Subject: Household Help

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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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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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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Apr. 8, 1852

Dear all of you

We received your letter Tuesday which was the first we had heard of the delay of the Northern Light but went immediately to searching the papers & found it was so. Have not had any letter from Aretus Suppose you told him you had written. I came through all safe Carried the tin trunk to [Gust's?] Store in my hand & sent the other to the Western", [Gust?] went with me

to see the Northern Light but it was so late we could not examine it that night. So we went up to the Western where I got a room had my trunk carried to it & eat Supper. [Gust?] staid with me till about eight when John came & we took a walk in the city going nowhere in particular because it was too late John & [Gust?] were both very kind to me both went home that night But there is no use in my writing all this for I expect to start for home next Monday. Am having a very pleasant time here have had my teeth filled which cost eight dollars Dr Dedrich would not have done more than one or two dollars worth without pay & I think I should rather have Dr Carroll do them for pay than Dr Dedrich without. Sam is fat & hearty the first thing that struck me when I first saw him was that he looked just like Eddy his eyes are so much like Eddy's you know & he is fatter than Eddy now. I have all my money changed into gold excepting five dollars There is no use in my writing any more I am going home so soon

Ralph E. Burr

Ralph intends to stay a day in New York & attend to your requests — His teeth were all fixed before receiving your letter — Am much obliged for all you sent us – it was very nice & acceptable — I will endeavor to write by Ralph

Good bye
Mary

I like my girl very well & think I had better keep her than to get Margaretha. I pay Ann 1.00.

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Flemington, [*New Jersey*.] March 29, 1855.

My dear mother & sister

I thought of writing you last week but William went to Philadelphia & I concluded to wait until he should come home & measure the land. The state of the ground has been such (from frost &c.) that he thought it inconvenient to set stake much before this. The girls have gone to New York to buy furniture for Kate. Mr. Anderson by the advice of his mother in law sold the most of his furniture soon after his wife's death. They are to <*keep*> live this year near the Presbyterian church 2 doors this side of where aunt Hetty used to live I believe Mr. A. [*Anderson*] thinks of building this summer just above fathers two or three or four rods above I suppose which will make it very pleasant for them all. Hetty borrowed my brocha shawl for her trip it not being so much faded as her own. The children are fat & hearty. Laura very active & full of mischief.

I bought this pin of a pedlar for 31 cts. Mrs. Joseph Reading was in here at the time & admired it said she thought it looked like a higher priced pin.

I expect to be confined the latter part of October. William has proposed my going home this spring (that is if I will go without him) but I think that a visit so soon again would probably give you more trouble than pleasure & I have very little idea of going. My girl is to make a visit to New York in May.

My health I expect is about the same as when at home last fall. I have many bad feelings, of course – suppose if Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] were here she would consider me about the same as last Spring. Mary continues to assist in care of children much more than Ann did & I put it upon her. Mother has been in since I began this & sent much love to you.

I hope that you are not overwhelmed with care & trouble & that you receive support from above.

Sammy [*Samuel B. Hill*] knows the most of his letters both large & small. When I am reading he often comes & asks to say his letters & in this way has leaned them.

Yours affectionately
Mary B Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*]

We have had a cold dry March and the winter grain is suffering much – The prospect for a large crop about here is not good – We are quite busy now in shop – making tile and ware – rec'd [*received*] an order the other day for 5.000 lead pots –

On the 27 of March bought a piece of land at the lower corner of land to make our line straight and out to the R Road [*Railroad*], so that now the R Road [*Railroad*] is the boundary in a straight line for half the length of the farm with the exception of about 2 chains a little square of land belonging to Asha Hill which I hope to obtain some day and make the line complete –

I measured the land for M yesterday and will have the deeds made out as soon as I can get them done – The piece contains about 10 acres –
Cheese now retails here at 16 cts per lb – and not very plenty at that – How do potatoes sell with you – here they are worth 237 ½ per bu – We have been getting up a car load of man [*manure*] 100 bu to try on potatoe crop and a little to top dress land (grass) – Cost about 15 cts. per bushel, about the same as lime, Do not know whether it will do as much good in small quantities as lime but want to give it a trial

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Perhaps Super Phosphate of Lime would improve your pastures – it seems as if they ought to be renovated – now cheese is so high priced WB Hill
Wrote as far as above and went to breakfast taking care of myself and Laura [*Laura Hill*] who always meets one at table with a perfect string of Papa's and no one else answers half as well as Papa – Poor little thing if she knew how often her Father wishes her in bed or somewhere else would she be so eager for a seat on his knee Must away to office and work with love to all I am yours as ever

William Hill

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

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

My dear brother Ralph,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yesterday a little girl of our minister died — she was three or fours years old. believe all the other children of the family are sick — Joseph who is 13. Ashur 11 — Sarah 5 or 6 & a babe — but they are very good children, have given their hearts to their Savior & endeavor to spend their youthful days to please him. Will you not do thus my dear little brother, then when sickness & death come you will not fear. Christ will be with you — Jesus loves you now — then fly to his arms — & dear brother Erastus too — I want he should take this as written to him & also the whole letter — I will try to write him a little — I have seen a good many flowers up <*in*> with in a short distance from our house — We hear Whip-poor-wills almost every summer evening — they have been singing for two or three weeks — owls hoot evening & morning — partridge's drum day & night. have not seen any wood chucks about — your little dog does bravely — I can think how you look playing with your kittens — I am afraid that your furious animal that knocked Erastus down will yet kill one or both of you. or some others — do be careful. I suppose Ethan & Levi & Russell look & act pretty much as they used to — Our ministers boys help their mother a great deal — wash dishes &c —

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

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[*Addressed to:*] Mr Ralph E Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut.

All Well

[*Written across address:*] Mr Sheppard please send this up and charge the trouble to Wm [*William*] Hill

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Nov 4th 1849

Dear Ralph

This letter may come unexpectedly to you for I have just thought of writing it and not from any sudden movement of the spirit but because I have received an order to night for ten thousand more lead pots to be delivered in as short a time as possible. Now we shall require more help than we have engaged at present and if you have made up your mind to come to New Jersey this winter and could set out immediately and would be willing to work one month before going to school we would be willing to give you 20 dollars for your service exclusive of board. There are several reasons for my wishing you to come & one is that my Father is almost over done with hard work and I should like to releive him in some way. Do not wish to persuade you to come against your Friends wishes or interests and if they are not perfectly willing at home for you to come why do not come on our acc/ [*account*] but write to us immediately that we may know what to do; Have not done a single hours work out on the farm since my first letter to Mary when she was at home We hired all our corn cut & are hireing men to husk it besides the hands that we have in the shop

