

Tell Ralp [*Ralph E. Burr*] that I will try and devote one day to his pleasure when I come on, especially if he can engage a flock of pigeons for our benefit.

I miss you much dear Mary & most especially on sunday, for that is the day on which we spend some of our pleasant hours together. I hope that you may enjoy your visit thoroughly and let no thought of home trouble you for I am as happy as I can be separated from you. Hope you will grow fat & stay quite well. Your new Gingham came home to day, am sorry to say that I made a mistake and only sent for 8 yards so you will be <u>minus</u> an apron.

Now if you do not find sweet things enough in this, just sit down and write all you can think of applicable to the case and when I see you I will sign my name to the paper and you will there get just exactly the sweet things said that you want said. Finished sowing most of the wheat on Saturday last. Have had most beautiful weather since you left us mild & clear, no frost as yet. Remember me to Warren Benton if you should see him or write. No news about town, except a robbery in town last evening, a trunk was broken at the stage office and one hundred dollars taken out, it belonged to a poor [Irishman?] and was all that he had.

You see that I express my self beautifully & with great ease to night, wont promise to do any better next time however for I am not as Women (When she will she will "depend on it",) I have no such power over my will as to write by its express effort. What I write must come easily, without effort as it were, or else to me it is work and you know I hate work – Good night dearest

With kind wishes for your happiness I am as sleepy an husband as belongs to any woman.

Truly Yours
Ever Wm. Hill

Dear Mary –

Willie asked me if I would add a few lines, & I will just say we are all well, & were glad to receive your letter last eve. I gave your farewell message to sister N & cousin [Capress?] – but I have not seen Nancy Emery since you left us. Willie says you sent many kisses to your friends & "those who wish to receive them may <u>kiss</u> <u>your</u> <u>letter</u>."

You speak of the receipt of those ginger crakers – I did not make them by a receipt tho' I think I can tell you pretty nearly the proportions of the ingredients a teacup of lard or dripping rubbed into two quarts of flour – with a little salt, & half a tea spoonful of saleratus pulverized very finely – About a pint of molasses & two tablespoonfuls of ginger, & one of cinnamon, the flour to make it stiff enough to roll

much love.

HBH [*Henrietta Hill*]

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[*Addressed to unknown*]
[*Pages missing*]

....very long. Will is just at the cute age and is bright and quick as a flash

He carrys the chairs just where he wants them and climbs on to the table if there is anything he wants on it One day he was alone in dining room and when I went in was on the floor eating something
"What are you eating Will" "Medecin" [*medicine*] he answered, "Where did you get it" "In there" and he pointed to the sugar bowl and laughed. He was told he must not do that again

He has had a bad cold and has been obliged to take medecin and really seems to like it, asks for more, but he knows what sugar is

Grandma Hulsiger bought some ginger crackers to the children One night just before tea Will asked for one "Mama can I have a "ginger cacker" " No Will not until we have tea. Mama can I have it after Mr Warren Lords"?

Mr Warren always asks the Blessing and Will had caught one word of it Sophie said "He means after Mr Warren prays to the Lord."

They both know they get nothing to eat until after Mr W. has "prayed to the Lord" as S. [*Sophie*] says

Sophie has learned to wait very patiently to be helped and never thinks of having desert until after all the others are helped It is amusing to see Will try to keep his hands folded while he waits for his pudding

Sophie puts on her shoes and stockings and her skirts but cannot button her dress yet She is learning to work cross stitch on canvas but finds it a little hard to do much at any one time.

She and Will play church and both sing or pretend to from one book Sophie behaves remarkably well in Church better than anywhere else we think She never has been naughty in church and she goes very often But it will be a long time before Will can go He is such a restless mortal He talks very distinctly unusually so for his age, two years <in> Sept. 25th, and talks a great deal He does not seem quite so robust as Sophie takes cold easier but after all is a sturdy stout little fellow and is growing out of all his dresses Sophie will be four in January is very tall for her age. Both children are out doors whenever the weather is at all suitable They go to bed right after supper and their romp with "Papa and Grandpa"

This letter will be all....[*pages missing*]

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[*Addressed to Pamela Benton Burr?*]

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

suppose we could but not in addition to what we now do. We endeavor to take pretty good care of our health which we consider of great importance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday All our families have gone to church but Mary & I fancy you are at church also We have but one service & no Sunday school in winter Our minister preaches in Berlin 4 or 5 miles from here in the P.M. so one minister answers for the two towns We are hearing candidates now. Mr Boys the former Minister that married Mary Edes has gone to Nantucket. We are trying to get a minister to suit both Parishes & thus be able to give a salary of $1,100 & the use of the Parsonage. Both congregations are small. Do you take any interest in the Andover controversy & which side do you favor the Professor or their opponents? I hope the

Professors are in the right although it is contrary to my early training. "As the tree falleth so it lies." There seems to be quite an over turning of old beliefs & a great searching after the truth.

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

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

Affectionately

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

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[*Addressed to Caroline Grant Burr*]

Jan. 23. 67.

My very dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24, Wednes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good Bye for the present dear sister.

E. Burton [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

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

My dear Mother,

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

You expressed some anxiety about my health, and speak as if you supposed I was still afflicted with sore breasts. This is not the case. I was troubled twice in the fall and early part of winter with sore
hands, but drinking the sarsaparilla syrup cured them in both cases and they have not troubled me since until the past week they have been a <u>little</u> sore. About a week after my confinement my breasts began to swell, we tried the usual remedies for swelled breasts in vain, they continued to swell, but were not very painful unless I moved my arms, and in less than three weeks they broke three times. Since then they have never troubled me but once, and then it was a cold which was removed by sweating. I have much reason to be grateful that I got through with them with so little pain. I was quite out of health for two or three months after my confinement, had a diareah which reduced me a good deal and was bought on by the least excercise, but I have got entirely over that, and for the lat two months have been as well as any body need to be, and have grown quite fleshy. I have done my work alone 8 or 9 weeks this summer and do not now wish for a girl. I find a good deal of excercise agrees with me. Mr Grant has been in very good health the most of the summer, but has for some past days been severely afflicted with the toothache. He went this

morning to attend court in New Philadelphia, and Elizabeth and I are to spend the night alone. Elizabeth is very healthy and good natured. She is rather small featured but very fat, and I think resembles Jane very much. It is very gratifying to me that she does. She lies upon the floor a great deal, but sleeps very little indeed. We do not use a cradle let her wear caps, or give her paregoric; three things which astonish the people here very much. I put her in a pail or tub of water every day if I have the time, if not I wash her thoroughly all over. She likes either method of washing, but prefers going in a tub of water. I wish you could see her. I am afraid she will not be so good when she is older, but I intend to try to make a good girl of her.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Susan B Grant. [*Susan Boyd Grant*]

Sat. morning Nov. 3. I could add little to what Susan has written, if I were disposed, for want of room. I returned from N Phila [*North Philadelphia*] Thursday Eve. Col. Griswold's family are all in excellent health. Our books and G. Hall Jrs M.SS. came in good condition. Col. G's [*Griswold*]

other goods are yet behind and no word has come respecting them which makes him feel somewhat uneasy. A letter was to be sent on their being forwarded from Albany, but none has come.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affe [*affectionate*] son E P Grant

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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 <u>vast</u> 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 <u>hard times</u> prevented their procedure. This summer through the influence of the Rev. Bela. B. Edwards Boston, they thought it would be done. But its contents are too solid, & sp<*r*>iritual to sell, the bookseller said it was not sufficiently inviting for sale. Then Miss Lyon sent to know for what number of subscribers they would publish it. They informed her, 300. The number of subscribers is not made out. The single book will cost 75 cts. [*cents*] By the dozen a little l[es]s, probably 52 1/2 cents. It is a sorrowful thought that the great & wonderful plan of redemption has no charms for enslaved man, whose bondage is infinitely more dreadful than that of the colored man within our borders. The book is valuable for every one over 14. particularly for Christians. Could you not get a dozen subscribers within two weeks. Please write within that time & tell me what you think about whether you get any or none. If published at all, it will be soon after that time. I subscribed for two copies. You may say there are already too many books, but our people <*might*> must & will read something, & if a taste for solid feasting upon what is really elevating and good is already formed, no work can be more palatable or profitable than this. It wd. [*would*] tend to lead any one to be ashamed to live for themselves, & to ardently desire to cooperated with God both heart & hand in redeeming the world. Cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*] will bring them on, & will pay for them in Boston, & receive pay there of those who subscribe. It is not subscribing for a work whose merits have not been tested. Will you all, the

family I mean, see what you can do, & write however the case may be. Remember yr. [*your*] daughter Mary at the throne of grace.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It seems a long time since I have enjoyed the pleasure of writing you. For several weeks I have been hoping I should have time this week. Since the commencement of this term, we have been closely occupied with school engagements, & I do not expect much time to correspond with friends this winter. My health is very good. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has by economizing her strength been able to accomplish much thus far. She spends each forenoon in school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & sometimes the afternoon. The number of scholars is limited to about 110 boarders, aside from the young ladies from this town. I have care of the oldest section composed of about 30 young ladies. The young ladies are studious, & I believe universally desirous to improve, & do right. Half of my section have been teachers, & most of them expect hereafter to teach. All, excepting six, are professors of religion. Composition, arithmetic, <*&*> drawing & physiology have yet been the principal studies. For our Sab. [*Sabbath*] lessons we study the book of Gen. [*Genesis*] commencing with creation. Next Sab. [*Sabbath*] we

take from Gen. [*Genesis*] 6 to the 9 inclusive. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] lectures three mornings a week from this part of Scripture. We find it truly of interest. — I received a letter from Elizabeth three weeks since. She was then recovering after a course of fever. She had been sick six weeks. Her letter was written Oct. 21 & 22. She was then expecting to open her school Oct. 29. Miss Bridges was taken sick two weeks before her, <*& was*> but had nearly regained her strength when she wrote. E. [*Elizabeth*] has an important, wide field for labor, & I hope will be faithful. She says she wants some apples & apple pies, tho' [*though*] the fruit is entirely cut off there this year. It is scarce here. Are <*they*> apples abundant with you? You will like to know respecting the domestic labor Seminary. The bell is now ringing for nine o'clock. I have been calling upon about a dozen of the factory girls since half past seven. There is a large cotton factory in town which employs 50 or 60 girls. Miss Lyon & some others in town concluded it would be well to present a circular to them, & give them an opportunity to give towards raising the $1000 if they chose. They never have their work in the evening till half past seven. They afford evidence that an institution of this kind is demanded. One said she did not think it her duty to give an institution which she could not attend, another did not think it necessary that the common people should <*not*> know more than reading arithmetic & spelling, some said, they thought the object desirable but had nothing at present to give, they were glad to give to the support of the gospel, but they found other benevolent objects which they were more interested in than this. At these feelings, I do not wonder. I told them I only gave them the privilege. One exception to what I have described will mention. She heard a few remarks with interest which beamed forth in every feature of her face. She then with a delighted air, went and brought a dollar. Had I not collected a cent, I should have been glad I presented the subject to them, but it afforded me real pleasure to witness the benevolence & interest of that young lady. $900 of the required sum <*has been*> is raised. The location is not yet fixed. I believe. Many are interested. Miss Lyon & Miss Caldwell are spending the winter at Amherst. Did the ladies in your region feel disposed to do any thing. — I hope they will send on some sum even if should be small. — The young ladies are now learning, during this recess, the names of the principal constellations. Our bell for retiring will soon ring & I must finish tomorrow. I imagine father has retired, & I hardly know about mother whether she is resting after the busy toils of the day, as days before thanksgiving are busy days, or still at work or reading by the kitchen fire. I hope not sick or any of the family. Good night to you all.
Affectionately your daughter, Mary. [*Mary Grant Burgess*]
Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] sends love to you all. She is a mother to me.

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Elijah Grant

Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Con. [*Connecticut*]

Paid
No. 6.

Boston, March 29, 1839.

My dear Parents,

Mr. Burgess wrote you in Amherst [*Massachusetts*], & sent by Mr. Cowles. We left Amherst the next day, & rode nearly all the following night, & arrived in Grafton [*Massachusetts*] Fri. noon. The next Tues. Mr. B. [*Ebenezer Burgess*] was ordained. The exercises were highly interesting, & well attended. I was pleased with our visit in Grafton, the people are hardy, sensible, & inhabit the eastern part of the Green Mt. range. Mt. Ashutney was in sight & only a few miles from us. The people are now engaged in making maple sugar. It was a good season, & sufficient is generally made for their own use. We visited Mr. B. [*Burgess*]'s four uncles, & called on a good many cousins & acquaintances, found them interested & kind, indeed I was much more gratified with my acquaintance there than I anticipated, & think I should have regretted it, had I not gone We stayed in Grafton one week, & came to Lowell [*Massachusetts*] last Sat. where we stopped at Rev. Mr. Burnap's an old teacher of Mr. Burgess's. We spent the

Sabbath in Lowell. Mr. Burgess preached half a day in each orthodox Congregational ch. [*church*] Lowell has now a population of about 19,000. About 1,000 persons usually attend at the <*ortho*> congregational chhs, [*churches*] & they are now forming a third congregational ch. [*church*] It is a city & is quite an interesting place. In the town about 6/7 of the inhabitants are females, & about the same proportion in Mr. Burnap's ch. [*church*] about 600 females, & less than 100 males. We came to Boston Monday last, and are now almost ready to embark. My health has been very good, & my acquaintances say that I am looking very healthy for me. I get tired days, but sleep, & rise refreshed & well. We are staying at Mr. Stichney's.

Ipswich, April 9, 1839.

My dear Brother, & Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Much love to all your children.

Your ever affectionate sister,
Z.P. Grant.