We have about 650 Bushels of corn in the crib and have a goodeal more to husk — The weather is still quite pleasant the last two days have been indian summer quite warm and pleasant. Our new rooms are walled up, roof not on yet, Mason built the new oven to day. I myself am pretty tired of constant work at the same thing but will have to get used to it I see — We have 400 bushels of lime ready slacked that wants spreading and a good many odd jobs, in fact at present I see no end of work — are building a new corn crib 25 1/2 feet long 8 feet posts and 4 feet wide at bottom, set up on posts 2 feet above groung to keep out the rats, Thus " [*drawing of barn of stilts*] I find it takes a good eal of thinking & considerable moving about to see that things are done rightly on the farm also to carpenters & masons and do my nearly two days

work in the shop Had 3 two horse loads of Yankee pumpkins in the corn from the seed that I brought from your house last winter; all together we had 8 two horse loads and I have had the pleasure of chopping up 1 1/2 bushels noon & eve for two oxen that I am fattening for the good of mankind, for a month past, Should you come on now you would still see a little of the country and be able to judge a little of the manner in which farming is done up in this unenlightened community. I take a bite of maple sugar almost every night and seldom forget here's to old Ralph or something like it, Often think of you all and would like to see you all very much, I love the wild and uncultivated spots of Connecticuts back bone and some of the places that I saw in that squirrel hunt are still present to memory, Mary says tell her mother that she made a mistake in sending for the yarn and that my mother wants two pounds of grey yarn and only one of white instead of the other way as Mrs Mary B Hill had it, she sat it down from memory and had confusion in her brain as all young housekeepers have and ought to have for dear knows they have enough to think of and too enough to do, Aunt H B Hill is spending the evening with us and she and Mary are chatting of many things at my elbow, but I do not pay much attention to what is going on.

Well you say here's a pretty budget of trouble and work of what is done, doing, and to be done, you can judge by this what occupies my mind I cannot think of many things beside work at present.

Now dear fellow if the things in this letter suit you and yours and you can come soon say first of next week or even the last you would be of considerable service and I will keep my promise made in the first part of this letter, Remember me kindly to Erastus & family your Father & Mother Carrie and all the rest & also to Maria Phelps when you see her,

The Presbyterian Minister left here (that is resigned of charge this week) and there is now an opening [*for*] a good minister that will put up with 500 or 600 dollars for a salary. Good night Dear Ralph

hoping to see you soon I am as ever

Your Brother

Wm Hill [*William Hill*]

I will just add — that William is almost tired out too — & I should be extremely happy if it would not be too much against your interest to permit Ralph to come Most affectionately

Mary [*Mary Burr Grant*]

William has written this with the speed of a steam engine & is <*waiting*> in a hurry to be off before the mail closes.

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[*Addressed to Pamela Benton Burr?*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Affectionately

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

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

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], March 22, 1834

My dear Brother,

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

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

shall not be able to stay long, it is desirable she should be ready. I will aid her to a light calico dress, & to a white one if necessary. Her other clothing, it will be desirable she should have made, before she comes from home. Probably she may now have nearly as much as she will need. When I come to Colebrook [*Connecticut*], I will confer with you about the course to be pursued after this summer. I very much wish you could be guardian both to <*Almira &*> Lovina, & Amanda. It would be much more convenient to me to co-operate with you in relation to these children, than with a stranger. I know your cares are many, but I believe you would be sustained in your efforts to secure paternal care for these dependent children. My cares are almost overwhelming now, <*but*> should they become greater than they are, it would be my duty to care for your children, if they should become orphans.

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

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

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

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

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

My dear Brother,

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

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

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

I should be glad to know how much she has studied on arith [*arithmetic*], geog [*geography*], gram [*grammar*], &c. It is quite important that before she enters our school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] she should be well acquainted with Colburn's First Lessons, written arithmetic through reduction, & be able to answer the questions on the map in some common geography, &

very desirable that she should have studied the history of the U.S. — It may be so that she can study a few hours each day, till she leaves home. If she is deficient in what I have mentioned, I would have her study if she can have the instruction she needs rather than have her earn something.

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

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

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

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

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

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

There is to be a protracted meeting here next week.

This week Thursday is fast.

Much love to all of you

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

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

My dear Mother & Sister,

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

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

Joel has again been sick with billions fever. Last week Wed. & Friday night he had a fever, Sat morn a chill, and severe fever followed which lasted 24 hours. He did not go out on Sunday, but at evening the fever came on with great violence, & continued till Monday night. As soon as he began to cool down & perspire, Dr. gave four large pills of such a nature, that the fever has not since appeared. Dr. says quinine alone will not affect his system properly. He is now giving him peruvian bark, mixed with magnesia & carbonate of iron also orders him to take a glass of <*small*> strong beer, the same as ale. four times a day. The ale is made at Detroit, & we get it here for 37 1/2 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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[*Note — in pencil. to Caroline Burr Grant from Elizabeth Grant*]
New Haven Ct [*Connecticut*]
Feb 28th '83

Dear cousin Carrie

Yours of Feb 11 was received & we were very glad to hear from you — thank you for your sympathy in our sorrow [yet?] — we feel as though Marion had gained a heavenly home and is now and forever <u>at rest</u>. She died of Pneumonia — had been with me since about the first of Nov. when she first came I was quite feeble — had taken cold & had a good deal of malaria — so that under the circumstances there was a great many things she could do to assist me, soon my girl left, & Marion thought that together we could manage the work, for a time, at least my health was improving so that I could do a little more than take care of baby — We got along very well together she only doing the lightest of the work — but she became very tired and thought best to stop & rest awhile. I engaged a girl to come & help me so that she could go rest — she came the 29th of Jan. that being the time M [*Marion*] proposed to go — was going to Davids from here to make a visit & probably would have visited with all — She was getting ready packing her satchel & arranging her things to leave in her room — when she was taken with a chill & her head ached dreadfully — she went to bed, and began spitting blood right away — this was about ten o'clock, before one, we sent for the Dr; when he came he said it was Pneumonia — but thought until Friday that she would get through it – she died Sat. morn at half past eight — she had a cold for some time & coughed some — & the day before she was taken down she [*in pencil* — went out to church a slippery, rainy day &] took a little more —

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*], March 11

Dear Brother & Sister,

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

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

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

I intended to write more, but have not time. The remedy for sore nipple is camphor gum & sweet oil, the latter will dissolve the oil. Camphor gum simmered in cream is an unfailing

remedy for piles – Please to write fully to us very soon direct to West Avon Ct. We want to know all about every thing, for you well know we are interested in all that interests you. With much love to all I am your aff [*affectionate*] sister

Abby – [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

A kiss for dear little Abby –

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Omaha [*Nebraska*] So. Wednesday June 27 [*1860*]

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

I hesitated some time whether to write to you or Grandma to send with the letter that I have just finished to my Uncle and finally concluded that I would reply to your letter, knowing that in that way she would hear from me. Tell her I think of her often and would love dearly to see her but I by my last remove have more than doubled the distance between us -- I am thankful now I assure you for pen and paper and I think the man who invented writing should be considered quite as much of a public benefactor as he who invented printing. I wonder who he was and what he wrote first. Then just think of all that has been written since from the Bible down through all great and small books papers &c. to this letter which I am writing.

But enough of that -- you know I suppose, that I am living now, in sight of the fast flowing Missouri but you probably have not learned that my husband and I are keeping house -- I am now waiting for him to come home to supper which is all ready, -- We have rented a little house and are really a family if it is a small one. I have no servant -- but work right busily myself at doing what I know how to and learning the rest, and we think we are about as happy as we can be.

Mr. Gaylord, the Congregational minister came to see me one day last week and he spoke of visiting Conn. [*Connecticut*] last year, seeing you and visiting at Grandpa's. He seems to be a very pleasant man <*I*> and I was very glad he thought to visit me for it was a treat to see one who knew so many of my Eastern friends.

I received letters from Mary Burton and sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] recently from which I learn that Mary Burton is going into the Grand River Institute as Assistant or Associate Principal two weeks after she graduates which will bring it about five weeks from now. She seems pleased with the prospect and will I doubt not, do well. My sister does not wish to return to Painesville [*Ohio*] another year but will pursue her studies in Canton [*Ohio*] where she can have every advantage so far as teachers are concerned that they have at Painesville. She has set her heart upon teaching too but I don't think Pa will be willing that she should go from home for that purpose. My precious "little Jennie [?]" as Boyd calls her is a great comfort to Mother and a great treasure to all of us.

Tuesday July 3rd I was interrupted just here by my husband and since then have not found time to resume my writing. We are having scorching weather for the last few days -- yesterday was terrible. The spring has been very dry too but the soil is so spongy that it seems to retain the moisture and vegetation is not suffering much.

You ask for the date of my little sister's death. It was just one year from the commencement of this letter -- the morning of the twenty seventh of June, 1859.

I wrote to Abbie [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] at [?] N. J. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] immediately upon the receipt of yours and shall hope to hear from her soon. I was under the impression that she was my debtor on the score of letters or I should certainly have written before.

Please write me soon and keep me advised of your whereabouts as well as your plans for the future -- also of my dear Grandmother and Grandpa. Give my love to them both and to Eddie -- bless his black eyes. Thomas remembers all whom we saw at Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] when there with great pleasure and would send love if here.

Yours, &c.
Libbie [*Burr*] Hereford.

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Lockport, Ill. March 25, 1859.

Dear Sister C [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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Mt. Pleasant.
Newark [*New Jersey*] Apr. 14, 1859.

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

For some weeks we have been just going to write you, but I believe no letter has yet been dispatched.

But with so many irons in the fire as we both have kept, we are at least excusable. Our house is nearly finished, but the grounds will require much time and labor yet. So to get such rooms furnished as we need will require some time and skill.

We have had applications to board families from New York and we think favorably of devoting our house to that use for this Summer. The principal obstacle is the expense of furnishing so many rooms. Our house is very generally admired and the location is very beautiful. It has cost me a year of anxiety --, but I have enjoyed it. Notwithstanding, and now cannot but rejoice at the result so nearly does it meet my idea of what I wanted it to be.

To-day is very rainy and my work is therefore suspended. This is the reason why I am found with pen in hand.

The spring promised to be very early, but for two weeks we have had it chilly and now almost cold at times, and so far this week it has rained a good deal.

Our family are well. Baby grows finely, and is very fat. We call her a beautiful child -- such she is to me.

If Abby [*Abigail E. Grant*] should visit N. Jersey [*New Jersey*] she must spend some time with Ms. If she were here now, we should find abundant employment for her, and I think she would enjoy the partial care of her little cousin Gertie. Can she not spend several weeks with us? I think it will not be practicable for Gertrude [*Gertrude D. Grant*] to spend a part of the Spring <*at*> in Conn, [*Connecticut*] as we contemplated.

I have now Mr. A.L. Dennis' eldest son under my instruction -- to fit for College immediately.

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant*] wrote a very pretty letter -- Has improved greatly. We shall be very glad of another such soon. Write soon & often. Your aff. [*affectionate*] Brother J Grant. [*John Grant*]

We have a girl now to assist Gertie [*Gertrude D. Grant*]
-- I home this will relieve us in some degree.

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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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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sat, P.M.
Dec. 8. 1860

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

We were very glad indeed to hear from you again, tho' we must admit we deserved it not. I have often said "let us write" and your brother has said "yes, very soon," and so the pleasure of doing so has been deferred from day to day. There is nothing in our state we would hide from you, tho' you would not be interested in the minutia in writing; if you were here, I should like to tell you of our hopes and fears, or joys as well as trials, for I know you would sympathise. The past summer has been one of peculiar trials and deprivations to us, but we have suffered for no really necessary thing, and have learned lessons of patient trust, and felt the goodness of our Heavenly Father in doing for us those things we saw no way to do.
I have faith to believe we shall be carried along in the way we are in here, tho' it is impossible to say. The boy from Chicago came to-day, is about John's age, the son of an old friend who used to live here. Very many have told us if Mr. G. would persevere, he would ere long find himself doing well, in this family school arrangement, over our house/place is well calculated for it, also good grounds, & plenty of good water, soft, & hard -- The church is in a dilapidated state, and we are doing what we can, for that. So you can see with church matters, school, & social obligations, there is no idle time. Tho' there is no excuse in our neglect, in that.

I have had the same girl (one of my "group of 15") to help me since May 1st except two weeks. I tried to do alone but had ague so badly, that I was obliged to have Hannah back She has been away now two weeks attending upon her sick Mother last week I did nearly every thing, and till Thurs. of this, when the same pain in my chest & shoulders came on, and I escaped a chill, by taking quinine in advance. Have an Irish woman now for a few hours each day. We have a lady (whose husband is in California) and her son boarding with us, so I have to have every meal just so. This Mrs. Stone kept house for her brother in our house last year. Have not had as much headache for a few days. shall get over <*them*> it if the ague is every out of my system. Have written but little of late, for my head would hardly let me do any thing, tho' I have kept along with my sewing. (mending) Those pants you gave me, sister, have done John a great deal of good he wore them about two months, tho' I had to mend them often to keep them on. A pair of partly worn one's were given him yesterday, have also got him a new pair to make. Mrs. Stone is going to assist me in making them. We are to have a Donation party next week. We hardly expected one. The times are so hard, and every body feels so poor, but our friends were

anxious to then give expression to their desire for our good. I shall be surprised if we receive much.

This letter will not be very connected. I have watched the baking of biscuit & gingerbread

[*written across first page*] while writing, and must still continue the watching. Am glad Abby can be with cos. Ellen. She will do her good in every way. Should like to have a child with her for many reasons. She knows, & will make others do those many little things that are so often overlooked, & yet are very important.

Hope Daniel may be prospered in his new undertaking. It has been a comfort to us that you could be at Father G's to aid and comfort them the past summer. Do not think we are unappreciative of your letters, or Marcus or Aunt B's. we are not & will try to be more prompt in future

John will write to his grandmother ere long. He hates to stop play, long enough to write to any one. He has to work a good deal & then wants to slide or skate.

[*written across middle pages*]
This day is mild as May. We <*have*> had a few days of severe cold two weeks ago. The canal has been closed since. Had a letter from Mary Phelps to-day. I never hear from Parney. We deeply sympathize with John & Gertie --

[*written across last page*] Gertie's father is in Chicago, we have invited him to visit us. glad you tho't of us thanksgiving day. we also tho't & spoke of all the dear friends at home
Love to you all from your aff sister
Abby.

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

Dec. 20, 1861

Dear aunt Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I cannot think of much to write; yet I wish to send you a letter so as to get one from you.