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

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

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

Loved and honored Parents,
This is the first time I have taken my pen since I addressed you a few lines immediately after embarking. I intend in writing to you to mention incidents as they occur somewhat in a diary form. I think I shall always consider it a great privilege as well as a duty, to write you every opportunity. The day we left Salem, April 1, many sails were in sight, & Cape Ann was to be seen the whole day, though as the sun was setting it was in appearance a small cloud, less than a man's hand. I supposed this was the last glimpse of our native land, yet I could not sufficiently recognize <u>that</u> for my country, to be affected with sorrow in taking a farewell view. — Immediately after completing my letter to you, I went to my stateroom & there arranged things for sea sickness. Mr. Burgess began to be sick directly, but remained on deck the whole P.M. I remained below something more than an hour, & then went on deck, found all the passengers there & all a little sick, none so much so as Mr. B. [*Burgess*] The sea was comparatively smooth. Tues. & Wednes., the two following days, the sea was rough, the passengers were all sick, & scarcely left their berths. Sea sickness makes persons almost perfectly helpless. One loses all curiosity, & all desire. The effort of speaking, or of even raising the hand, seems an almost insurmountable task. Something must be accessible into which to vomit, & a glass of water for the purpose of washing the mouth,

if possible to go through this herculean work. I have read this description to Mr. B. [*Burgess*] he says it is hyperbolical, but I think it my own experience, & I surely thought it to be his. An accompaniment of sea sickness, which is very disagreeable, is an exceedingly bad taste of the mouth. We slept considerable during both day & night, took no nourishment, but a little water gruel, ocassionally tasted of an orange or lemon, with which our friends had bountifully supplied us.
Thurs. morn. The motion of the vessel was less, the sun, through one sky light shone pleasantly, & we all felt better. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] hastened on deck. I rose & washed my whole system in salt water (a practice I have since continued, & probably shall to the end of my voyage) & went on deck. From that date I have been most of the time entirely free from sickness. Thurs. noon I took dinner at table with Capt Ward, Mr. & Mrs. French, Mr. & Mrs. Hume. This was the first time we had been to the table. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] & Miss F [*Cynthia Farrar*] were not able to be present & they are still on the sick list. Fri. & Sat. we had some social reading.
Thurs. P.M. April 11. A favorable breeze is wafting us along, & the day is beautiful. The sea is less rough, so we are on deck more & suffer less from s. [*sea*] sickness. I will go back to last Sab. [*Sabbath*] It was warm, & mild. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress spread on deck, & I read to him most of the A.M. I read some from the Bible, & several tracts. About 3 o'clock, P.M. a little meeting was held in the cabin, opened by singing. Mr. F. [*French*] led in prayer, Mr. H. [*Hume*] read a sermon by Chalmers, a little time was spent in conversation, & the pleasant meeting was closed by prayer, led by Mr. Hume. Capt. Ward was present. He is a member of the Bap. chh. [*Baptist church*] in Salem. He is willing that all suitable measures should be taken to benefit the crew. The number of persons on board is 20. Missionaries, 7. Capt. & two mates, steward & cook, & eight sailors. The steward & cook are colored men. We have far more to do with the steward than any one else excepting the Capt. The steward is good natured, active & kind, & rather neat. None of the crew are pious. The sailors were all strangers to the Capt., but he thinks them a very docile, respectable set. Six of them are from Salem or its vicinity, & the others are foreigners, English I believe. They spent considerable time in reading last Sab. [*Sabbath*] & almost entirely religious books. We hope this may be a voyage they will love to remember in eternity – Mon. Tues. & Wednes. (the past three days) have been very rough, the rocking & tossing of the vessel have made us all dizzy, & about ½ of our company sick. However we have had social reading on deck, each day. We have in this way read John's first Epistle, & about 50 pages in Malcom's tour to India. All our company sing, though Mr. F. [*French*] sings but very little. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] is very fond of it, & sings well, & much. I am glad of it.
April 14. Second Sabbath at sea. There seemed a stillness & sacredness even on board ship, as if holy time was recognized. Nothing is required to be done, that is not necessary. To day seems like a Sab. [*Sabbath*] at home when there is severe sickness in the family. None of our company are able to be up much, except Mr. & Mrs. French & myself, therefore we have no sermon read. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has his mattress on deck. I sit by him, & read much of the time. The sailors sent back the tracts Mrs. Hume sent them last Sab., [*Sabbath*] saying they were much obliged for them, & liked them. The Capt. said they considered that a polite way of asking for more. I sent them about a dozen, most of them stories such as Conversion of Mrs. Eleanor Emerson, Col. Gardiner, Bob, the cabin boy, etc. We have evidence that they were read. They are not well supplied with Bibles. We regret we had not procured some cheap Bibles & Testaments to give them.
April 15th Lat. 28% Long. 40%. For several days the wind has been almost ahead (S.E.) & we have been compelled to go farther S. than is desirable. This morning the ship tacked, & our direction is now N of E. This change brings our state room on the windward side & in consequence our side of the ship is several feet higher than the leeward. It is not quite as easy keeping our place in our berths. Had some cheerful, pleasant conversation with our company, read an hour in the Ladies Wreath & heard Mr. French read in Malcom's tour. I feel almost impatient for Mr. Burgess's recovery. He does not relish his food, is feeble, & exceedingly averse to exertion. He hardly walks at all.
April 16. As this day terminates the existence of Ips. Fem. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] I have thought much of them, & my emotions are indescribable. For years, associations, tender & strong, have been clustering round that institution, & what a day there, this must be. I would praise the Lord for his blessing upon those who have assembled there to receive instruction for

his loving kindness & tender mercy to the teachers, & for that providence which permitted me to enjoy its privileges. May Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] be comforted & sustained, & I doubt not she will be.
While writing the above in the cabin, I was apprised by the tone of voice on deck, that something out of the common course had occurred. I found the second mate had brought a dead flying fish, which probably flew into the ship the night before. It was smaller than my idea of them, though the Capt. says it is of medium size. He has seen them twice as large, but often smaller. It measured 13 inches from the extremities of his wings, nine inches in length, & five in girth. Its eyes were large, color on the back & sides silvery grey, under whitish. We judged it to weigh 1 ½ of a pd. [*pound*] It has a few small scales, & three small fins. Its wings were inserted about an inch below its head. – Today for the first time, all our company sat at table together. Mr. French had just been reading the temperance tale, "I am afraid there is a God," which furnished a topic for conversation. Those now, who are able to write, spend a little time each day in writing. We may meet, the Capt. informed us, a returning ship within a few days. This is uncertain. After tea, we sung on deck some of the old tunes, Greenwich, Morality, Exhortation & several others. The Capt. joined us a little. He says he regrets every day that he did not take his wife & daughter with him. His daughter is an only child, aged about 20. We saw them in Salem.
April 17. Lat. 30% N. Lon. 44% W. Favored with a fresh breeze & a beautiful day. We spent an hour & a half, reading Murathee, with Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar for our pundit. All were present, except Mr. B. [*Burgess*], & I think he is better today. We commenced reading Luke's gospel. They read Mark & Henry & his Bearer, while with Mr. Read. We intend to have a lesson each day in Murathee. Mr. Hume read aloud in Mr. Malcom. Sung in the odeum after tea, & then had some pleasant conversation in the round house on deck. The Capt. was communicative, as we ever find him, when disposed to converse. He spends considerable time each day reading. His age is about 45, has been to sea 25 years.
April 18. Warm & rainy. Studied Murathee an hour & a half in the A.M. We have but one lexicon, & one grammar, & four copies of Mark, so we take turns in using them in preparing our lessons. We study in pairs, & keep the books in use most of the A.M. At 2 o'clock P.M. we recite in a class, with Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] for our teacher. She is happy to be permitted to go to the heathen again. She suffers every day from ill health & I fear always will. She is resigned, & is able almost constantly to say the will of the Lord be done. She knows something of the peace of a mind stayed on God. She is one too, who keeps her mouth & tongue. I have noticed this trait from my first acquaintance with her. I am glad she is with us.
April 19. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has walked with me on deck today for the first time. He appears like one recovering from severe sickness. The day is pleasant.
April 20. Lat. 31% Lon. 37%. As the one who preaches will wish his time Sat., & as we all wish to have matters arranged preparatory to the Sab. [*Sabbath*], we this morning decided to have no Muratha lesson on Sat. It is three weeks to day since we came from Boston to Salem. That eve we received our private instructions, given principally by Dr. Anderson & Mr. Armstrong. Dr. Anderson among other things remarked upon the frequent effect of sea sickness upon mind & body; of its making one unreasonable, petulant, & 0, he drew a sombre, deary picture. I cannot tell how far his delineation operated as a preventive of such direful effects, yet I can say that three weeks, the time he mentioned, has passed, & I have not heard an unpleasant word, & I think each of our company could make the same remark. I am happy, to say Mr. B. [*Burgess*] improves, though slowly; his appetite I think could be called good. He, with Mr. & Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself sung an hour this P.M. Today the ship tacked, again; our course since Mon. has been N. of E. now it is S. of E. I looked on to see the seamen change the sails. The first thing a seaman learns, is to obey; it is interesting to notice their perfect obedience. They evidently strive to excel in promptness & seem to do their best. Some of their work is very hard, & as yet they are constantly occupied. They will have more time for rest & improvement after a few weeks.
April 22, Lat. 28%55". Lon. 37%50". We are now in the N.E. trade wind, & shall now pass on in a S.E. direction to the equator. We have just finished our recitation in Murathee. Yesterday we had public worship for the first time on board. This is the third time Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] has crossed the wide ocean & never before had she beheld such a scene. An awning was raised aft of the main mast. The colored table spread was tied round the capstan, for the desk, three settees were arranged, one before, & one on each side of the capstan, these accommodated 11,

the others occupied chairs, forming something more than a semicircle round the speaker. At two, P.M. all except the man at the helm seated themselves. They were in a cleanly clad manner, though in sailor style; no one appeared in a white shirt, some of them wore red flannel, without coats, some in blue factory cloth shirts. Some of them showed by their appearance that this was a novel scene to them. It was amusing to observe their countenances. Timidity, bashfulness, wonder, curiosity, pleasure & good will by turns or simultaneously were expressed in their sun burnt faces. In one case as one caught the eye of another, I noticed a suppressed smile. Mr. French officiated. He read the hymn commencing "There is a fountain filled with blood." Some of the sailors joined in singing, but in a suppressed tone. We stood in prayer. God was with us. We sang again; then listened to a good sermon from Mat. 3:18. All were very attentive. The occasion was one of uncommon interest. We were forcibly reminded of our distance from the assemblies with which we have been accustomed to worship. I believe all are pleased to have religious exercises. Family worship is regularly attended at eight o'clock each evening. Half the sailors attend each evening alternating. – Last Sat. eve Mrs. H [*Hume*], Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself had a little season of social prayer. It was pleasant, & I trust but a foretaste of what we may hereafter enjoy.

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

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

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

May 1. Lat. 9% A fine breeze is wafting us pleasantly on our way; this with the flying clouds, so diminish the intensity of the heat of the sun, as to render us quite comfortable when in the shade. Last evening for the first time I observed the phosphorescent light of which I have read as being sometimes seen at sea. This appearance is accounted for, as caused by minute animals, and is not phosphorescense. It is seen only where the water is in motion, & principally near the ship. It seemed more like numerous lightning bugs, on the water than anything else, to which I can compare it. I stand & gaze & admire. Thus something, almost daily, occurs to furnish a little variety. For a few days, flying fish have been very often seen, both singly & in schools. They fly

but a few rods at a time & resemble a flock of grey birds. Dolphins, & many other large fish pursue, & pray upon them. – I often feel, that I shall never have so favorable a time for cultivating personal piety, or for reading, as the present. So teach us to number our days, as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. I must not omit to mention, that Capt. W. [*Ward*] has had a convenient bathing tub fitted for the ladies, & another for the gentlemen. We use ours in rotation, & as Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] does not choose to take a bath at present, every third morning, I have the luxury of bathing. We value it highly, as conducive to health & comfort.

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 15. An interesting female social prayer meeting in my state room. Miss G. met with us for the first time. We value having her with us. — We have made us some little blank books for translating common phrases into Murathee. My task in this department is three sentences a day. I write them in Eng. [*English*] on one page, & in Murathee on the other. We make some progress, though we often feel vigorous for reading & writing letters, when we do not relish Mahratta. (I suppose in writing letters, I had better spell Mahratta 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 a sail aho, 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 Ornament. 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

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[*from Mary Grant Burgess*]

Ahmednuggur [*India*] Oct 23, 1840

My dear parents,

I sent you a few sheets of journal from Zanzibar. ------ Forest and field are not superior upon that island to those of America yet very unlike them. Here the trees were the cocoa, the clove, the orange, the nut-meg, the mango, the plantian & custard apple, the vegetables, yam, sweet potatoes, pineapple and other tropical plants --------

We had a rough rapid voyage of two weeks to Muscat, The monsoon driving us forward at the rate of 200 or 225 miles a day. Muscat harbor is surrounded by bold precipitous rocks. ------
July 24) we spent at Capt. Calfauns. Capt. C. [*Calfauns*] is a good Mussulman, understands considerable English & would be called a gentleman in any society. We saw his wife & little son five years old. The females would run, if one of our men came near or if for any reason any remained they would veil their faces. -------- July 26th in the morning we called at the palace. Two long flights of homley wooden stairs led to the harem. Here we found the kings (Sultans) wife, mother, sisters & two grown daughters. They received us very cordially, taking our right hand in both theirs and shaking it gently. We were seated among this company of females & would have prized it much to have been able to talk Arabic. We had learned a few words, by these, & by signs we received and communicated a number of ideas. They wore a profusion of very costly ornaments & their dress was rather becoming. We were then invited into a large room most expensively furnished where was a table loaded with fruits, sweetmeats, bread and puddings. -- After our meal we again engaged in conversation in our way -- Seid Mohammed (one of the Sultans sons took Mrs. Frenchian & intimated that he would accompany us -------- July 28, Sabbath. Anchored in Chubar --- The next morning Capt. went on shore. In the afternoon came back to the vessel having purchased some thousand pounds of wool. Last year he purchased wool for eight cents a pound & sold it for 35 cts. [*cents*]min Salem -------- Left Chubar July 30 & Aug 1 landed, anchored in the bay near Cape Guadel, about three miles from town ---- Aug 3 we all went on shore ---- Soil appeared barren, we stopped near a Banyan temple & dwelling. Banyan are a religious sect, who consider the cow as their chief god. They are Hindoos. Here we saw the mummery of heathenism. One man was sitting & chanting something while another sat by & dipped salt water from a copper vessel with a little shell & poured it upon little sticks of wood. ----- Coarse red figures & pictures were numerous upon the interior walls of these buildings ------ The inhabitants are Beloochees ---- They have the Koran, very few can read it. ---- They wore a profusion of ornaments in their noses, ears, & upon their wrists The women of the town almost all assembled at the governors house to see us I suppose they never saw a white female before ----- beginning to feel that we should suffocate with so many breaths we were glad to be

invited to another room to partake of refreshments. Plates of mangoes, fresh dates & holwah were arranged on a round mat on the ground which constituted the floor of the room. As there were no chairs we sat down upon the mat & partook of the repast. Water & sour milk were brought for us. ------ It is but three years since they learned that wool was valuable. Capt. W. [*Ward*] bought thousands of pounds for about 10 cents a pound ---- The English have already, or are about to have these people under the government, which we cannot but hope will expediate the introduction of the religion of Jesus. After dinner August 5 weighed anchor & set sail direct for Bombay, distance about 700 miles. --------

Aug 10 Sailed into Bombay harbor - land began to appear in the afternoon. Found it difficult to realize that we were in the vicinity of our labors, joys & sorrows. That evening we were welcomed to Bombay by our missionary brothers and sisters. I think I have written you about our two months stay in Bombay, & also of our journey to Nuggur our spending a mount in Mr. Ballantines family & then becoming settled in our own hired house Nov. 22, 1839. Our time was principally spent in getting the language for some months. In Feb. just before the commencement of the hot season Mr. Ballantine & Mr. Burgess decided to take a tour to Jalna ---7---- The distance to Jalna about 120 miles. We stopped at Arungabad over the Sabbath. visited the wonderful caves of Ellova & remained in Jalna with Mr. & Mrs. Munger four or five days. ---------- March 11, 1840 My house appears very pleasant to me though the weather is oppressively warm.

March 15. Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve. The last great day of the taboot a mussalman festival annually observed in honor of Hassan & Houlsein, two brothers who fell in battle in the defense or propagation of Mohammadanism ---------21---------- March 21 -- Having had no rain since we came to the Duccan last Oct it was truly pleasant to be revisited by refreshing showers on the 18th. & 19th. -- The thermometer for several days before the rain, had stood at 100º 101º 97º in the warmer parts of the day. Rain is not expected to fall again 'until June. -- I feel that we must value this highly. --- Today is the last day of the Holee or Shimgah festival. It is a foolish degrading feast, as some among them acknowledge. ----------

Yesterday I made my first call at the house of a native. Caste & its appendages, is perhaps the greatest barrier in the way of our benefiting the people. If we enter their houses they must wash themselves & their clothes & perform some other ceremonies for purification. It makes them so much trouble & besides since the excitement attendant on the conversion of two brahmens, people are afraid of disgrace of our being seen in their houses, therefore we think it not advisable at present to call on them without invitation. The <*M*> man at whose residence we called, has the charge of the house & garden where we dwell ------12------ His house was large mostly built of stone. His apartments were all on the second story, the lower part being for buffaloes & cattle. His floors were of earth and stone & according to their ideas of nicety, were nicely washed or rather whitewashed with water mingled with cow dung. This practice, though revolting at first, is really a great comfort & a wash of cleanliness among the Hindoos ---- I remarked that I would like to see his wife & that I would <*like*> see her in her room if more agreeable to her. He said that as no gentleman except Mr. B. [*Burgess*] was present he would call her otherwise he would not. ----- His little wife came into the room as timidly and bashfully as anyone could. I asked her some questions but could hardly get her to answer one, she was so frightened. --- She is now 11 years of age & has been married one year. She was about the size <*of*> that Martha was at that age & was richly clad. Her nose & ear ornaments were of pearl & I presume cost many scores of rupees. ----7--- O that the way may be opened that missionaries may labor successfully for the poor degraded females of this country. It will be, though I do not live to see it. This is one of the many cases where the husband is of suitable age to be the father of his wife. --------15--------

March 2<7>5. We already keep <*the*> our houses shut to prevent the entrance of hot air after about eight o'clock in the morning. We are thus toreably comfortable.

March 27. A fine air & clear sky. The dust is laid. This morning I witnessed the native practice of threshing. I suppose it like the old Jewish custom

----49--- March 29, 1840. Sab. eve. Thermometer 97º Today for the first time Mr. Burgess addressed an audience in Murathee. He took his text from Mark 15,15 & talked 33 minutes. It was <*a*> very pleasant indeed to me to have him appear to be so well understood.. -----20----

April 2. Ther. 101º- This morning I took Miss Farrar to ride with me in our chaise. ---- We aim to be out before the sun. Three or four little stones painted red were lying near the threshing <*floor*>

ground such as I described a few days since. Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] asked one of the workmen if they were god, to which he <*answered*> replied in the affirmative. She then asked him which were the greater himself or those stones. He said, they were. ---------- April 3. The first day of the Hindoo year -- a feast day -- they compute their months by the moon

May 16, 1840 My dear parents, I cannot tell you how much we were rejoiced today by letters from America, particularl</>y in my hearing from you & our family & family friends 13 1/2 months had flown & I had heard nothing from you ---- Today I received one written by mother & Joel Aug. 23, 1839 & a long valuable one from Joel dated Nov. 4, 1839.----------1.8
May 19. Last evening our missionary company met at our house to talk about the news from America. It was a pleasant time. -----14----- The vessel which brought our last letters (the Brinda) was laden with ice By advertisement in a Bombay paper, I perceive they are selling it from early six o'clock every morn at the rate of about seven cents a pound. I have since learned that the ice which cost 15.00 in America re[a]lized $10.000 at once in Bombay. We manage to keep our drinking water good & sufficient cool for me, this hot weather. It is filtered through charcoal & sand & then we keep it in an e[a]rthen jar which is so porous that the water evaporates through it, instead of heating what is within.

June 2.

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

My dear Mother & Sister,

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

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

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

The audience on the Sabbath is increasing but of course, if they come & find no minister nothing but reading meeting, they will not be so anxious to come again. To be sure, we hope every shake, or fever is the last, and on that live till the dread reality appears again. Joel is not the only sufferer in this place. Almost all who had the fever severely in summer, have attacks of it, on ague, now. At One of our neighbors where there are 10 in family, three or four will have it one day, & another four or five the next. They break it with quinine, but in two weeks it

reappears. Some families do not have it at all. In a letter recently received from one of Joel's friends up in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] we were told that persons in that territory, suffer, as well as here. And so they do, more or less, throughout this great valley. No tongue can tell the suffering that has been endured along the [line?] of the canal. They are better now, but the money is gone for medicine, they are weak, their hovels unthatched, their children naked, and all discouraged. Persons bred in New England can have no possible idea of poverty. Within two miles of us there 50 hovels not half as good as old Isaac's. Children are abundant, but alas; for the means of clothing, feeding, & sending them to school. The parents are making a great effort to get them to school, as the school is a free one to them this winter. We have been making some clothes in our Sewing Soc. [*society*] for some of the children, and oh that we had a few hundred yards to make up. I have often wished I could get to some of your old flannel petticoats, that you could no longer use. They will cut over four small girls & are so much warmer than cotton.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope we shall soon hear from you.

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

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] March 1, 1853.

Dear Mother,

Your full & valued letter of Feb. 6. came to hand in due season, & was truly refreshing to us. We were glad to hear that you & father enjoy such comfortable health, & we hope the same favor may long be continued to you. We have been well since I last wrote you with the exception

of Willie, who about three weeks since was taken with a kind of fever wh. [*which*] for a few days was pretty violent. He still is not well -- he demands a great deal of attention, & is so worrisome that it is impossible to sleep much while taking care of him nights. Still he is not very sick. Mary has improved a good deal during the past months, & John has continued well, & grows very rapidly. We have not thought it best to send him to school as yet, principally because he seemed too young to mix with the multitude alone, & to take care of himself away from home. He has not made any very considerable advances in learning, though I now <*have*> endeavor to hear him read a little every day, & find he improves rapidly.

It is impossible to tell what course Flora will take the coming season. I think it most probably she will return to Ct. [*Connecticut*] during the summer, but at what time I do not know. Whether she would answer your purpose as help, I cannot tell, but think it likely she would find your work too hard.

You inquire what grows in this country. The general answer is that all cultivated fruits are scarce here Apples, peaches &c. though now gathered on a few farms, yet are not produced to any considerable extent. Besides this country seems to be more liable to early frosts that destroy the blossoms of both apple & peach trees, than Ct. [*Connecticut*] & yet for that very reason it is probably that a fruitful season will be very fruitful. Strawberries grow abundantly here in favorable seasons, so do blackberries, & other wild fruits. If it is in your mind to provide something for our use, the article most desirable will be dried apples.

*I am sorry to hear that Daniel & Marcus are still unsuccessful, though their past history gave us too much reason to expect it. Should their health be continued there is no reason, I think, to expect they will starve, but they may be made to suffer somewhat. A great many people have gone from this place to California, a large number have returned, & are now with us, but quite a number are now there. The greater part of those who have returned did very well there, & their success has added an important element of prosperity to the place. Those who have friends there do not seem to be anxious about them now, any more than if they had removed the same distance to any other part of the world

There is no marked change in our religious affairs since I last wrote. <*Things*> I have ventured to preach against the Spiritual Manifestations [*Spiritualism*] & I think with good effect. A few in this place are determined to trust to them, & I doubt whether there is any care for them, but others now let them entirely alone, & others still are beginning to be satisfied that the whole is untrustworthy. I took for a text Is. [*Isaiah*] 44:25. "That frustrateth the tokens affairs, & marketh <u>diviners</u> mad," & my <*general*> design, briefly described, was to show that God had pledged himself to render vain & profitless all such things, & to infatuate (make mad) all who trust in them. The week previous to my preaching two men had become insane in Chicago through this delusion, & others were imprisoned for crimes to wh. [*which*] it had led them, & this gave power to what I said, with the daily increasing infatuation of those who still practice it here, is a running commentary on the same point. I think the authority of the Spirits as teachers of theology, & disclosers of the secret of the present or future is at an end here, though it is astonishing what numbers have been disposed to trust in them.

I am inclined to think the wonders of this thing (& wonders there are beyond doubt) are to be explained by <*refer*> supposing the minds & bodies of those present to become highly excited, & "the nervous fluid" (so called because we know not what other name to give it) with wh. [*which*] all are surrounded, or enveloped, does act in accordance with the volitions of those present, performing strange feats, & sometimes revealing things forgotten, though I am not certain that it ever <*I doubt whether it ever*> does things absolutely unknown to any present. That this is so (in part at least) is evident from the fact that every circle gets just such revelations as it wishes. If <*they*> it is made up of infidels & universalists (as it commonly is) <u>their</u> views are endorsed, if of orthodox people <u>their</u> views are declared correct &c. so that it is probable the answers are the work of their own minds. Still this thought remains; if a state of things can be induced in wh. [*which*] <u>our</u> Spirits <*souls*> may thus make use of "the nervous fluid," why may not that spirit "that goeth about as a roaring lion," make use of the same, & thus actually disclose (when he chooses, & is permitted to do so) the secret? This general position is safely taken viz. that none of the spirits that profess to act ever have any thing to do with the matter, that if there is intelligence in the manifestations (& we cannot deny that there sometimes is) it is mostly <*either*> in the persons who seek such manifestations, & <*perhaps rarely*> possibly sometimes in the angels,

principalities, & powers, to whom God hath given liberty to tempt & try the human race, & whose revelations are never to be trusted even when they tell the truth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My dear niece, Elizabeth,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whom do you hear preach on the sabbath?

In continued love, your aunt,

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

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

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

U. S. Ship Potomac
Monte Video [*Uruguay*] Oct. 21, 1840

Dear Brother,

It is now one month since we sailed from Rio to this place where we arrived after a passage of eight days. We are obliged to come to anchor at a distance of five or six miles from

town on account of the shallowness of the water, a circumstance which renders my situation rather unpleasant as it gives to the ship much more of the nature of a prison than is agreeable. My school of course occupies me generally during the five days of the week, and the only days which I can, without express permission, spend on shore are Saturday and Sunday, upon which days the weather is very likely to prevent my going. As there is no land to the south and east of us and none within a hundred or more miles to the west the waters are much affected by the winds from those quarters, so much so that it is often with the greatest difficulty that boats can reach the shore or come from the shore to the ship. Of course on many days a boat does not leave the ship at all and I am sometimes unable to go ashore <*when*> my duties on board would permit. I have however been on shore once, and will endeavor to make known to you some of the impressions I received. Monte Video [*Uruguay*] is a city with a population of about 15,000 principally of Spanish descent. Its houses are all of brick or stone and built in such a way as to resemble a city of forts or prisons rather than the residences of peaceful people. The following figure will give you some idea of their form. [*Diagram of a floor plan for a house is drawn in the corner of this page*]

The outside wall is built very strong and in some instances the only opening it has is the entrance the <*light*> windows all opening inside towards the court, which is an open space paved with marble brick or stone according to the wealth or taste of the proprietor. In the middle is a cistern so fixed as to receive all the water which falls upon the roof, and as this means is universally resorted to procure water for use it is a matter of much importance. The roofs essentially differ from any I have ever seen. They are nearly flat and like all the floors of the house are built of brick supported by wooden sleepers and plank.

The top of the house being then made safe by the height of the outer and inner walls becomes a very pleasant place for the gambols of children, the dances of <*the*> light hearted youth, and the thoughtful walks of soberage or youthful gravity. In this country the advantage derived from them is inconceivable. The seasons do not vary here as they do in Colebrook [*Connecticut*]; the winters are not cold the summers are not intensely hot, consequently there are but few days in the year in which a promenade on the roof will not be agreeable. By this means every parent can afford to his children a play ground without the necessity of sending them into the street. <*for amusement*>. If there are any windows opening into the street they are defended by strong iron gratings thus rendering entrance against the will occupier impossible, without the use of battering rams or some like instrument.

Montevideo [*Uruguay*] is at present the capital of a province which claims to be independent called Banda Oriental or Uraguay [*Uruguay*]. <*It calls its*> They call it a republic, but I doubt its ability to govern itself well. It was originally a province of the Viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*] but was eventually claimed by Brazil as a part of its territory, and became the occasion of a protracted war between the that empire and Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*], which resulted in a treaty that the disputed territory should be left to itself for five years at the end of which time it might choose for its master whichever of the contending parties it saw fit. <*for its master*> The result was as might have been expected; the province after managing itself for five years concluded that it would never more acknowledge a master. This is rather a bold step for a people like this numbering it is generally supposed not more than 70,000. But in South America every body seems disposed to be independent, and to live rather by war than the arts of peace.

The people here retain many of the customs of their original country Spain. Bull fights are exhibited usually as often as once a week, and what will surprise you they are made part of the religion and are exhibited on Saint days, in honor of the Virgin Mary St. Paul etc. I am told that these exhibitions take place oftener on Sunday than any other day of the week and that the good Catholics attend them as their afternoon service. I shall if possible attend one <*if I can d*> and if I do I will write a description of it for you.

The French still keep up their blockade of Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*], though there is now a prospect that a few weeks will put an end to it. The more I learn of the affair the more I detest the conduct of the French, and the more I admire the conduct of Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*]. The matter is now in a very doubtful state, as it seems not unlikely that the French will bombard the city. The inhabitants who do not carry arms are leaving the city in great numbers, and it is though that there are not less than 5,000 women and children, in this city from Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*]. The soldiers with <*their*> General Rosas at their head are determined to die rather than yield to

the claims of the French. To the original claims which occasioned the war France now adds about $4,000,000 which have been expended by her carrying on the war, a circumstance which presents a double barrier to the making of a treaty. But of these things I will endeavor to write more then I know more.

While I was at Norfolk Va. [*Virginia*] I met an old <*child*> friend of mine, a graduate of Yale College, who had just set up a school there, and who was pressed for money. As I knew his noble spirit would not stoop to ask me any pecuniary assistance and as I knew likewise he was in debt I offered <*him*> to lend him $50 or $60 if he wished it. This offer he accepted and though I do not think he will be ready to pay it for some time to come yet as he may be I will state that I have his note for $60 dated April 17, 1840 and that I gave him a certificate stating that a receipt from my father, Elijah Grant or from Wm. [*William*] Gilbert (now a member of college) stating that the money with interest due had been paid should cancel the note. The name of the individual is Samuel Bailey. Perhaps it will never be paid (though I have no fears, if life and health are spared him) but if it should be this explanation will enable you to understand the transaction.

Our Commodore has gone to Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*] in one of our sloops of War. It is impossible to tell how long we shall remain here but probably two or three months longer at least. The country and the people here differ as much from those at Rio as those at Rio do from the country and people of Norfolk Va. [*Virginia*] and I doubt not I shall be much interested. Beef here is very abundant, the best selling for no more than two cents a pound, and a fat sheep ready dressed for cooking may be bought for a dollar. Beef and mutton however are the only cheap articles of food, as flour sells at about $20 a barrel and potatoes at about $8 a bushel. These prices are not I presume permanent ones.

I now say I cannot be content more than six months longer without hearing from you. My father and mother how can I endure to remain in suspense concerning them. Perhaps they may one or both, be sleeping in their graves. Let me assure you that, notwithstanding some faults, they, like other human beings have, never were children blessed with better parents than we. Often let our prayers ascend that as the prime of their life has been laborious, self denying and prayerful their old age may be peaceful and happy from the virtues and character of their children and their death the sweet repose of the righteous.