I used to help mother [*Mary Burr Hill*] a great deal before our girl came. I dried the dishes, and sometimes washed them. I often made the trundle-bed and set the table and we children almost always put ourselves to bed and <*ourselves*> dressed ourselves in the morning; We often took our bath alone. When Allie [*Alletta Hill*] and I went up to grandmothers and aunts Hates [*Henrietta Hill?*] I got myself and Allie ready without troubling mother at all.

Allie and I have learned that verse you sent us "O that it were my chief delight." I wish you and Eddie [*Edward Grant*] would come again this winter.

Your aff'.ate niece
Mary P.B. Hill.

Please give my love to uncle Daniel

We expected to send Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] letter yesterday with mine but it was not ready and she was not very well at noon and I thought it doubtful whether she would have it ready to day. The winter is here ground partly covered with snow and the ice making slowly. Think that war with Old England will be avoided, and hope that our army with not suffer very much this cold weather I often think of the sufferings of our soldiers, and would like to see the war ended in some way.
Our Sunday school children expect to have a nice time at the Church to morrow. They have a Christmas tree and all the scholars will have something --

Yours in haste
[*Mary Burr Hill*]

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

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

Dear Aunt Caroline:

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

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

Mother writes that it is a great comfort to her, to have Abbie with her. She makes herself very useful there, and is probably gaining somewhat in her knowledge and efficiency in domestic matters. Whether she thoroughly enjoys so secluded a life, I have no means of knowing. If she can be comfortable and happy there, I know she would be welcome to stay for any length of time.

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate niece
Mary –

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

Oberlin, O. [*Ohio*] Sep. 17th 1867

Dear Aunt Caroline:

Thank you very much for writing so particularly of Grandpa's last hours. I had expected to hear of his death from what you wrote to Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] while she was still with us. We have indeed great reason to take comfort in thinking of him as now at rest from all the burdens of life – Still engaged in the service of the master he loved but without pain or sorrow or weariness. I little thought when I visited Colebrook with aunt [Gertie?] in '61 that it would be the last time that I should ever see my grandparents. I have often regretted that Mr. Shurtleff and I did not go to see them when we were at Newark directly after we were married. But though I shall never see them again in this life, I feel sure that I shall meet them in an eternal home if I am myself, faithful.

You speak of mother's lameness. Thedie writes that she commenced to be troubled soon after Abbie left, and that she had some ill turns which she thought were worse than any in past years, but that she is better now. She had at that time (Sep. 6th) a good girl, who had been with her about two months. Thedie has resumed his studies at the College, and I think Philander's work has taken him away from home much of the summer so that I <*hope*> trust she has not been overburdened with labor or care.

We moved into our new house Aug. 30th It is not quite finished, but we make ourselves very comfortable without all the rooms, and are very happy in the prospect of having so nice a home which we may call our own. – Brother Edward was married in the Presbyterian Church in Lincoln on the 1st inst. and reached Oberlin with his bride the following Wednesday. They stayed until the next Monday. I liked my new sister Hannah, quite well. They seem very much devoted to each other, and full of enthusiasm and enterprise in view of their prospects.

Sister Lavinia expects to visit Ohio this month – is perhaps now in Jefferson, She may remain in the state until the latter part of next month. I intend to send mother some fruit &c. by her, and your package if you send one, might go at the same time.

I do not wonder that you have many anxious thoughts about Abbie. It must be hard for you to have your only daughter so far away. You inquire about her health. I should not think her by any means an invalid, though it is hard to form a judgment in regards to the matter. because under the <*impulse*> influence of excitement she will do and endure so much more than she is able to, ordinarily. She is not strong -- not able to endure hard work. I noticed one day when she

did some washing for herself (my girl did her regular washing) she seemed quite tired out. I thought it might be because she was not accustomed to that kind of exercise. She often walked downtown and back (1/2 mile each way) without appearing at all fatigued. She also devoted herself to sewing with great patience and constancy and without complaining of weariness. Some of the work would have been quite perplexing to me for instance the making over of two old dresses and cutting a new one. – I told her one day that for me such work required more patience than teaching school. She seems to have a great dislike for teaching. I tell her that if she could simply teach without having the care of a school I think she would like it. I was pleased to hear that uncle John thought he should want her. It seemed to me that would be just the place for her. I should prize the privileges I should there enjoy and a home in his family so much. It would be my judgment that such a situation would afford greater opportunity for general improvement than the routine of school life. I believe Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*] opposes the idea of her teaching anywhere.

It is pleasant to see him so tender of Abbie but it seems to me that he is unnecessarily so. His oldest sister two years younger than Abbie, improve[s?] the winter vacations in teaching district schools, and he himself (if I judge rightly) has earned his spending money, until quite lately, in a similar manner. For several terms past he has had some classes in the institution for which he is paid at the rate of .30 an hour. He will probably be able to find a situation which will pay him better during the winter, but I can hardly see how he could afford to pay Abbie's expenses, at school, in addition to his own. I should dislike to accept such an offer, if I were in Abbie's place. It probably would result pleasantly in this case, but I can but think of the case of a lady I well know who accepted a similar offer, for one term, and the match was soon after broken off by her lover. Of course in regard to this question, as well as the others of which you will, I do not expect you to receive my judgment as decisive. I can only tell how it seems to me. I always do that, candidly, where my opinion is asked, even though it may be likely to offend some one.

We see no reason to change our opinion in regard to Mr. Burr. We like his general characteristics, and think him a very promising young man. But we think his attachment for Abbie leads him into some extremes. He's young you know, only a few months older than Abbie, and this is, I suppose, his "first love". Some extravagance in the manifestation of his feelings seems quite pardonable. He seems to want to place her on a plane quite above the ordinary lot of mortals – keep her free, as far as may be, from either mental or physical labors and yet have her enjoy all the advantages which such labor procures at the expense of <*others*> himself or others. This does not seem selfish in him because he evidently does not seem to think Abbie is able to burden herself with any serious responsibility. She is the only person in the world who can convince him to the contrary, and this, I presume she can do, only by experiment.

I can but guess that his desire to have A. study more is due in great part to the pleasure he would enjoy in having her near him. I hardly believe he would particularly enjoy having her attend school away from Oberlin, though I may be mistaken in regard to that. To speak plainly, I am quite doubtful whether Abbie would be much benefitted by continuing her studies here. There would be so many things to distract her mind – calls from Mr. B. <*and*> the company of so many lively acquaintances &c. – though from all that I could see, I should not judge that the state of her health <*would*> is, at present, such as to be a serious objection to her studying or teaching.

I have written a long letter, and must now close to attend to domestic duties. I still have my girl with me, a part of the time, and [Eltie Lenrant?], a neice of Mr. Shurtleff's helps me some hours each day, but enough remains to be done to keep me busy most of the time. But I am well, now, and enjoy my cares. Please give my love to all at the "old homestead". If any of them come this way I hope you will admonish them to stop at Oberlin.