My brothers and sisters too how I long to know their situation. And as from time to time I run over the list of uncles and cousins which it is my happiness to have, I feel that none but those who like me have wandered can like me feel the worth of home. It is now summer here or rather it corresponds to your month of April. The winds called pamperos blow here with great violence and last night we had one which drove off to our ship 15 or 20 poor birds that could not (or did not) resist its force

Your affectionate brother Joel Grant

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

[Ahmeduaggur?], June 10, 1840.

My dear brother Daniel,

Nearly a month has passed since the Brenda, a vessel from Salem [*Massachusetts*], laden with ice, reached Bombay. The ice which cost the owners some 1500 dolls [*dollars*], immediately sold for $10,000. But I was about to tell you it brought letters, periodicals, & books to us, which truly cheered & feasted us I had heard nothing directly from my relatives for 14 months previous. I had two full letters from Joel, a part of one being written by mother, & among other items I learned that you were in Ohio upon a farm near brother Phelps. I was, as far as I could perceive, glad to hear it though knowing so little of circumstances, I ought not to have a decided opinion. But in that land of enterprise, & improvement & progress if you take a right stand you will be respected & useful [...] have a pretty good foundation for an education, I mean you are

somewhat thoroughly grounded in the rudiments, upon this, by your reading, reflection, & intercourse with men & things you may in 20 years erect a noble superstructure, & be a first rate farmer 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. Govern 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 & especially be virtuous in every particular, yes, be chaste, every where, alone & in company in thought, speech & manner. Be a Christian example. One point more, important though delicate. You will need ere long to select a bosom partner. O what circumspection, & what guidance from on highs you require here. Make this an important part of your intercession before God. Your usefulness & your all will be affected by this step. So do not be hasty, make yourself worthy of one of the excellent of the earth, not the rich, but one of the sensible, healthy, & virtuous daughters of new Eng [*New England*] I would say -- yet I would not choose for you. I think some of your New Eng. [*New England*] acquaintances would make you happy. In training your own habits, one motive may be, to make yourself what you should be as the head of a family But dear brother, from my interest in you, I have written thus much, it is for your own eye, & for your own good. Keep near to God. Aim to do every one good. Remember the Sab. [*Sabbath*] & the Bible & closet. I wish you to write me particulars about yourself. brother Phelp's family and all.

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

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

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

Dear Brothers, Phelps & Daniel, & Sister Susan,

Through brother Joel & mother I learned respecting your return to Ohio, & your visit in Ct. [*Connecticut*] I am glad too to hear so favorable an account of that little niece. I would like well to make her acquaintance. I wish to hear from you as particularly as you can afford to write. I have written one letter home since we commenced keeping house last Nov. but as you have not probably seen that <*probably*> I will introduce you to our pleasant home. And that you may get a

clearer idea even from an imperfect sketch. I will draw the city with a pencil at one corner. It is not a square, but it is longer from east to west than from N. to S. It is surrounded by a mud wall, 18 or 20 feet. This wall is kept in a good state of repair. The city is entered by 11 or 13 gates. I forget which, some of these two or three entrances are not for carriages. Pop. [*Population*] of the city is 23,000, the majority of whom are miserably poor, & degraded. <*No. 1*> Fig 1. represents the location of our house just outside the N.W. gate of the *

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

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

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

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

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[*in pencil: 1870s*?]

My babys name is Roger Allen from my husbands friends — he seems well & we think him a good strong healthy child — Grace has named hers Susan Bertha calls her Susie — she is fat & good — Do you not think of coming to New Haven [*Connecticut*] some time before long? We should be pleased to see you at any time —

I am ashamed to send such a looking letter hope you will excuse the appearance of it — under the circumstances I can do no better — Hope you will write again — will try to answer — Please give love to your sister Mary & family — & accept a share yourself — your friend & cousin

Emma B. Townsend

Mrs. Grant: —

Dear Friend,

I wonder how you are and what you are doing this afternoon! I know you are busy about something

I intended to write you a letter but I have not time now & I want aunt's letter to go to-night but I will just copy a receipt [*recipe*] — which I believe I promised you.

Tapioca Cream.

Soak 2 tablespoonful of Tapioca over night in water enough to cover it. In the morning boil 1 qt. of milk with the tapioca — add 2/3 of a cup of sugar — a little salt and the beaten yolks of 3 eggs; stir them in the milk and remove from the fire

On the top put the 3 whites beaten to a stiff froth & flavor to taste. To be eaten cold.

When I want it more of a pudding, I make a sponge cake after this receipt [*recipe*] which I will give you and line the sides and bottom of a dish with the cake cut in thin slices and pour the mixture in and set aside to cool — putting the beaten whites on top of this.

Sponge cake — cheap.

4 eggs, 3 cups of sugar 1 of milk — 1 teaspoon of soda — flour enough to make a stiff batter. Little salt & spice. Quick oven.

This makes two long tin cakes. I sometimes put in a little baking powder which I think improves it. This is very good

Do not make too stiff.

We are getting our coal in to-day — $5.00 a ton.

It is raining and is getting cooler. It has been very warm.

I must now say good-bye. Do you not see what a hurry I am in? I must now look after my dinner. I am making mutton soup — and we are to have some steamed apple dumpling.

I hope you are well now and that aunt & uncle are no worse than when we were there.

Did your niece visit you?

With much love to all from us all and hoping you may have a pleasant and comfortable winter I remain ever your friend

Fannie C.C.

Mrs. C. Grant. [*Caroline Grant*]

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[*undated*]

Sunday
MillBook [*Millbrook, Connecticut*] Aug 13

Mr & Mrs. Daniel Grant

Dear Relatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am as ever

Yours Truly
A.O. Finney

Dear Cousins

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

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

Elizabeth

P.S. remember us kindly to Edward and Wife

A.O. Pinney

Tues. morn [ ]

Dear Children,

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

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

Think our oil will last about two weeks — when you come probably better bring some in your oil can. And if you have potatoes to spare would take half bushel or peck — would prefer

some of them at least old ones — all old if you have plenty. Shall be glad of a few cucumbers as you spoke of —

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

Mother G —

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[*Note attached — part of an account of travel to CA? in Daniel Grant papers*]

1

May 30 Traveled over hills till late in the afternoon when we again came to the river and at the rested a little and then drove across another bend in the river and encamped about two o'clock in the morning —

Oct. 1. To day found plenty of good feed Traveled 10 miles

2. The feed continues good Dis. [*distance*] 14 miles —

3. We crossed a bend of the river. The road is bad <*and*> Small pines and cedar begin to spot the hills. We are now getting into the high mountains again and snow is in sight

4. & 5. We continued up the river — The mountains on our right are steep and high and covered with scattering pines of large size and on our left not as high and is nearly barren. Feed good. Dis. 27 miles.

6. Our road led us over a low hill about six miles when we entered a deep canon of the mountains and we followed it up about four miles when night came on and we camped without grass. The road now leads over piles of almost impassible rocks

7. We continued to tumble over rocks till about noon when we found ourselves rolling over a good road in a pleasant mountain valley where we encamped for the night though the feed was poor being eat close. In the canon we found the elders older and some nuts and berries
There name was unknown to me

8. The road was very good to Red Lake. A A Red Lake (which is a very small lake or frog pond as I should call it) we arrived at the foot of the dividing ridge of the Calafornia Mts. [*California Mountains*] and up this we were obliged to carry our loads on our backs and double teams for nearly empty wagons Distance 11 miles

9. At half past nine we gained the summit of the ridge and we drove over a rough and rocky road to another small lake known by the name of Lake Valley where we arrived at one o'clock and encamped This is at the foot of the highest ridge of the Mts. Distance five miles

10 This morn. when we arose the ground was covered with snow two inches deep. To day we ascended the highest ridge and reached the summit at half past four a distance of four or five miles. We left an ox that gave out and ascended about three miles and encamped. It has snowed some all day here: and there is no feed for our cattle Distance eight miles

11 This morn. the snow is three inches deep or more. The teams were started at half past eight and I went back after the ox that was left and labored with him all day but did not get him more than four miles and finding that I was given to be benighted I left him and went on and overtook the teams in camp a little after dark. The snow has melted considerable to day and the cattle are in good feed. Distance six miles

12 We drove about three miles and found good grass and stopped for the night. We passed two small lakes and there is one to the right of the road a little distance before us. The evening is cold and our log fire if very comfortable. The snow is nearly all gone

13. A fine day. Our road has been better and we have made a good days drive considering the condition of the team. We were visited when <[*converse*?]> at dinner by a small company of men <*from*> employed by government to assist all who are in need on the road. Found to day small red cherries growing on very small bushes and a large red goose berry which was very nice. The fine fir and white cedar grows here very tall and handsome many of them five and six feet through. We are again encamped without feed or water. Dis. 12 miles.

14 We started and drove five miles to water and encamped and turned our oxen into the wood to get what they could their being no grass. We met a drove of oxen sent out by government for emigrants and later in the day train of pack mules loaded with provisions.

15. We encamped without water or grass but we find plenty of oak brouse. Oak is now beginning to be rather plenty and continues to grow plenty as we descend. Today we lost an ox. It was one that we picked up yesterday He gave out and we left him to rest and in about half an hour I went for him but did not find him, but found the place where he lay and the road full of Indian tracks

16. I arose early this morn and found an ox had been stolen in the night and then I aroused the camp and as soon as it was light we went in pursuit We tracked him to an Indian lodge where we found he had been slaughtered. The Indians fired upon us and hit Mr. Elliot in the shoulder. They had secreted themselves and we thought it imprudent to try to hunt them out the brush being very thick and it was not safe to be their. We got under way about 9 o'clcok. Dis. 10 miles.

17. The road has been good to day. We encamped in a pleasant valley nine miles from a small town called Weavertown on a creek of the same <*nam*> name. We are now in the gold mines

18 I prospected some to day but found very little gold. I saw some mining. I have great reason to be thankful that I have reached this place in safety. God has been good to me

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

Single Folio Sheet

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] <*Aug.*> Sept 11, 1843

Dear Brother,

I rec'd [*received*] your letter dated Aug. 10, and mailed Aug. 13, on my arrival home day before yesterday (Saturday), and also have read your letter to father. I had heard little or nothing from you before and was really glad to know about your circumstances <*and*> though I regretted you did not feel better, and were not able to give a better account. I feel very sorry you were so deceived by my mismanagement in your passage from Albany [*New York*] to Buffalo [*New York*], but as you had a quick passage on the lakes and got through safe, we have much to be thankful for. I had no idea that all opposition on the lakes was to cease so soon, and had I anticipated it I should certainly have advised you to engage your passage through from Albany.

Mr. Knapp rec'd a letter from you day before yesterday by which we are happy to learn <*states*> that you have heard of the box Phelps sent you. I am very glad of this, for whatever else it contained, you cannot well get along without Webster's Dictionary and Scott's Bible.

I am satisfied with the manner you laid out my money, and have no doubt it will prove a fair investment. Let the examples of the man of whom you bought it be a warning to you never to put yourself where others can take advantage of your necessity.

I am astonished at the high price you were <*ob*> obliged to pay for oxen, and can account for it in no other way than by the extreme scarcity of hay last winter, and the great numbers which the farmers wish to buy this summer. Last fall the Illinois people brought them to Wis. [*Wisconsin*] in great numbers and were glad to sell them at any price. Perhaps the same may be the case this fall, but I fear you have neither hay nor money enough to take advantage of the circumstances. You must be very careful not to winter more stock than your hay will supply.

As for the house which falls so far short of your expectations, you and Mrs. Burr had so much to do with alterations &c. that a contract would have been of no use had there been one. In the letter which I wrote him I described the house you wanted after I returned, and you also wrote a

description and he wrote to you that he would build such a house for $10 more than I agreed with him <*for*> i.e. for $65. The following is the plan for the house I proposed (I have a copy of my letter.)

A. The Kitchen. B. Bedroom C. Buttery. D. Closet opening into the bedroom. E. Closet opening into the Kitchen. The closet D was to be furnished with shelves the at <*other*> further end, but <*in*> other things after partitioning the house were to be left to be arranged according to your taste after your arrival. When the house was thus partitioned I considered Levi's duty completed. A cellar was to be dug 18 feet square. I had gone on thus far in describing the house that was to be, when mother told me that
Levi said it was impossible to find logs of sufficient length to build such a house, and had built a very different one. In this case I know not what can be done, but as you have paid him the $65 and have found him to be so bad a man I think you had better have nothing more to do with him in any way. If the house is unfinished, you had better finish it yourself than to have any thing more to do with such a man, which would only be the occasion of more trouble and vexation of spirit. After all I doubt not it is much better for you than if you had had no house to go into, for if you had been obliged to hire your board it would have been expensive. As it is I think you had better make your calculations to put up a frame house in the course of two or three years which you can make to your own taste. I think you had better put it on the other end of the lot and make a road across the swamp when you will be within one mile of the village. As for [y]our being to near to Levi, though -- it is unfortunate, yet you must learn to have nothing to do with those people who are not worthy of your confidence. If you have need of things which he has, you had better not borrow them often, and then if you choose you can tell him that you do not wish to have any intercourse with him, although I do not advise you to do so. At all events never suffer yourself to harbor ill-will against him or any other man for it will sour your temper, and you will be very unhappy. Take an independent upright course, and while you are grateful that God has given you a spirit which is not mean never allow yourself for a moment to indulge hatred towards those who are so, for it is the surest way to make yourself like them. Often utter such a prayer as this, "I beseech thee O Lord to forgive my enemies, persecutions, and slanderers and to change their hearts."

I suppos[e] you wish to borrow Levi's horse occasionally which must be [u]npleasant to you. I think you had better buy one of some kind, and if you think necessary for that purpose I will lend you some part of the money I send you which you have not laid out. It will be well to purchas[e] a mare who can do all your work, take you and Caroline wherever you wish to go and by <*whom*> which you can raise a horse in four or five years.

I am sorry you do not like your place which I took a great deal of pains to purchase so that should combine the advantage of access to market, contiguity to a village, excellence of soil, &. If not be easy, I will take it into my own hands and pay you $300 in money at almost any time. I am sorry that you or any one should be dissatisfied on account of my inefficiency or want of judgement, and will therefore do this although at something of a sacrifice I do not wish you to lay out any more money for me in the purchase of land, nor can I supply you with money to exchange your farm for another. But if you think it best I will purchas[e] your farm and pay you <*the in*> $300 and the interested upon it from the time of your purchase. I hope you will see that some ditching is done especially on the west end of the lot for there can be no doubt that the west end is the place for building. I fear you will have so much to do with our money that you will not do so much ditching as I proposed. As for my lot east of the creek, you need have no fears, I am glad you do not want it, for I have no doubt I can sell it for more than I felt willing to ask you for it. We will let it lie for another year and see then what is best to [d]o.

By about the time you receive this I expect to be in New-Haven [*Connecticut*] where I shall go Sept. 27. If you have not time to write, I hope sister Caroline will write in your stead. I believe she <*kno*> knows what you want, and how you feel as well as you do, perhaps better. At all events do not delay to let me know how you feel and how each of you rejoice or suffer I shall leave the other part of this sheet for mother. John etc. your aff. brother Joel Grant.
[*Other side of folio sheet*]
My Dear Children, I have left my washing to write a few lines to you I rejoice to hear from you if my children are in trouble I want to sympathize with them if they are happy I want to rejoice with them I had some fears before you left that his love of money would exceed his love to God or his

fellow men but go where you will you will find people of that description I very much want to cultivate a spirit of forbearance and when you feel injured may further forgive them but never let the sun go down upon your wrath I hope you will endeav[o]r to be good neighbors the way to have good neighbors is to be <*a*> good neighbors yourselves I hope you will always communicate to each other your feelings and encourage each other to bear the burdens of life with Christian fortitude I would wish you to support a good degree of independence I felt when you left that you were under circumstances to live without troubling your neighbors any more than they would probably want to you I want to have you love your neighbors as you do yourselves and endeavor always to do them good but that does not imply that you wrong yourselves on their account you will find many of those wherever you go that will take every advantage that they possibly can but always think in such cases that there is a god that Beholds the evil and the good <*but yet*> and that which a man sows that shall he also reap and have no dealing with them I want to have you live near to God and keep clear from debt. I would rather that you would sell cloth and stockings and stocking yarn go to buy you a horse than to borrow money of the best friend you have in the world but if you have not paid [er?] for a horse do not buy one for it is a ruinous thin[g] to have stock and not have keeping for it. I would not advise you [unless?] you find it necessary to avoid Land wife only avoid dealing with them any more than is necessary I hope you will help each other in every thing you can and avoid [hireing?] as much as possible if you want to change worke Joel says you have an Irish neighbor about half a mile from you he knows nothing about him do not think him incapable of being a good neighbor because he is of a differe[nt] origin your step grandmother is an Irish woman but she is as universally beloved as any woman I ever knew I believe she is only half Irish remember that ignorance does not prevent a person from being [loved?] nor knowledge does not make him so kindne[s] my dear children will soften almost any one to do better than they would if they were unkindly treated a soft answer burneth away wrath the wise man said think of that in your intercourse together and in <*the*> your intercourse with your fellow creatures remember the apostolic injunction do good to all men as you have opportunity but do not throw away any of your neighbors if you can possibly help it but do all you can to make [t]hem better I have written in great haste and all irregularities you will excuse [...]

I want you to write me a great deal I want to have you write whether your well furnishes you with good water and what state it is in whether furnished or not whether you have got a well [crotch?] and pole I know you can not have every thing at once but what you do have I want to have you write me Caroline says we have a hog and two pigs I want to just say to you that ho[g] pork is a great deal better than pig <*but at*> I want to know if your plums are good today or good for pies w[...] you have had any garden [sauce?] and I cannot think of [...] I want to say <*but*> but will here mention that [Mrs. Beb[..]] said about the time I wrote you friends all well I have not seen your Norfolk friends since they received their last letter Mr. Knapp says that you have heard that you have a horse at Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] and so I hope all your things are there and that you will get them I will mention that if you purchase a horse you will get one tha[t] if it dies or is stolen it will be no great loss and when you get it calculate to [w...] it out and take the comfort of it I have not said half I want to but must close may God guide guard <*you*> and protect you and make you wise unto salvation is the prayer of your affectionate mother.

John and Martha send much love to you [Oholpe?] has returned [...] home they went home in five days or within five miles of home they are well or were when they wrote Marcus is on the [...] at work now write me a letter write every thing both write tell me much I am very [desirious?] to [assist?] you and if [...] I think God will prepare the way.

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

Milbrook [*Mill Brook, Connecticut*], Nov 9, 1845.

My dear brother,

I promised Martha [*Martha Grant*] when I left her at Lebanon a few weeks since, that I would see that all of the brothers and sisters were written to, and if no one else could write, I would. It seems almost impossible to get Marcus to write, and Mother has always more on her hands than she can, well attend to. Phelps is busy writing letters, so that the only alternative is, that you do not hear from home at present or that I write myself, a thing which I have had it on my mind to do ever since the introduction of the new postage law.

Your letter to Joel [*Joel Grant*] was recieved sometime after he left us. We were glad to hear from you that you are getting along so comfortably. I regret never having an oppertunity to see and become acquainted with sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]; give my love to her and to the little Abby, who is I presume a source of much enjoyment to you already. May her life be spared for many years! You have probably heard ere this of Joels arrival in Ill. [*Illinois*] and though you may not be able to see him for many months, it will be a gratification to you to feel that he is so near you. John is engaged in a school at Richmond Va. [*Virginia*] with what prospects I cannot state, as I have not seen his last letters and have heard nothing said about it. Martha's at Lebanon Springs at a hydropathic establishment. She, as well as the rest of us had become satisfied that medicine could do her no good and we hoped that the application of cold water as practiced by the hydropathists, might stimulate her nervous system, and restore a healthy action throughout her system generally. She has been there a little more than three weeks, and as yet there is no perceptible change though some symptoms are more favorable. For two years she has been obliged to take cathartics daily or suffer severly. When she wrote last she had been able to dispense with them for 5 days. Dr. Graham considers her case a very critical one, but gives encouragement that she may recover. We have much confidence in the application of cold water, but it cannot cure all diseases and hers may be one of the incurable. You may feel some desire to know something of the operations to which she is subjected. I can not state it accurately, but she is plunged into a bath of cold water, then rubbed briskly, then walks as much as she is able to do probably after an interval of rest. after this she sits in a tub of cold water 1/2 an hour is rubbed again <u>then</u> walks. In the PM she has wet napkins applied to the spine & abdomen and is bandaged with dry blankets for 2 hours. This process seems at first a hard one but it seems in many cases to be very effectual in removing diseases often of a long standing, and is said to be much less unpleasant than one would suppose. Mother and Marcus intend visiting her next week if the weather should be favorable.

I saw Mrs. Burr a few weeks since, she was then well. I do not know any thing of general interest to communicate. It seems to be a season of general health here. Uncle Sam is very feeble but seems to continue far beyond the expectation of his friends. L Griswold is to teach the school in this district this winter.

I am sorry that you do not feel satisfied with your prospects where you now are, but I hope you will be able to fall upon some expedient for making enough out of your farm to induce you to remain where you are. I never thought it well to change if one can possibly avoid it, and I feel more the folly of it and I have had some experience. I am sorry that you have to work so hard as to impair your health this ought always to be avoided if possible. I think you will find frequent ablutions in cold water strengthening and invigorating. Take a towel wet with cold water and rub yourself over every morning and see if you do not feel the better for it. The more water you use the better. I have written in great haste. I hardly know what, but Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] will be able to sympathise with my confusion when her little one is 2 or 3 years old and she attempts to write with her at her elbow chattering the whole time, and keeping the table in constant motion I will leave the rest of the sheet for some one to fill up I shall ever be very happy to hear from you, where we shall go next we have not decided but Phelps has some idea of returning his profession in Canton. Elizabeth cherishes an affectionate remembrance of "Uncle Daniel." Your affectionate sister

S B Grant. [*Susan Boyd J. Grant*]

Dear Brother

As I have never writen to you I now take the oportunity to write a few words, to you would like to hear about our crops and such things I supose. Our potatoes are <*lite*> light about <*half*> two thirds of a crop they did not rot in the field but have some in the cellar our hay crop is about half as much as we had last year our oats were pretty good the straw was very light but well filled

our hogs to are pretty fat but not very large if these few lines will at all interest you I may at some future day write some more your aff [*affectionate*] Brother Marcus [*Marcus Grant*]

My Dear Children

I was glad to hear from you by Joels or the one you wrote to Joel and I will here mention that has taken quite a rise I cannot state definility how much but think I will send you a paper before long that will give you more information than I can give you I am glad that you think of keeping more stock I think keeping cows and sheep in your situation will be a good course not that I would advise you to go largely into the business at first a small stock will soon make a large one and I fear that you feel a desire to be rich but if it is so I hope you will remember the Bible injunction be not in haste to be rich also that riches bring a snare

I want you should be come[...] I want you should keep a horse and waggon that that you may go to church and wherever you want to go with less futigue I am glad that you call your little daughter Abby I wish her name to be Abigail Caroline. I hope you will give her to the Lord in baptism and consider the Lords and may you pray the Lord to sanctify her wholly body soul and spirit and preserve her blamely unto the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [live?] near to God my dear children

I want to have you bathe the dear little one from the crown of her head to the soul of her feet in tepid water daily I think it will prevent her crying so much I would not have it [creuelly into?] I must stop for want of room may God bless you is the prayer of your Mother [*Mrs. (E.) Grant*]

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

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

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

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

I believe you think the letter I promised you when I sent the goods I have been so long about to send has been very tardy in its movements indeed it has been very different from what I intended it will be of no use to enumerate the many obstacles that have come in my way but after all last monday a week to day I went with the barrel well stocked with good to the Depot and I there found John Watson son of Jacob Watson who said he would see it started in the P M I have felt somewhat uneasy since that I did not see the Agent myself but he promised that he would be faithful and I thought he would so I left it with him to do the business and if he does the business as he promised I hope you will receive it ere long when I went with the barrel I carried your sister Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] she and Mr Burton have after so many years made us a visit and it was a great pleasure to me she looks oh altered a good deal since you saw her my son she and I went in our waggon and Mr B in the stage she enquired about you and your family thought she should write to you but she has her hands and her heart full Lavinia is married and Margaret has poor health her children she left well they returned the northern route and had it in contemplation to call on Phelps at Canton I will have mention that the barrel was directed to the care of Mc Clune & Williams Millwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Mr. Allen was buried last monday I wanted to attend the funeral but felt more that I wanted to go with Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] as far as I could he has been in a suffering condition for a long time I shall mix my letter up in such a way that you will think strange perhaps <*that I am more than usual light minded*> I want to say to you that I fear you will never get your pay for the improvements you

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

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

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

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

It is 7 o'clock in the morning. My baby taking his morning nap in the cradle, husband in the study, girl washing dishes in the back room & I have one hand on the cradle, the other [grasping?] the pen. We have a pleasant house & convenient, th'o [*though*] some of the rooms are too small. If I ever have sufficient strength shall like housekeeping very much. We had been here but six weeks when Johnny was home. & those were weeks of great care in arranging and getting things comfortably [settled?]. Billah was with me five weeks after the birth of my babe and could she have stayed five more. I might have been spared a great deal of suffering. But as I can not have room to write every thing will only say that thro' [*though*] the mercy of God I was spared, even after resting for some time [from] the [verge?] of the grave, and am now in tolerable health, tho' [*though*] far from being strong, am able to endure. Our boy's name is John Cowles, is

near six months old, weight 21 lbs. is perfectly pleasant, seldom crying if not sick. He takes all his food from a bottle. I was obliged to wean him when two months old, on account of a sore mouth, which is not yet well. We have bought milk & butter all summer, but expect a cow today. Our expenses must greatly exceed our salary this year. There is no end to demands upon the purse in sickness, and little economy in the kitchen, when hired help manages. Our people have been very kind & thoughtful for us, thus adding greatly to our comfort.

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

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

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] June 29th, 1854

My dear Mrs. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

Knowing the anxiety you must feel concerning your sister & as William [*William Hill*] is very much engaged through the day & too tired at night to write, I have offered to send you a few lines in his stead.

Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] is certainly improving tho. [*though*] very slowly, she is now able to walk about a little & can use her hands sufficiently to feed her self. Last Monday afternoon William [*William Hill*] brought Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] round to our house in the carriage, as we thought it would be much easier for us to take care of her here than at her own house, and as the house cleaning is not yet entirely finished, we intend to have it completed while she is with us. Abby & the two children stay here too, Abby & Sammie sleep together in the cotbed in our room and Laura in her little crib by the side of our bed, She has been very fretful for a day or two, (perhaps because of the heat) but is very good at night. She can stand alone for a few moments, & is quite active in getting about by the chairs, indeed I think will soon walk. You must not feel badly when I tell you that she seems to possess almost as strong an affection for her aunt Kate as she did for aunt Carrie in the winter. Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] put on her short dresses the day after you left & she never took any cold from the change.

Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] had a colored woman for three weeks, who nursed her very nicely she felt obliged to leave last Sunday & as we can get no one to take her place, suppose M. [*Mary Burr Hill*] will have to remain some time yet with us. Her appetite is much improved, but the Dr. will not allow her any stimulating food. She enjoys bread & milk, Farina, Raspberries, and some kinds of vegetables.

Today Hetty went to help Ann clean Mary's bedroom & the front entry & there is yet one day's cleaning to be done, for which we have engaged a colored women next week.

Mother was quite sick for a day or two, about a fortnight since, & though better now, is not right strong, the warm weather debilitates her. Father is as well as usual, not very stout & has to work rather too hard now that our people are haying.

Yesterday morning Hetty & I attended the wedding of Mary Capner She was married at eight o'clock in the morning, Christiana & Mr. Nevins, were bridesmaid & groomsman. Soon after the ceremony the bridal party changed their dresses & started for Washington. The wedding was not large, only the brothers & sisters, with ourselves and aunt Capner's family were invited.

William expects a pretty tiresone fourth of July, the band is going to attend a celebration at Somerville on that day.

Will bid you good night, as it is bedtime, if I have time will add a little in the morning, if not I hope you will excuse all blunders, as I have written in haste. I hope you will write as soon as you can.

Friday morning) Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] passed a comfortable night & is about the same as yesterday. The soreness, & stiffness is now confined chiefly to her neck & shoulders.

Abbie is well, went to church & Sunday School with me last Sabbath. You will be surprised to hear that we have had her hair cut, the barber came up last week & cut it, the long locks were saved for you. She now looks very nice with it fastened back with her comb, after her aunt was taken sick there was no one there to take care of it, & she could not keep it in order herself, so we had it cut. With kind regards to your parents & love for yourself, I remain yours Sincerely Kate Hill

[*written up the side of the page*] Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] sends love to all & thought she could write a few words, but it is mail time & if the letter remains until tomorrow you will not get it this week.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. C. Grant
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

San Francisco, Cal. [*California*] March 3d, 1856.

My Dear Beloved Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I had no intintion yesterday morn of trying to describe a day in S. Francisco [*San Francisco, California*], but as there are some incidents which interested me, I think they may not be altogether uninteresting to you, & to begin with the morn. I will try.

I arose about my usual time (six oclock) & after my mornings shower bath, attempted for the first time since I left home to dress myself like a civilised man.

I had the day before purchased a few articles of clothing & with other things some white shirts & a black silk cravat, the first in this Country

It was quite an undertaking for me to don a white shirt "with a standing collar" & it was after seven before I was ready for my mornings promenade, but I was at last in the open air the streets were as usual alive with carriages & pedestrians moving in all directions. I took my accustomed walk to a high sand hill in the south part of the town (I forgot to mention that it was sunday morn.) which overlooks the city.

No incident worthy of mentioning occurred during my walk but <*I?*> as my rout was through China, as it is termed here, that is where the China population live & trade, it may not be amiss to notice there market.

With the heathen Chinaman the sabbath is as another day, their market was filled with such eatables as Chinamen are most fond viz. pork, chickens & fish, of the flesh kind & vegetables which were strange to me. Other articles were inside their shops & as I cared not what they had there I did not examine. I shall have occasion to mention the chinese again & will now return to breakfast.

My breakfast consists of coffee, beefstake & cornbread, after breakfast a little rest, then the electric machine which ties my arms in knots, after which I generally spen[d] the ballance of the morning in reading or writing. So far this is the description of every day.

Being desirous to attend church & also being a perfect stranger here I examined the daily papers to learn where to go, but no notices fell under my eye that quite suited my fancy. I

therefore made inquiry at the office of the hotel where I am stopping, (it is a temperance house for someone to attend church with me, but no one was at hand who wished to go to church.