Your very affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Flemington
New Jersey

Oberlin, Ohio
Aug. 22nd '71

Dear Mother,

You haven't heard from us for a long time have you? It is too bad, but as you said there was the hurry of Commencement, and after that the hurry of getting ready for our visit, I took along pen and paper for the express purpose of writing to you, but while I was gone, found no time on acc't of the baby's needing so much attention,

I was driven very hard Examination week before commencement, I don't think I have ever been through so hard a weeks work before, I didn't commence to learn my graduating speech until Friday afternoon and spoke it the next Tuesday evening,

I did well, so folks said, I spoke against "Church suppers, Fairs, &c," Mary Shurlteff to the contrary notwithstanding, Quite a number thanked me for bringing out those sentiments, Several ministers, Mr. Hubbard the merchant, &c, And now seeing I am blowing my own trumpet I might tell you that I have received a great many commendations for the work I have done in teaching Latin, and also a very flattering public notice in the Reports of the Officers of the College read before a meeting of the Trustees and Alumni!!! There, I won't say any more about that or you will begin to say I don't "seem sensible,"

I shall not have to work so hard next year, I teach only three hours next year and have the same salary, School commences in just two weeks.

We had a lively time here commencement, Both days there were five or six here to meals and the same number to stay over night Tuesday & Wednesday, Mr. Bakers young people were here, Amanda's sister, and a Mr. House of Painesville who was classmate in New York and resembles me very much, All went away Thursday morning.

We could not get ready to start for our visit until the week after Com--.

[Delia?] was sick before and during comm -- from teething &c, so that Abbie could not get her dresses made &c, &c. We had a very pleasant day for our journey and reached Mr Thompson's about 9 o clock in the evening, We enjoyed our stay there much. They are very well to do farmers and it is a very nice country, One of the best farming sections I have ever seen,

After we had been there three or four days "Pettie" was taken sick, She was cutting two upper teeth and her bowels became very loose, After a day or two we stopped it two suddenly and a fever set in, we got her out of that in a day <*or two*> and then she began to get well,

So that we were able to come home last Saturday, "Pettie" has been quite well since we got back, There were a number there to take care of her and they thought a great deal of her, So probably it was not so hard on us as if we had been at home, The visit refreshed us very much, I checked through in a box a bushel and a half of splendid Early Rose potatoes, they gave us, <*also*> and they also gave us a large piece of cheese,

We found every all right at home when we get back except a large limb of the peach next the road had broken off in a storm it was so loaded with fruit,

We picked about a bushel of Barlett pears from the tree by the gate and they are now ripening and are splendid,

Abbie and I are alone now, Our hired girl left the Monday after commenmt, and we were glad we were through with her, Mother, hired girls are a pest, They waste more than they earn, and are a poor speculation, <u>It don't pay</u>, Folks call the girl we had a good one, <u>I hate hired girls</u>,

But a little more about Pettie, When she was a year old she weighed 18 1/4 lbs. She had just been sick more than a week from her teeth and with Sum-complaint, She had when a year old six teeth and cold run about the yard any where, She has two more teeth now I believe, Says "purty" at every thing she likes, calls the kitty "tee" &c,

The enclosed letter from Father was received some time since and Abbie took the liberty of opening it, We have been waiting to<*o*> send it when we wrote, Mrs. Hayworth & baby are not back yet, Don't know when they will be,

I enclose a little scrap about clover blossoms that I thought might comfort you, especially after all the persecution you have gone through on that point, I think you and that Dr. ought to write to each other and condole and sympathize, &c, Good thing you got your blossoms when you did, for it has been terribly dry here this Summer and is so yet, But I must stop I hope Aunt Mary is improving and that you all are well, Remember me to

[*written across last page*] Carrie especially, Much love you all

Your aff. son Almon.

[*written across first page*] I enclose one of my Faculty pictures, We had that class party here that we were talking about, 21 here, She that was Nellie Striely among, them, Every thing went off charmingly, Abbie says she cant find all <*the letter*> of Aunt Abby's letter,

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Oberlin Ohio.

March 4th, 1872.

My dear Mother,

I will write a little while this afternoon so as to have my letter ready when Almon writes. The sun shines beautifully now, but it is very cold, this morning was stormy and blistering, regular March weather.

I tried your wonderful soap this morning. Put the clothes asoak in it last night and did everything in order, but we couldnt make out that it was any better than other soap. not a quarter as good as the machine. Mrs. Fay had to take the wash board, and rub the clothes out regular old style, before she could make them look any how.

I am doing my work alone again this spring (Pet is climbing around me so you must excuse the writing.) I didnt expect to. had an excellent girl engaged. but her mother was taken sick, and she was obliged to give up coming. Girls are very scarce this spring. we cant hear of a single one, good or bad, but I am getting along very well now. Pet is getting to be like her old self. her swelling has been lanced, has discharged a good deal, and has now healed up. her eye teeth are through, and one of those opposite is through, the other now looks as though it would be along by tomorrow.

Almon had quite a severe atack of diptheria. the first week of the term, but is over it now.

I hire my washing and ironing done, hall hire some sewing after a while. get along with the housework nicely. Ill have to stop writin for awhile, for Pet is crying and hugging to hard to be taken.

May 24th My dear Mother, Almon is going to write to you this eve, so I will try to send a little. As you will see I commenced this letter long ago, before Pet had the lung fever. The dear little thing is getting rosy and fat now and seems to be quite healthy. She tries to talk a little more than she did.

I am not able to do much of any thing yet, but have a young lass here who is excellent help. Although I am afraid every day that I shall lose her. I had been sitting up but one day when Alice Stocking went home. She was obliged to go on account of her own housecleaning, moving, &c. I shall try to get your things together to send before long. Alice couldnt see to it before she went, for the letter only came that day. I do feel so sorry for poor dear Eddie. Shall write him as soon as I am able. Almon will write him too. Almon says that if E will come on here, he will give him work for a couple of months. though I believe A thinks that he wont need him much before the first of August, still if Es health is in such a state that he needs to come before of course he might and be welcome. A things Father would [hire?] him some too. and in the mean time you know he could be looking around, making up his mind what he wanted to do &c.

If I should be unsuccessful in getting good help this summer do you suppose that you could come out here along about commencement, or even after. I do not want to take you away from Aunt Mary if she needs you yet, but there is so very much to do this sum

[*written across first page*] mer and fall that I am clear discouraged every time I think of it. If I should happen to get real good help though, I could get along nicely. I suppose it will be decided before long now whether Miss Sayer stays or not, she is not attending school and if she does stay, I can have her all the time if I want her, she is a real nice housekeeper. I am too tired to write <u>any</u> more.

Love to all,

Your aff. daughter, Abbie.