I was however told <*where*> that probably Dr. Scotts church on bush st. would suit me better than any other & received directions how to find it. I immediately repaired to church, was told at the door that the seats were free & I could sit below or in the gallery. I chose the gallery where I had a good seat. I was not yet aware what denomination worshiped there but thought I could soon learn.

As I was watching the gathering congregation the sound of the organ fell upon ear. O! what a sound the first I have heard in Cal. [*California*] It caused my hart to leap into my throat. I scarcely knew what to do with myself, but imagine if you can what effect it had upon me when the <*q*> choir commenced a chant. I was surprised. I cannot describe my feelings. In an instant I was transported in imagination, across the american continent. I was <*in an*> for a moment by your side my dear wife, but it was but for an instant, black reality snatched me away & I was again sitting in the church trying to listen to the chanting of the choir, but I could not listen, my thoughts were <*far*> with you. I was in short quite homesick. My eyes overflowed with tears, I wished myself away. I longed for solitude but I could not well get away. amongst my purchases were a pair of boots which I had on. They made an awful squeaking, so much so that I dare not attempt to go out therefore I was compelled to remain. The services continued. When the conggregation rose for prayer I rose with them. By so doing I was brough in sight of the communion table. I perceived it was covered with the emblems of the sacrament & as the minister was engaged in prayer was several times overcome by my feelings. How vividly did every sound, every act, every sentence bring to mind my home, my friends & all that I hold dear. How often did I think that you probably were attending afternoon service in your church, at home, at the same time that I was tending morning service on the Pacific coast.

I soon ascertained that the church was Congregational. Eleven new members were added to it, most of them by letter. One family from New Haven Ct., [*Connecticut*] a man his wife & daughter.

About one third of the conggregation I should judge were ladies, & of the communicants one third gentlemen & so two thirds ladies.

Notice was given of services in the Chinese chapel at three oclock. A Chinese convert was to be baptised by Mr. S[pure] the chinese missionary in Cal. [*California*] He , the china[man] has been recently converted from heathenism. The first convert under the labors of the Rev. missionary. The chinese have a very pretty chapel erected by subscriptions & the aid of the missionary soc. [*society*]

I attended the chinese meeting in the afternoon My mind had become more quiet & though at times my eyes would fill with tears I was pretty well able to control myself. I enjoyed the meeting. In the eve. I again attended church at Dr. Scott's place.

Dr. Scott is a very smart man. The <*g*> choir in his church consists of four persons, two ladies &c.

I ought to let the close of the service in the eve. close my narative, but a little incident occurred on my return which I somehow cant help naming. I strayed from my way <. . .>& if I was apt to get lost probably should have been on this occasion, but it is difficult for me to get where I cant find my way out as long as I have my liberty.

On my way a round, I passed through some streets which were pretty quiet, not so many promenaders as in some parts of the city. As I was walking a window was thrown open by my side & a female voice called for help. I turned aside to see what was the trouble when I perceived a man in the room where the voice came from. As I walk to the window The man came to the door & opened it. It seemed that he was trying to make some disturbance with the woman I just said come friend don't be making disturbance here & he walked away with me I suppose the woman is "one of them" & I did not care much for her anyhow Though as I was not sure of that I was determined to rid her of her present trouble & then let her take care of herself

I have written one sheet to you which will go with this

You inquire in your letter what nursing I have I am not often so sick but that I can wait on myself when I am some friend is generally to be found

I will now close Don't <*laygh*> laugh at me now for writing such a bundle of nonsence

Give a kiss to the children

Entirely thine
Daniel Grant

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

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Sept 16th1856

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am not certain that it is best for you to reamain where you are though Daniel thinks that I do – but I will say that wherever you go you will find it necessary to do some thing to keep things in order. On my farm we expend between 2 & 3 hundred dols per year in guano, phosphate of lime, under draining &c. and expect to for years to come in order to keep up and improve its fertility and even on good western land something ought to be done to keep it from going down hill and leaving it for future generations to make up that which others have taken from the soil, as many of our fathers have done in this part of the country. I have not said anything about your

coming to this part of the country for land here is very high near the villages and most of it needs a good share of expenditure before it is first rate farm land though the majority of our farmers live about as comfortably as they do in other places – land here sells from or to 100 dols per acre – according to quality of land and buildings and the size of the farm. We both think it better not to divide the farm as it would be a difficult thing to suit all parties and we should want to sell our share if it were divided. My advice is the same as Marys as to buying or setting upon new land. You have means enough to buy a farm in the west with comfortable improvements and that will give you returns enough to pay you as much as you would make by clearing up new land and that would increase in worth nearly as much as the new land, beside the greater amount of comfort.

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

W Hill [*William Hill*]

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Dec. 5, 1859.

My dear Father and Mother [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*],

I got here last Saturday noon and I came alone all the way from Newark [*New Jersey*].

And now as you want to know what I do I am going to tell you what I have done since I have been here when I came in Saturday the children were having their bath Allie [*Alletta Hill*] was not dressed and she came to me and let me dress her and knew who I was though she said that she had never seen me before then we ate dinner and after dinner Aunt Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] made a fire in my room. At two o'clock she went to a meeting and did not come back till dark and while she was gone I unpacked my trunk (I packed my trunk all alone at Uncle John's [*John Grant*] and did not let any one help me) and played with the Children, when Aunt Mary came home we had tea and then I put Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] and Allie to bed. Minnie was to sleep with me but Allie cried so that I put them both in my bed (and when Aunt Mary came to bed she carried Allie into her room) then I went down and hemed one end and part of another of a [?] and then I went to bed.

Tuesday morning just as quick as I was up and dressed and dressed Minnie too I went down to breakfast and after breakfast I went up to air the beds and was called down to <*air the beds*> see Miss Henrietta as Aunt Mary tells me to call her. Uncle William [*William Hill*] and Aunt Mary went to church But I did not there was a kind of sleet commenced a little while after I got here saturday and it rained and was.slippery. This morning I got up at six oclock and dressed my self and went down to breakfast after breakfast I came <*down*> up to air the beds and then I went down and washed the dishes and then swept the sitting room and then helped Aunt <*move*> fi*x* some beds then I made Aunts bed and then put some seeds into my skirt and then began to write a letter to Uncle John [*John Grant*] and Aunt Gertie [*Gertrude Day Grant*] for Aunt Mary thought that would have to go first and when I had got it partly written she found out that this had got to go first so I had to stop I am writing up in Aunt Mary room by the register.

I have got on my old green delaine dress. Well give my love to Uncle Erastuses [?] and Aunt Sallie's and Carrie Tibbals and Miss Sevens and Sarah Gaylord and Marh Norton and cousin [?] I cant think of any more you will have to tell me the next time you write

Your aff. [*affectionate*] daughter,
Abbie E Grant [*Abigail E. Grant B*]

instruction as she needed -- other wise she might have staied a few weeks longer.
Abby [*Abigail E. Grant B*] says her teachers would never allow her to go through Mental Arithmetic & Father [*Daniel Grant*] would not allow her to study written Arithmetic until she learns the mental -- She wanted to study Grammar & mother [*Catherine Grant*] made her study History. She does not seem to have studied the last of any book thoroughly -- if at all -- "Uncle John has been scolding" &c, I have given her a Grammar Lesson which she is to repeat this P. M. "She never could understand the last of Colburn. I intend to make her,
Abby is just now teaching Sammy [*Samuel Hill*] a column in Multiplication. I have also given her Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] in charge to teach the Phonetic Alphabet [*Phonography*], I laughed to read its letter to uncle John -- She said "she had been hungry as a bear ever since coming here but she dare not ask for any thing, for Aunt Mary was all the time scolding the children for asking," She meant between meals. You need not fear she shall have enough to eat.

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] March 14th 1860

Dear Brother & Sister [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]
I am somewhat ashamed of myself in not writing you more frequently but now that you have two correspondents in my place (wife & your daughter) it leaves but little for me to say except a few things that they may overlook. -- I have now had one years experience in the store and I do not find my health either better or worse than formerly though I think, I have not had the blues quite as frequently as formerly -- You seem to think it rather strange for me to build when so much is debt. I will state my views of the subject and then you can remain of the same opinion or coincide with me just as your better judgment may dictate First I pay where I now live about 110 dols a year rent for house -- Secondly Expect to build at a cost of not over 4000 dols which at 6 per ct makes a rent of 240 dols -- We had a lot of about 10 acres that I thought we could spare from farm and by improving the rest raise as much in a few years from this as from the whole -- that lot would bring me 1000 dols which would bring down the rent 60 dols leaving 80 dols difference on the two Houses. Then I would be getting a home according to my own tastes and the improvements around it would be adding to the rest of the property and if we can pay for it well and good if not the property will always sell for cost and perhaps more so that my creditors need not loose by the operation if I should loose a little Have strong Hope if life and health are spared of paying for it sometime. Think that we are about 1000 dols better off than this time last year, and if we can do as well this year shall not dispair = Mary's is very much disappointed at not getting that paper and her ears have itched for the good things that people have to say about an absent neighbour ever since your letter. Hope that you will not fail to send it and that the perusal may be entertaining and profitable
Have my cellar dug out about 1/3 of the stone on the ground. some sand ready and my well nearly dug Forgot to say above that we expect to get considerable of the work done for the House in trade at the store thus making the profit on the goods that go to pay for it. Want to get the house ready to occupy by next october and would be very happy to have you come to the moving --
Have been reading several articles lately about some land on long Island and if had time should go and see them and perhaps will next summer in slack times Our crops were good on the farm last year and we sold about 100 dols of poultry 300 of wheat 350 of corn 45 dols oats 100 pork, besides butter & eggs -- 60 dols of potatoes --

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[*Abigail Cowles Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

Dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] MrsCaroline Grant
Mill Brook
Ct.

Lockport, Ill. 4th. July '62.

Dear Sister Caroline,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abby –

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] July 20, 1863.
Dear Brother & Sister,

Brother Daniel's letter & the papers enclosed were received Tues. last I notified Mr. Russell Wed. Fri. he came up & brought the money, but when he found I was going to send the money to you, & wanted a draft, he kindly offer'd to get it for me in [Johit?] & sent it up. So it came Sat, but that day I had not time to write, but think to day is soon enough Mr. R said he preferred to pay up now, & borrowed some at six per ct, for that purpose -- The exchange was $3 wh. he deducted. I hope it is all right, & that the Draft for $809. will reach you safely.

Was glad to hear about all our home family. I often think we do not know half enough of each other. But we are all so busy each in his or her own way.

I know nothing of Phelp's family of late on of Elizabeth. I wrote to sister E. & to Abby. Last winter, but have heard nothing since.

I hear occasionally from John. Have a photograph of Gertie & baby, which is beautiful. Wish I had yours both & your children, also Marcus' --

It is 10 days since I heard from my husband, he was then well as usual, was at Memphis on Business -- The mail will be in soon, & may be I shall have a letter today.

John is still in the P.O. as clerk, will remain not much longer for he needs some rest before going to school -- He finds it quite confusing, but is able to meet it: is looking quite pale, in part perhaps because not much in the sun --

I am drying cherries just now, we have a good many, and nothing eatable, is better than stewed dried cherries. It is a great deal of work to pit them but how good they will taste to Mr. G. next winter! I have picked some for him too by the [rule?], to 7 lbs pitted cherries 3 ½ of sugar, 1 pint vinegar, tablespoonfull of each ground cloves, & cinnamon, (they are delicious:) sealed together <u>slowly</u> for an hour --

It has been very dry here, for weeks, so as to injure gardens & all vegetation, but last night it rained hard, with prospect of more -- Love to all the family, & accept much for yourselves, from your aff. sister Abby.

Willy has fits as usual -- he suffers a great deal, tho not consciously always --

Our country seems to be blest with successes just now.

What a disgrace the N.Y. visit is! It is not the last one that will come of drafting, we expect trouble in this state & in this vicinity, unless there is military force present in every town I hope Lincoln will be firm. He is too easy, & those about him too politic, or selfish. Let me know if you get this all [...] noon. John brings in a letter from his father, written last Tues. he was then well --

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.

Flemington
N. Jersey.
Abbie & Almon

Oberlin, Ohio
March 10th 1869

My dear Mother,

Your kind letter should have been answered before this, by some of us, that you might know that we received the draft you sent safely, but we have all been, very busy. Edward and Almon with their work and studies, and I with my house keeping. Edward takes hold and studies faithfully, it keeps him pretty busy. With the work he has besides, he cuts our wood for us, for which Almon allows him a dollar a week. Almon teaches three classes now, he hasn't been very well for some time, he was just completely tired out the last few weeks that he was in New York, and has had no opportunity to rest yet. I think that I get along pretty well with my housework considering my strength, but I get dreadfully tired every day, so that before night comes it seems as though I could not take another step. I have had pretty good luck with my cooking. My bread has been good every time. I get too tired to sew or even mend, I dont know that part of the work is going to get along. We were to have gone to Mary Shurtleffs to tea tonight, but it is so very stormy that it has been put off till tomorrow.

I must go to bed now so good night.

19th I expected to finish this the next day when I stopped writing that night, but I haven't had a minute since when I wasnt too tired. I am too tired to iron tonight so will try to write a little.

Almon has gone to society and Edward sits here studying Algebra. Edward applies himself very faithfully to his studies.

Mary Shurtleff had her party last week. She had quite a large and pleasant company. I enjoyed it very much. We went last eve to the church sociable

Our sitting room, is a green room, there is green in the paper, green in the carpet, in the table spread and in the pictures, and when we get a rocking chair we are going to have that covered with green, there is green in the oil cloth too. So you see that we are quite greenies here.

Principal Fairchild at whose house the sociable was last eve is soon going to leave here to become president of Berea College in Kentucky.

I had a very pleasant, cheerful letter form Aunty Burton about two weeks ago. I think she must be a great deal better.

March 24th Dear Mother

We received your letter yesterday. I am sorry that you are so worried about us. We ought to have sent you some little word any way, but we have all been so busy.

Mary Shurtleff was down here a few minutes today. She is very kind to me, she gave me a jar of tomato pickles when I came here, and is going to give me some cucumbers, she has given me cake too, and fathers people have given me some, so for the first two weeks that I kept house I did not have to cook any cake.

Fathers people have given us a good many things, today they sent over a nice piece of veal. Some of them come over here every little while, they are all very kind to me.

The cake that Johnnie and the children sent me was real nice. I enjoyed it very much.

Thank Aunt Mary very very much of the linen sheets and pillow cases that she sent me, they will be <u>so</u> <u>nice</u> for next summer, and will make me very nicely supplied with <bedding> sheets, etc.

Tell Johnnie that one of my cats has the sweetest bit of a Maltise kitten, eyes not yet, if she were only here, it would be a second Abbie.

You have said nothing about those statuette photographs, did you find them in Flemington?

The ivy which was sent is commencing to grow very nicely now, the slips didn't live, couldn't some of you send one or two slips in a paper? I think they could come safely.

Ella Shepardson is teaching in Cleveland now, so I havent seen her since I have been here.

I will leave the rest of this sheet for Almon or Edward to fill.

With much love to all the dear friend in F. and to your own dear self.

Your aff. daughter
Abbie.