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[*Attached envelope addressed to*:]
Mrs. Carrie Grant,
Clayton,
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]

New Haven, Conn. [*Connecticut*]
June 5, 1876

Dear Cousin Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

We received your letter, and was very glad indeed to hear from you & to know that you were all as well as usual; am glad that aunt is no worse with her lameness, think she must be a little better, at times, to go about even the little she does go, hope she will not get sick again this summer. I don't know what excuse to make for not writing sooner. I certainly thought I should write very soon & often, after returning home from there last summer, but I have kept putting it off from time to time until the long winter has passed and still no letter. I hope you will all excuse me. I have thought of you often & have heard occasionally through Cornelia, but my visit there was a pleasant one, and it did me a great deal of good, was better after my return -- & have been better through the winter, and am now stronger & have more endurance than last year at this time, & with hiring my washing, ironing & sometimes sweeping I can get along nicely with the rest of the work, and the sewing, but always find enough to do. My housecleaning is done & my sewing for the summer is nearly done, have only one new dress, a twelve & a half cent cambric, have made over two, the grey one I had up there & my poplin; more work to make over than to make new. I am glad that I did those laces for you, wish that I could have <*done more for*> helped you more about your sewing, suppose you do not get much time for any thing but housework. Are you thinking of going to the Centennial? I do not expect to go, think it would be very hard & then one would need to stay a week or more to see or even glance at all the things, suppose Lon will go sometime, perhaps not until September. There has been a change in the firm with which he is <*with*> this spring. Mr. Bowns has withdrawn his interest, selling out to Lon & Mr. Briggs, the other partner, so now they have it all to themselves, there was no dissatisfaction, but as Mr. Bowns had business in New York, which took nearly all his time, they all thought it was best to dissolve. Most kinds of business here are very dull, a great many men out of work, am sorry that Mr. Hill has lost his situation, it must make it hard for them all -- hope (she) ^Mary has as many boarders as she can take care of – should think she would have as it is so convenient to Phila. [*Philadelphia*]

We have heard that Minnie has returned to Oberlin. Grace has had sickness in her family nearly all winter, the three children have had whooping cough, scarlet fever & measels, & later, the baby had catarrh fever but they have all lived through and are pretty well now except the baby. Mother has been with them, is there now. Cornelia has had a hard time housecleaning, they have been painting & whitening the walls all over the house but are nearly through now. She received a letter from aunt E about the middle of May, and a postal card a few days ago. I found a soapstone a good one, what a comfort they are I think of you every time I use it. This letter is intended for Aunt E. too, although it is addressed to you. Hope you will write again as soon as convenient. Wish Aunt E. would write to me. How is Lennie this summer. Marion is still in Southford likes it pretty well her health is as good as usual. David & Alonzo's family are well. Must stop now. Your aff cousin Emma B. [Bownsird?]

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[*Attached envelope with printed return address*: "Return to Hallowell Classical and Scientific Academy, Hallowell, Me. If not delivered within 10 days"]
[*Addressed to*:]
Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass.

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

He is to have thirty five dollars a month.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oct. 14th

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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. [*Massachusetts*]

(Care [Dr. Collar?)
[*Note on envelope:*] May '78
Speaks of my Photograph of her using Lemons to aid digestion – of using Sulphur for sore throat of Nettie Burr's illness – of birth of Austin's second child – cautions me not to overdo it.

Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
May 21st 1878

My dear Mother,

Your letter with leaflets enclosed, was received to-night. Thank you. I shall read them as soon as I have opportunity. The photographs came a few days ago. I think them very fine, especially the one with the light background I think the expression is more perfect than the other, but I like them both and would be glad to keep them both if I may. If you have not promised or bestowed them all, I wish that you would send one to Mary Shurtleff.

I am not feeling very well to-day, but I attribute it to the damp weather. My health as seemed very good for the past few weeks. I think that I have used lemons with benefit, for some time I took one every morning before breakfast, now I take them only occasionally as I seem to need them, they seem to aid digestion and help fight away langor. My rheumatism is not as troublesome in my foot as usual, it is distributed about more. The fingers of my right hand and my shoulders have been taking their turn.

Nettie Burr has been quite sick with some lung trouble. I have not understood from their letters exactly what it was. The doctor considered her in serious danger for a time, indeed I do not know that she is out of danger now, but they called her better when they last wrote.

I dont remember whether I have mentioned to you that Austin Burr had a little son born on St Vallentines day.

The diphtheria has been quite prevalent here this Winter and Spring, especially so this Spring, and with fatal results in many cases. I keep sulphur on hand. Harold had been having a sore throat and I gave him the sulphur freely. I knew it wouldn't hurt him if it was only a common sore throat, and it might prevent something worse, he is now nearly well.

Carries [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] Whooping cough<*t*> left her weaker than usual this spring, but I can see that she is gaining strength every day.

We do not yet know how affairs of the school are going to turn out, but of one thin<l>g we are sure. If the school keeps another year we shall be rid of Miss Lincoln, for she has got beyond endurance. And steps have been taken to have her leave at the end of the year.

I should like to be able to invite the Townsends here, but dont see how I can. They would not be treated with common decency by Miss L, and I would rather not invite any of my friends until there is a change. I am glad that you went to hear Moody. But I feel concerned about you. I do wish that you would give up working so hard there. I wish that Aunt [Emmeline?] would get a woman to do the hard work, and that you would do the overseeing and some light work, of course you wouldn't receive the same amount of money that you do now, but hasn't the great necessity passed? or you could have her get a good capable woman, and you just look after things and help take care of Aunt, and you have your house there, and be at liberty to go and come when you pleased. I thank Aunt Mary very much for her kind thought of inviting us there, but if the school continues I think very likely that we shall go to the same place that we went last Summer. It did Almon [*Almon Burr*] so much good, he is living on the strength that he gained last summer yet. Whom is Mary Burr to marry?
I am sorry for Uncle John.

With much love to you all.

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

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Hallowell Me [*Maine*]
Oct 5th 1880

My dear Mother,

Your letter and postal were received to-night. It is a great disappointment that you cannot come now, for it makes your coming at all seem very uncertain. We had found that the American Board meeting was this week and were thinking that you would be here in a few days.

About the silk, it is not <u>necessary</u> for you to have it here. Hallowell people are not particularly social, and as you know I always stay at home if I can.

The boat is safe as long as it runs. its time of stopping varies with the season. Sometimes the river closes in the latter part of November. and sometimes not until a week or two of December has passed, The boat "S[*t*]eamer Star of the East" leaves Boston at 6 oclock P.M. Tuesdays and Fridays. at Gardiner four miles below here, you change to the "Della Collins," a small steamer which runs right along side, all you have to do is to step from one to the other.

There is some Small Pox in town, and the children and Cora, my little kitchen girl have been vaccinated. Harold has been very sick for several days. I never knew a case when the disease was so violent. Cora is beginning to be sick to-night. Carrie was vaccinated when a little child, so presume her trouble will be very slight if she takes at all.

The fare from Boston by rail is $3.95. or $4.00. I dont know which. but when Almon [*Almon Burr*] comes in I will ask him. Almon thinks $3.95.

Our lease of this house expires on the 20th of Nov. but unless the next tenant is very anxious to get in at that date, we shall probably be here a few days longer. I feel very sorry to leave this pleasant little house.

If you cannot come this fall you must visit me some other time. though of course it would be pleasanter if you could come while we are in our little house.

With much love to Uncle and Aunt, and Edward and your self,

Your aff daughter
AbbiE Burr [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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2219. Wabash Av. Chicago. Ill

Apr. 3rd 1881.

Dear Sister C,

I was most glad to hear from you, a few days since. It is a great blessing that your health continues. Your cares must be great. It is wonderful that your Aunt lives, eating so little & suffering so much # !

[*Written across side of first page in different handwriting*: # I did not write that Aunt suffered <u>now</u>, but she knows she <u>did</u> suffer with rheumatism & suppose she thought she did still. C.]

I am glad your kind care can be for her comfort. I do not know of any one who would do as much as you have done, & do, for aged feebleness, & helplessness -- God will bless you for it in the end, if you do not see it day by day -- I think of you very often, & know how full of care you are --

It is good news from Abby that you write! how little we hear of revival now, & yet the way of salvation is just the same, by repentance & faith in Jesus Christ.

We noticed the 23d of M'ch & spoke of Edward's new happiness, & gave him our best hopes, & warmest congratulations -- you did not say where they were to live, or what E. was doing.

I have hoped dear brother Daniel w'd come home some time, & still hope so, but who can tell what a day may bring forth! His life may be longer for the rough way of living, or may not. he evidently enjoys it -- & has large

[*Written in gutter between second and third pages in different handwriting*:] You may return this -- Abby has an Ovarian Tumor -- has been tapped twice -- is not expected she can ever <*recover*> be well again.

hope -- Am glad to hear so well of Willy at Marcu's & of them all. I did not know where Gertie [*Sarah Gertrude Day Grant*] was, or if she was doing any thing Am glad, for she will be so much happier for it, & can help Willy. neither she, or M. have written me in many, many months.

I have had bad health for a long time, & our Board in March voted me a leave of absence for three months! so I am with John & Susan, in their small but comfortable place, just before 22d St -- almost in sight of the "Home," & hear from it every day, & oftener. All is well there, & work is plenty -- Miss Bowman "holds the fort" --

John & partner, a Mr. Schubrujn, a Swiss scholar, have a very successful school of 80. pupils, & are encouraged -- J. & Susan enjoy their housekeeping vry much -- & I am so thankful to have this house to come to. It is quiet, & every thing done for my comfort -- I bro't a girl to take care of me, for I need a good deal of waiting on, & have little strength -- Have been here since March 10th am going to try with J'C's help to go down stairs to dinner this P.M. at 5 -- It will tire me but may not be worse for me -- have not been down since I came up --

[*Written across last page*] Love to your sister M. & family.

[*Written across first page*] Am always glad to hear from you. Our love to yourself, Daniel, & your children & grand children. Remember me most kindly to your Aunt C [*E*?]. I hope she may be better & more than all that her hopes for eternity may be bright.

Very af'ly y'r sister,

Abby. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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309 Gale's av.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
March 8. '82

Dear Friend: --

Your letter of the 3. was duly rec'd. Accept many thanks. I have been too much occupied to answer sooner. I received a short letter from Aunt Sybil but with no particulars. She was almost sick -- & her eyes troubled her and it was hard work for her to write. Sometime when you have the leisure please give us a long letter of particulars about things that you know would interest us. We should be glad to hear.

We have a German girl helping us now. She has been with us little over a week. She cannot talk or understand English very well but she is quick and willing and good natured and anxious to learn and wants to stay with us. So we are fixed for the present but how long it may continue I cannot say. We should like somebody that would relieve us more from the work and care but when she is taught our ways she would I think be a good servant. Will you not be going to N.J. and give us a call? By the time that you may be ready to come here we may need you and want you, so do not decide positively yet awhile <u>not</u> to come. We had quite a little tea partly Sunday evening Shall I tell you about it? It was not just the thing for the day but was rather unavoidable. There were two families of three each who wished to visit us to-gether and when they could see Charlie and that seemed the only way as one of the gentlemen is quite feeble not going out evening only to business in the day -- hardly able for that. It made considerable work for Sophie and me the last of the week to get everything in readiness for so many but it all went off pleasantly and we survived. But we do not care to repeat it for next Sunday.

How is Jennie? I rec'd the paper she sent. Was glad to get it. Our love to her. Are you staying alone? How lonely you must feel! Please write soon. Love from all to you.

Hoping to hear soon,

With much love

Yours
Fannie C.C.

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Office
Aug. 6 -- 83.

Dear Aunt --

Carrie told me the very first of last week to send back the letters you wished returned and I am sorry that I forgot to hunt them up I would think of them when here and forget them when at home

I reached home two weeks ago Saturday after an absence of nearly four weeks Spent one week in Oberlin and enjoyed every moment of the time in spite of the intensely hot weather. (In your letter you asked them to send you some of mine written while away the truth is I wrote but one short letter Postals kept the family informed of my whereabouts and that was all I could afford to do) I met many old friends attended class meetings Called at Mrs. Shurteff twice and should have gone there to tea but there was no time. Called on Mrs. Malthy She seemed much as she did four years ago Both she and the daughter inquire particularly after you They did not seem to know how Uncle Collen left his property, and I did not know either as much as I should have

Tues. P.M.

Had so many interruptions yesterday was obliged to put the letter aside until today. Mother told about Uncle's will and I have written to Mrs. Malthy so her mind is at rest.

While in O. of course went several times to Mr. Burr's. The family seem just as they used to Celin not very well. Has not been teaching all of the last year. Nettie is better than she has been but still not strong at all Thought I should not see Almon [*Almon Burr*] at all He was continually going like every one else but I did see him for a little while and he showed me some inventions has made for keeping circulars and [seraps?] of paper essays etc. in order. I advised him to patent and <*hope*> as he had the same advice before hope he will do so

The baby was not yet named A. looks thin but counts on the sea shore to [...] in <*three*> a few weeks what ravages the year's work has made

I did not call on Mrs. Johnston much as I wished to because there was so much excitement and it was feared that it would be too much for her I saw her however for a few minutes at Chapel Prayers one Eve. also at Prayer meeting I attended at great many exercises Heard Ex Pres. Hayes, Lucy Stone Blackwell and many others called at Pres. Fairchild's twice and was cordially received both times. Austin Burr was home but not his wife.

I Called in a house right next the one where Abbie kept house on [Wes?] Lorain St. the same St. on which Mr. Burr lives

I spent one night in Cleveland with Miss Betts before I went to Oberlin I went to Painesville with Helen Pepoon and was there ten days Mary Richards a classmate was also there we had a very pleasant time the weather changed and was cool and comfortable we were invited out four evenings in succession went down to the Lake went on a picnic to Chardon Ohio where I picked water lilies for the first time in my life Then Helen and I went to Austinburgh for four days visiting Frank Rydor and Mrs. McClelland whose husband is the minister there, So you see I went a great deal saw and enjoyed much Came home by way of Philadelphia and saw Sophie for a few hours

Am glad that I went and feel all the more like work because I have been Am trying to keep the money order accounts so that Father may have his vacation in October We have a young girl now and a woman comes to help with working and last week and this has helped iron also. Mother walked to church Sunday the first for a long time The new church almost finished Chalmers has been sick for several days Has not eaten high fever but is more comfortable today and will be up in a few days the Doctor thinks

Other members of the family well as usual By Dr. Parrish's request I took his [little mind?] down to Coney Island on day last week Nora enjoyed it very much and I enjoyed the trip down New York way but did not enjoy Coney Island

Possibly you may not be able to make this out very well as I have been obliged to write in a hurry

If Uncle Daniel came on this Fall I suppose you will go to house keeping. It is too bad that with his other misfortunes Uncle must have Bright's disease However he may live comfortably [...] time we had corn from our own garden today also tomatoes Have made our own butter since the Aldervery came in

Uncle William as usual He took mother riding Sunday Father to Sunday before and for a wonder [Diggier?] wrote Carrie last week

Work to do must close give my love to Mr. and Mrs. Pinney I remember with much pleasure my visits at their house

Affectionately William H.