Dear Mother,

I have just returned from Society meeting and can add but a word for I have not looked at my lessons for to-morrow. We are all very busy as Abbie writes. Edward is doing finely. Abbie gets pretty tired from her work. It troubles me some, for I fear she does not enjoy life as much as she ought. I wish to see her happy and not worked almost to death. I shall do all I can and when our family is smaller, shall insist on her doing less housework, I think we have got along finely so far, as will as I had expected. The money you sent came very opportunely indeed. Am very thankful for your kindness in sending it so soon. It has been quite cold here and was good sleighing yesterday, very unusual at this time. Pardon my writing so little this time. Give my love to all the dear friends with you and accept very much yourself from

Your affect'ate son Almon.

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Adrian Mich. Mar. 6th '71.

Mrs. Grant,

Dear Madam

Yours of the 2nd inst. is at hand. In reply I would say that the place, consisting of 33 acres, is still for sale for three thousand, five hundred dollars ($3,500.00)

The two orchards taken together contain about 300 trees; an equal number in the new and old.

There is about a half an acre of "Davison's Thornless Black-cap Raspberries." A very choice kind, for which we paid at the rate of $50.0 for 1000 in New Jersey. One half an acre of Strawberries. The varieties are Wilson's Albany Seedling and the Green Prolific, the kinds that we have found, from experience, to be the best for market. We sold 1100 qts. last year -- but there are more vines this year to pick over.

There is nearly a quarter of an acre of Asparagus. We sold a little over a hundred dollars ($100) worth from the bed last year. The place contains between 5 and 6 hundred evergreens;

We sell three hundred dollars ($300) worth of plants yearly from the hot-beds and hot-house: and this trade properly managed can be increased, easily to $500.00. The average income has been about a $1000.00 yearly. But with sufficient help and proper attention we think it might be made $1500.00

Work can be commenced at any time on the place between <*now*> this and the first of next month; or the middle of next month, to advantage. I think I spoke to you of the water power on the place.

I should prefer that you would examine the place that you may see for yourself before making any bargain. My terms are $2000.00 down and a mortgage on the place for the remaining $1500.00. If we can close a bargain under these considerations I shall be very happy to sell to you.

I shall want to hear from you immediately; or know your conclusion by the 15th of March; as one of our neighbors is very anxious to purchase the same; and it will be necessary for us to know as soon as that in order to make preparations for the sale before moving.

Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Yours, very respectfully

Lydia Jones

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Ark. City, March 13, 1875.

My Dear Wife

Yours of the 28 ult. was rec'd. last evening. It contained check for $10, for wh. I am very thankful.

My health is improving. I am now pretty well. Have not been very sick.

I am it is true in pinched circumstances but am in so much better fit than some of my neighbors that I sometimes think I am pretty well off. I have had plenty of flour (through your help) and have had as much pork as I wished to use and coffee tho I have been rather stingy of coffee. Some of my neighbors have lived part of the time on bread alone only changing it occasionally for boiled wheat. I am more comfortably dressed than some of them so I think I am pretty well off. A great deal of food has been contributed from the east and sent to Kan. but K. is a great state and there are a great many people to feed. On reason why this country has received so little is because false reports have been made from here. In the first place our county Commissioners reported last fall that Cowley Co. was self sustaining then the merchants in hopes to sell more goods have given out the same idea and the newspapers and land speculators have done the same in hopes to induce emigration etc. The general Gov. has taken hold at last but I fear it also will be nearly a failure from its magnitude. </ />

I think you better not send me anything as I shall be able to live thro it I guess and it is so far it will be long before it gets here and there is danger that it will be lost on the road. I don't know whether much is lost or not; there are so many false reports we don't know what to believe.

The State Gov. has made two unsuccessful attempts to do something but it must fix it in such a way that somebody must make a rich thing of it and so that it will cost more than it comes to. The legislature passed one act that will help a little viz. appropriated $5000, to pay freight on corn wh. is sent from the east but it is so little that it will hardly be felt. Corn is charged freight on the R.Roads. The greatest help I look for is thro the Grange

The weather is now warm and pleasant. The first week of March was quite cold. Jan. & Fed. were very cold months

I am at a loss yet about going east. If I go now I must sacrifice everything I have got and I am afraid it will be no better [...] next fall. I shall pretty soon decide either to <*do*> give up everything and go or to put in a crop. It seems Congress has adjourned without extending the time of payment on this land. I cannot enter now if I would.

Give my best [reg?] to uncle & aunt Thank you all for the money

Entirely Thine
D. Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Flemington, N.J.

Ark. City May 17 1875

My Dear Wife,

I have misplaced your last letter and cannot now find it. I will write briefly without it.

I asked to know if you rec'd former letter because I feared I had made a mistake in the superscription. Glad to know you got it. I am getting on very well thanks to your effort. I feel younger than I did. Such an uncertainty how I was to get along hung upon me that it weighed me down but your timely aid has relieved me. Thank God.

You have relieved others also. 2800 lbs corn and potatoes arrived at Wichita depot just as the $15, you sent reached me. The corn and potatoes were held for $21, 85/100 charges against it. The question was how would we raise the money to redeem them and save them for this suffering people. The only way seemed to be to sell enough to raise the money out of it. This would take nearly all probably all the corn viz. 36 bush and leave the potatoes about 8 bush, to be distributed after paying expenses from Wichita a distance of 65 miles but your aid arrived by the help of it I got one of my neighbors to go with me with a small team wh. with my team was able to hall the stuff so with some of our labor and your money we were able to distribute nearly all the corn and potatoes.

Many were made glad for a few days.

Times now are appearing brighter. A large amount of corn is planted wh. is now up and looking well. Wheat also looks promising. One month more and harvest will commence. We will

then have wheat of our own, gardens will be producing, green corn will be ready and people will begin to live. A good crop and we are all right.

I have received aunt B's [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] legacy. The amount is $440, At the same time came the advertisement announcing the land sale.

Is Abbie at Flemington? How does she get her living? Give her my love. It is all I have to give. I am very busy now but will try and write again soon as I can consistently.

I suppose you are at New Marlborough now and this will find you there

As Ever Thine
D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 27 1876

Dear Sister

It is a long time since I have written you and now want a little information about the Potato crop in your part of the Country. Wish you would ask Uncle Collar about the price of new potatoes & whether they are ready for market. Here we have no vegetables of any kind on account of the very severe & protracted dry weather.

I went to N York [*New York*] yesterday to buy potatoes, turnips, cabbage tomatoes & squashes, found them of good quality but not very cheap—Our crops will all be very light & corn nothing unless we have rain within a very short time. I had 96 Bu of oats from 4 acres and they only weigh 26 ½ lb per bu. Shall have enough to last my horse through the year. Pasture as brown as a [counter?] and feed meal to cow twice a day.

We never have had such a poor garden in the 27 years that we have kept house.

Our house is pretty full from top to bottom, but we get along pretty comfortably since the weather has become cooler!

The first night we slept in the attic it was like the torrid zone, but now the nights are cool.

Have had no rain to wet the ground for about six weeks and all the showers go either north or south of us.

We were all glad to see Ed but sorry that he could not stay longer. Expect he has told you all about the Centenial. I do not think Mary & J can go before the middle of October.

I think I would almost enjoy a week among the hills of Mass as the Centenial, but expect it would not do not to go when we are so near by and have friends in the City with whom we can stay.

We find our boarders quite as pleasant as we expected and hope we shall be able to please them.

Mr. Vansyokle has a team of horses & driver. They stay at the Hotel in the Village.

They go out riding once every day & sometimes twice.

Last Saturday, I had a holiday & took out Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*]. Mrs. Earl & Miss Bethel in the morning, & Mary & Allie in the evening, it was a pleasant day & we all enjoyed it.

Had a letter from [M …] forepart of the week she was well happy & doing pretty well with her studies. Has been examined in French and was complimented by the teacher upon her proficiency in the Language. Sam has had a felon on his left hand doing nothing for more than a week, so that I had the milking to do & water to draw from the well in the field for five cows. Our well at the barn has been dry for about 10 days. Sam has gone to work again today – How did you all stand the extreme heat? And are you through your haying? We shall have wheat enough off of our little farm to give us bread for the year to come.

Nothing in the way of news about town. Dinner is nearly ready so will turn myself to sharpening the carving knife cutting this letter short.

With love to all I am yours truly,

William Hill

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Flemington NJ [*New Jersey*]
Bitter Sweet July 1877

Dear sister,

It is just after ten and am writing in Mary's bed room she is lying in bed well propped up with pillows as she has been most of the time since being sick Was not so well yesterday but today seems more comfortable again and I think breathes easier and more natural than since she has been sick

We get along pretty comfortably with work. Rebecca is very good about helping extra and Hester sometimes comes earlier in the day than usual and if extra busy Carrie stays home from school.

Doct Mott called to see Mary today, and gave her words of comfort and consolation, & made a very excellent prayer. He has a very lame back but hearing yesterday that M was not quite so well came today to see her.

Sister H. came down this morning and sat with M for several hours while I lay down on sofa and rested. Things in bbl carried very nicely but it was quite a sum in long division to separate the beans Hnuts dried apples – chestnuts

Have not as yet cut the whole cheese All the articles are very acceptable unpacked them in cellar.

Mary was not able to see much about them, but we thank both you & Aunt E. very much for your kindness.

Folks enjoy maple sirup.

Mrs. Jackson sister of Miss [Imby] was here today to see her & gave Abbie five dollars for her extra trouble in taking care of Miss I. She is still in her room but her sister and the Doctor both try to encourage her to get out of it pretty soon, about half her illness is imaginary.

We did not think it best to write you to come unless more needed than at present

Doc says that he does not see any probability but that Mary will continue to improve. Saturday will be six weeks since she was taken badly though she complained for several days before

Glad to hear that Daniel is well. Often think I ought to write to him. Do not think you ought to try and do anything further for Minnie as am sure you have done more than you ought already & hope that in some way we will be able to help her through the course. She has 100 dollars that her Grandmother left her and if necessary she will use that.

Shall very soon have to trim grape vines.

When M seems tired we do not admit callers. Sister Kate has had a very bad cold in head and has not been able to get down since I wrote you before. Mary says must thank Aunt E. for her letter and all her kindnesses. Doctor thinks as a rule alkalies are much better than acids in rheumatism. Do not think a plaster would do much good in inflamitory rheumatism.

Will write you again before many days.

With much love

Yours truly

William Hill

Friday Morn
M had good night slept straight through without morphine.

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass [*Massachuetts*]

Colebrook Sept 16th/80

Dear Aunt,

Was very glad to get your letters, glad to know that you take an interest in Father & Mother, Charley took me home Sunday night, & asked Mother if she would like Marion to come & stay a while with her, she said No: one Benton was enough thinks can have one of John Robart's sisters said she did not want Aunt Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*], so did not send, Julia's sister could not come was not well, When home Sunday night Mother said she was some better than when we were at Uncles, has been taking hop tea; that is good for the nerves, does not get up in

the morning as early -- says gets more rest, I do hope she may get better, it does trouble me. but as you write I take it to the "Lord in prayer," & it is a help to me many times, then again it does not seem to help me as much, Oh dear! there are times when I do not know what to do, I am alone now for a few days. Father Eunice, & Anna, have gone up to Monterey, coming back Saturday, it seems nice to be alone, only three of us not a large family. E- expects to be married before many weeks, Cousin Nellie Northway is to be married next Wednesday C. & P. will go over home Tuesday night so I will be there to help Mother get ready in the morning, says she cant get ready alone & I am very glad to help her, mean to help her put up some peaches when we get back from wedding, Thursday after C. & J expect to start for brother Alberts, will be gone about a week, Ralph & wife are well or were yesterday,
Sunday evening You see it takes one some time to get a Letter started. have not had a good opportunity to send Ralph was here yesterday for about an hour, says thinks does feel better, Father, Eunice, & Anna was there to tea last night, E. said Mother told her to tell me she was better, so glad, but suppose she is not well, C. & J have been over to M. Phelps this evening, a pleasant time Must stop now & go<*t*> to bed, C. joins with me in sending love to you

[*written across first page*] & Uncles folks Hope you will write me again glad to hear from you & would like to have you visit me,

aff

Mary

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[*Post card addressed to:*] Mrs. Carrie Grant,
Clayton,
Berkshire Co.
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]

309 Gates av.
Oct. 8. 1880.

My Dear Friend; --

I expect you are as busy as a bee but you can find time for one word. We had a pleasant ride home -- found your lunch very acceptable and "Dick" enjoyed his chickweed while it kept fresh. We got in the coal and plants yesterday. I am saving Aunt some seeds. When do you go on your visit? Let me hear from you

With love yours Fannie.

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[*Printed:*] S. B. Hill, Photographer, 82 Bank St.
Waterbury, Conn., [*Handwritten:*] June 24, 1891

Dear Aunt Carrie

It is too bad that I have for so long a time left your letter unanswered I thank you very much for the letters you sent me. I read them with a great deal of interest.

Am glad to hear that you are better than you were a year or two ago.

My health has much improved so that I am almost as well as I have been any time within the last 7 or 8 years.

I wish I could hear as much from Ed. *[Edmond Burr]*

My garden has kept me very busy for the last few days, in fact ever since I first began to work in it this spring.
Yesterday I picked over 8 quarts of strawberries, though unfortunately many of them were in such poor condition from the continued wet weather, that they would not keep over night, and, <*and*> preserves were gotten well under way before bed time. I have had very fine berries, some of them measuring 5 inches in circumference.

Besides my garden for the last few days I have been helping take care of Miss Lownds an elderly lady a freind of the Prichard's and who boards here. She has been very sick and part of the time needed constant attention. It has been my first experience

in that kind of work, though they tell me I make a very good nurse. I fear I would not do so well if I could not call on any one else to help but had to take full charge. One thing that has made it easier is that we are pretty well acquainted and each likes the other.

I can not well write more just now so will leave it till another time.

Your aff nephew
S. B. Hill

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Bolton Aug. 5, .91 Wed. A.M.

My very Dear Niece, I have been thinking for a long time I would write you (as I want to hear from you so much) but some how the time has slipped along & I did not get to it. This morning before I got out of bed I determined if possible to write you today. Soon as my breakfast work was over I began to look for your last letter to me but failed to find one with a date later than last Feb, remembering my 80th birth day. I remember answering that but was under the impression that I had received another from you since, but I guess I have not as I don't find one, so if I do not owe you a letter I will write & remind you that you are owing me one, & I hope you will be able to respond promptly. I know you have many letters to write & much very much to occupy your time & thoughts so you are excusable. I do want to hear from you & yours.

There has nothing transpired out of the usual course in our family since my last writing. We have all been in usual health. Bessie has to be very careful about her food & suffers some from indigestion but with care is able to keep quite comfortable & can do a good deal. Sue & Mollie are still studying <*typography*> Stenography & I have practiced type writing two months. It is quite an undertaking to learn it. It remains to be seen whether it will be of advantage to them pecuniarily. "Hope keeps the heart whole." Great many are learning the same thing as in every industry.

Sam is still where he has been. In his two weeks vacation which commeced about the 1st of July he has spent part of his time in travelling & selling paper on commission & made about $100. but cleared deducting expenses between $60 & 70. & had 3 or four days at home to rest & visit.

We dont any of us go off on vacation this season, but Mary & the girls have been to Boston twice since I last wrote you I think & they expect to again soon. They usually stay one or two nights & that makes a little change for them. I will not write lengthy now Hoping to hear from you soon & about all your family & friends.

I receved & nice little letter from Abbie the last of June with a letter from Warren's wife dated in Jan. which you had requested her to send me & she had forgotten to send it before.

Affectionately, S. J. Wallis

[*written across first page*] In looking over my letters I found on an envelope "This letter to be returned I had overlooked it. I know you will forgive my remisness. & send on more letters. I want to hear about Flemington friends & about Abbies daughter, she said nothing about her in her short letter to me & about Edward & family & Erastus & all of you. I often think of you & wonder how it is with yourself & husband in so feeble health

My health is very good. I feel age creeping on fast enough. I am able to do my own work mostly & sew a good deal & make button holes yet.

Mary sends love.

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Bittersweet Flemington NJ Sept 5/91

Dear Sister

We did not intend to keep you quite so long waiting for news of the wedding, but so many letters have had to be written and the girls have been so busy with fruit drying & canning that the time has passed and with it the opportunity of writing before--. This morning we have had another heavy rain and I am thus prevented from working the garden among the Celery. and you should have the time that was to be spent in hoeing -- Mr Wright came Monday morning before the great day -- and stayed with us that night. They were married at 2 oclock PM Tuesday by Doct Mott. Married with a ring -- Min [*Mary P.B. Hill Wright*] was dressed in her travelling suit of dark blue & white with bonnet of about same shades -- The front Parlour had a bank of Golden-rod from floor to top of Mantel and all round the room & in back Parlour were many beautiful vases of flowers, The neighbors sent in lots of flowers, and our boarders helped arrange them -- The rooms looked very pretty. Min had a number of presents that are quite handsome -- The St[...] gave her a large cut glass bowl -- cruet -- and Olive dish Soph Hill a cut glass bowl -- Cos Tom & wife 1 dozen silver coffee spoons -- 5 Teachers from Oberlin sent each a coffee spoon with their initials on -- Sam & Carrie gave 1 dozen silver tea spoons -- The Misses Prichard 3 silver table spoons. Chalmers 3 dessert spoons Al a silver butter knife -- Mrs Earl gave her 1/2 doz pair of kid gloves. Silver bracelet 2 gold coffee spoons from Paris -- 1/2 doz hem stiched handkerchiefs with M, embroidered on the corner. C H Anderson & wife a handsome black fan with tortoise shell ribs -- Mr & Mrs Hyde a rocking chair -- Mrs Nevise sent a handsome embroidered scarf, done on Botting cloth -- and there were numerous other small things that I cannot now describe -- Ellen Stout has a silver sugar spoon for her & Mrs Bullock gave her 10 dol. to get something she would like -- They left at 3.45 P. M for Washington DC -- Where they have been until yesterday when they were to start for Oberlin -- As they left they were showered with rice and an old shoe thrown for good luck let on top of the Carriage and was there when they arrived at the Depot -- They had pleasant time at Washington except one or two hot days -- Made several excursion around the City. to Mt Vernon -- & <*John*> Cabin John bridge -- the largest single stone arch in the world -- 240 ft wide & 90 ft high -- Attended meetings of the Scientific convention -- Min says many of the men are cranks & their whole conversation is scientific --

We are all very well pleased with Mr Wright he appears very gentlemanly & thoughtful of others -- M. says she is very happy -- We rather hoped they would return this way but they gave us the go bye on the score of economy -- We are getting on comfortably at home now. Al is much better than she was a while back and Carrie seems to endure her summer work well -- Did not have very many at the wedding our out of town friends did not come except. Cos Tom & wife C H Anderson & wife -- and Sophie Hill was with us for 3 weeks -- and was a great help in very many ways -- She made a new white dress for Sophie to wear at the wedding & when she went home took one that was cut out for Mary and made & sent it home the other day -- One of our boarder has left and Sister Let has been away on a visit for a week -- Fruit has been very abundant and is yet Peaches have been very low and the late rains have injured the quality of the crop -- Good peaches have sold for from 30 to 50c basket the last week -- The girls have dried a few and made some peach butter -- Apples very good & plenty -- My garden has been good all through and we have had a great abundance of sweet corn & Lima beans --
Our refreshments at the wedding were Chicken Salad, Sandwiches of Ham -- Rolls, (Carries made/ Ice cream -- cake, Olives & coffee -- we made but little display but abundance.
Sam was with us a week and we enjoyed his visit, and the children enjoyed being altogether once more --
Sam took a picture of Mary as she was dressed for the occasion in low necked & short sleeved dress -- She looked very pretty and was quite self possessed running around among the strangers -- The Steeles have been very kind to us This summer they have taken Carrie out riding two or three times and it was their young people that brought the Goldenrod -- I forgot to say that we had had rain the morning of the wedding but when they left the rain was over --

I attended the funeral yesterday of John P Blackwell. the last of the old Members of the family. We were all very intimate with them years ago -- Hope you & Daniel are comfortable -- and that you can enjoy the pleasant days that we have. How Many of them there were the fore part of the summer -- My health is pretty good now and I can walk 3 or 4 miles without discomfort. Have been up on the hill twice lately and enjoyed the walk and the beautiful view greatly --
I Hope this will come up to your expectation and be detailed, & specific enough for your taste in such matters -- Certainly it is long enough to satisfy a good deal of longing --

All send love & good wishes and so do I
Affectionately yours
William Hill

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

Speaks of cemetery lot

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

Dear Cousins,

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

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

Do write me often & confer a great favor

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cousin Elizabeth

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

March 7, 1889

Dear Carrie --

I should have been glad to write you in time for you to have received it on your 69th birthday but could not I hope you had as comfortable a day as I did on mine & hope you may have many more birth days, I know you are living & have lived a very useful life & the world is much better for your having lived in it, which cannot be said of Every one.

Sam came home to spend the '22'nd with us & brought a young friend with him He is looking nicely & doing well All Enjoyed their visit much although it was short as he felt that he must return Sat. morning as he could not well be spared from his business, as he is head one in his department. The young man is one that boarded at the Edes' last summer & became acquainted with us & is much pleased with Sue. He expects to enter Amherst College next summer. Sue & Mollie are still in the High school here & doing well We are all very well Sewing circle was to have met with us yesterday but it was so rainy only one came a new

neighbor but it broke up the afternoon & they will probably meet here next week “Grandpa” Haynes’ folk were here this morning week [noon?] to dinner & supper. It was kind in you to write so much about your & husbands health & Edwards I hope they will not keep Edward on too low a diet

According to our late reading a pretty generous diet is recommended for nervous persons & indeed for many invalids & cousin of Amory’s was sent to a Hospital in Boston he had a bad sore on his arm & they had him Eat all the beef stead & roast beef &c he could. I think he is getting better I am glad for Minnie she has got so good a [situation?] I will return her interesting letter & will not write more lengthly now hoping soon to hear from you again soon. I should think Edward would be very much discouraged with that farm on his & himself so feeble but you all know what is best for him to do under the circumstances We all send love

Affectionately

S.J.W.

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Bittersweet [*New Jersey*]

9 -- 11 -- 87

Dear Aunty,

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

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

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

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

I received two “Woman’s Journals” from Aunt Jane yesterday I will try to acknowledge them soon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With love to Uncle Daniel

Affectionately

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

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Bittersweet Sept 21/'85

Dear Sister

For fear of forgetting about Honeysuckle I have sat down right after dinner to say that you can possibly raise them from cuttings but the best & easiest way is to lay down a shoot and cover it lightly with dirt pegging it down with a stick – so that it will stay in place. Ours takes root itself whenever a shoot runs on the ground and we can find one or more rooted most any time. It also grows freely from seed, as we have two or 3 that have come up under the trees where the birds have carried the seeds.

Wish you could have had some of the nice Bartlett pears that we had hard time to give away and eat up. Had 1 ¾ Bushels off of our own trees and John [Cafones?] gave us nearly ½ Bu. They ripened so rapidly that we could not use them all & so gave some away -- & canned all we wanted. All gone now – Some [seakels?] that are good now. We have had some beautiful weather lately and Oh what dust the peach wagons make. The dust fly thickly every afternoon.

I have been pretty [well?] most all summer, was a little out of sorts while Mrs. was away, but not so but that could attend to P.O. had to be there more hours because Carrie could not send out afternoon mail. Chalmers helps [D?] some early mornings and in the evening. We have lost of extra mail in peach time, both letters and circulars –

We expect Mrs. Blair back this afternoon, how long she will stay do not know. Mrs. Brown & Emma are still with us

We had help by the day considerable while Mrs. was away – and got along quite comfortably most of the time. Mrs. Brown seems fond of Sophie and would watch her on the lawn often for Abbie. She is a dear little child very fond of flowers and out door life. We let her run out as much as we can in fine weather.

Has been remarkably cool all summer for a […]

Our fair (Agricultural) comes of this week but I fear it will not be large as it is so dusty.

Sorry you do not feel able to care for a cow. We get so much good from ours. For 2 or 3 weeks we sold six dollars worth of cream besides what we used ourselves. Last week churned about 18 lb butter. We milk 3 –2 of them had calves 6 mo ago about. We are raising 2 calves on the skim milk and some cake mean added. Cos. John Capner gave one to Chalmers. The other is Daisy's 3rd calf. She has given us 3 heifer calves at which we are greatly pleased.

Our crop of Lima Beans has been excellent and we have enough to use daily for some days yet. Raised in garden about 8 or 9 Bu. Potatoes & has several Bu of good apples so that we have bought but 1 Bu since Red Astrachan began to ripen.

Hope Uncle Erastus will not have much Rheumatism as it is hard to bear. I had quite some Sciatica last winter and have a twinge now & then this fall but hope it will not stay by me.

Sorry Uncle E. Can do so little work. Do not know how I could stand it to be so that I could not work considerable out of doors, have always loved garden work and flowers. Have some very pretty roses now and verbenas – Heliotrope China Asters – will be sorry when Jack Frost lays them low.

You report quite a crop of hay. Hay crop here very short. We had 2 ½ acres of Hungarian grass that was good but our old sods were very short & thin. Sophie got into Pantry & stole & eat more than half a Peach this morning before her mother knew it. She has had little tastes before when they were beaching for tea – Min enjoyed her trip to Phila – Cousin T's people were getting ready to move into a house he has recently purchased.

We had nice visit from Sophie Hill some days ago. We always enjoy having her with us. She is so kind, thoughtful & helpful, and the baby does not seem to forget her from one time to another. Think if you look sharply about the roots of your Honeysuckle you will find some of it rooten.

Now I think this will be enough of an infliction for one time and I will go for some weeds that ought to have been dug up long ago.

Expect some will have twice enough on hand for all such things as no doubt when my time expires in Dec or before. President Cleveland will appoint some good […] Democrat in my place.

What then, do not know.

Love from all to both of you and hope you will be comfortable & happy longtime to come.

Affectionately,

William Hill

Don't you enjoy 1 ounce letters for 2 cents.

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Bittersweet Dec 24/ 86

Dear Sister

A Merry Christmas to you both if not too late, if so a Happy New Year – Yea both. We are having a spell of damp weather with so little frost in the ground that it was easy to dig up a mess of salsify for dinner this morning.

I have often thought of you & yours since my pleasant visit last fall. Have been in so much better health since my return that there has been no need to take any of that medicine I brought with me. It seems strange that my digestion should become so much better immediately after my return.

The girls have been very busy for several nights and at odd times through the day making picture scrap books on colored muslin for some of the young relations of the family – finished them late last night.

Monday I took a long tramp to get a cedar tree for a Christmas tree for the little folks. Sophie talks a good'eal about a Xmas tree and says St. Nicholas is to bring her a doll. My walk was about 5 miles long, arrived at home about dinner time nearly fagged out but had a nice little tree which will be decorated to night and give great pleasure to Sophie we hope.

Tuesday cut all the Ivy that we could spare on request of Rev. E.K. Smith to trim Episcopal Church at Lambertville.

Yesterday was at the P Office all day in Mr. Poulson […] place while we went to N.Y. Felt quite at home there but was a little green in somethings.

Min's glasses have not relieved her from headache very much. Does not use them as much as she ought to, but I think her trouble is not altogether with her eyes, fatigue & over exertion has something to do with them. She sometimes worries to carry out her ideal and perseveres beyond her strength of body suffering therefore.

Hope that you are better than when Min left you and that you may have a comfortable winter.

Will has grown very nicely lately and can stand in a corner of the room alone but will not venture to take a step alone. Backward about talking only saying a word or two occasionally and only when it suits him to make the effort.

Chalmer and Allie send you the stockings and the girls the apron. Al says the stockings were the smallest he could get and if do not fit can be changed. Sends her love saying she has not time to write. These little folks take a deal of care and the house work is considerable. We hoped to have help for day to day but could not get any one.

Had a letter from Sam lately in which he speaks of developing a large number of negatives for a Miss Hayden of Waterbury. They were taken by her on a trip to Labrador last summer, and required care & skill in the development as some were not exposed long enough & others too much, having to be developed accordingly. He does it evenings after his regular work is over, will be useful experience for him besides paying him something for his trouble. He says he enjoys sleeping in a comfortable room and not feeling afraid of suffocation from coal gas. When Min was up there she determined to have him sleep in the Prichard House and not in the Lewis gallery.

Sam has recently sent some very good pictures of Carrie taken on his last visit home.

I had a letter from Mrs. Earl lately. She and her sister are keeping house in three rooms in Paris getting their own meals except dinner which they have sent in. Sent us some small photos of some churches &c in her last. She had been to call on a friend living in good style and says sometimes the desire to enjoy the luxuries of byegone days is strong but it soon gives way to contentment (says (I was born happy and inte[n?]d to live happy & die so. And I hope it may be so.

Aunt Soct[. . .] is better of her sore eyes that she brought home form Vineland but has had a severe cold for a few days [that?] is better now. Is expecting to make another visit to Vineland in February on account of an expected event in Charles's family.

I miss regular employment now that there is so little that can be done out of doors, and get weary sometimes of enforced idleness. Have been so used for so many years of regular daily work that it worries me not to have it to do.

Chores are pretty plentiful part of the time. We have now 7 cows to take care of (expect to sell one next month) and one calf, give them warm water and keep in stable most of the time. Milk four one fresh, just bought and we think a good one gives 12 qt.milk a day – sell 4 ½ qt milk daily for 6 c. qt and lately have been selling most of our cream for 18 ct qt. Sold 15 qt yesterday for ice cream and will sell all we have this week, after the holiday the demand for cream will fall off, but the cream now is worth about the same to churn as best butter is 32c. We have nice turkey in cellar for tomorrow and are looking forward to a pleas feast. Hope you & Edward's family will have a pleasant day together. We are going to have but little present giving, except to the children. Not feeling able to spend much money except on necessities. Lately bought a Bbl of sugar (granulated, for 6 ¼ c per pound. The cheapest Bbl of sugar we ever bought.

Allie has made some very nice cream candies and some fruit & nut candies, also chocolate creams. We do not give candy except just a taste to Sophie and she has had very little so far in her life. Tell Ed's wife that we have enjoyed maple sirup on Jersey buckwheat cakes made from the block of sugar she gave Min. We have not had any good Sleighing this winter so far. Just finished covering my strawberries with leaves the day before first snow fell. We have one Cala Lily just opening and our Mexican vines are reaching towards to window tops.

Love from all

Affectionately yours,

WH.

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