Love to Uncle E. Mary Ralph and his wife and Ed to Lucy when you see them Me.

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

Dear Aunty

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She would go out so much and was so unwilling to do her work that it did seem a relief to have her away We have the washing done and have a good women to come two days and help iron and sweep and clean. Have had girls room cleaned this week and 3rd story stairs down and so third story is done for the Fall except of course we must look over things The Attic is in first rate order and clean as can be

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

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

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

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

Sept. 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thus you see it is all the time something on hand

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

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

With love from all

Affectionately

Minnie

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

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

Dear Auntie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

days there are very busy ones. Aunt Hettie sends her love. says she often thinks of you, spoke so nicely of you to night Carrie and I belong to a reading circle Chautaugua, so that takes some time. We get behind sometimes and then have to make desperate efforts to catch up. We have English History English Literature, and articles in the Chautauguana Magazine <*bup*> published by the Society Carrie and I read aloud to each other. We have a local circle in F. about 33 members. Of course while one stops to read, we do not get along quite so fast with any sewing we may have to do.

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Aunt Carrie

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

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

Mrs Grey was buried a week ago Tuesday. She was in Oswego with Helen at the time of her death. Was buried here in the Cemetery. Helen, Mrs Charles is still here, visiting at Voorhees! She and her little daughter, the youngest, called the other day. I had gone to Mission Band Meeting, and did'nt see her but Alletta & Auntie were home.
Sophie came home from Sunday School to day feeling very happy because she has been promoted to the big room Mrs Bell Thorton (Bell Mott) is her teacher. She received a copy of The New Testament this year for learning the little catechism. She was also promoted to the next higher room in day school this Fall. She has learned to read very well indeed, and is fond of reading to herself. Will started to school for the first this year. He doesn't enjoy it very much yet, it is pretty hard work for him to keep still. Alletta expects to go to Bloomsbury for about two weeks soon and I hope nothing will prevent her going. The change will do her good I think and she did'nt get up there this summer as usual. She will take Mary with her, but of course the others must stay at home to attend school. Mary does'nt look as though she needed a change. She is as big and fat and healthy as any one could wish. Was two years old on the twenty seventh of Sept. She begins to talk more now, but does'nt speak as plainly as the others did, is a little tongue tied. Sam took a photo of her in her "wedding dress" when he was home and I will get Alleta to send you one. We think them very good. We have begun house_cleaning have two rooms done.
Kate Capner is to be married on Thursday. I am invited to the wedding and expect to go. She marries Hirvey Finch Jr.

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

Aff. your niece
Caroline

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs Caroline Grant
Southfield
Mass *[Massachusetts]*

[*Note on envelope*] from Mrs Geo Fuller

New Marlboro
Feb. 19th. 1892.

Mrs Grant
Dear. Friend

I recived yours last night Mr. Fitzpatrick wanted me to ask you if you could have the house or part of it cleared by the first of March because he has a chanch to rent it and is afraid of loseing the rent of it I can help you right away if you want me as Miss Cadwell is here to stay with Alice, or when I get back just as you like I cannot help your son now for I would not dare to go so far away from home for I am afraid they will send for me or Telephone for me. I think I shall go to Gt Barrington Monday and then I will see about your [Hat?] Alice is a getting along nicely

Yours Truly
Mrs Geo. Fuller.

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Bittersweet

Flemington N.J.
May 6th, 1889

Dear Auntie

I feel rather conscience stricken for not having written before but have been too lazy on Sundays and took the time to rest instead of writing and go to bed at night almost as soon as the work is done. Our girl has been gone three weeks and we are kept pretty busy with churning and

boarders and housecleaning and sewing. The Sutphins are still with us, but they Expect to go back to their house next week provided they can get it cleaned, and Mrs S. is able to be moved. Have four rooms cleaned -- am speaking of our own house now -- but cannot get on with the cleaning very fast, as we cannot get help just when we want it. Father is busy with the garden now. Is still in Mr Emerys Office. Has not been feeling very well lately and gets tired very soon. The children are well and play outdoors most of the time and get in all sorts of mischief

They are perfectly happy if they can muss with water or dig in he dirt. Will was discovered trying to milk one of the cows the other day. He had dragged the stool up to the cow, and had an old tin pail, and had succeeded in getting a few drops of milk. He can do about Every thing he tries to do, and handles rakes, and shovels, and hoes remarkably well for so small a youngster. He is very strong and sturdy. Sophie digs dandelions very nicely and Alletta and Chalmers are as well as usual.

Sam has not been feeling very well, was unable to work for a day or two. In his last letter said he was feeling better. Do not know what the trouble is. When I was there he thought he had dyspepsia, and was Eating some fruit Every day. Either an apple or an orange. He is interested just now in taking photographs by flash light and has succeeded in getting some very good negatives. Louis and Susie are going on as usual. Louis paints watercolors some, besides the photographing and making of picture frames Sam says L. works all the time and takes very little time for rest. A brother and sister of Susies are keeping them.

[Min?] expected to go home with Mr Matterson to Seville last week to spend Sunday I think. Probably she will write to you about it.

Belle Mott is to be married on Wednesday in the Church. Cards were sent out to all the Congregation, and her young unmarried friends are invited to a reception at the house. She is to be married at 1.30 P.M. and the reception is from two to four. I have a card to the reception and Expect to go. Hope to go down tomorrow to help trim the Church, with the other girls. It is time I went to bed now so I must stop. Am feeling better than I did and am trying to rest and get better yet.

Aunt [Hettie?] has had a very bad cold but is better now. Hope [rd?] will improve now that pleasant weather has come. The first trees are all in blossom here.

Love from us all to yourself and Uncle

Affectionately yours
Caroline

Kiss the little ones for me.

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Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*

June 3rd 1889.

My dear [Mother?]

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

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

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

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

With love to you all
Abby.

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Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*

June 12th 1888.

My dear Mother,

I never felt certain that I was bennefitted. since returning home I find that I am no better than I was before I went away. The rest & quiet did me good. but I came home too soon. I could not have stayed longer for Carrie was giving out & Henry needed me. We now have a good girl & I hope that she will stay with us.

I have just been having quite a sick time, which is my excuse for not sending Uncles letter before.

The summer thus far is cold, but not very wet we are needing rain very much.

I am very sorry that you are so lame, hope that your arm is well by this time. It is too bad that you & father suffer so much from rheumatism. I think of you often. hope that your foot wont get worse.

The barrel was not unpacked until I came home. every thing in good order. not a thing broken or cracked by the journey. they are all very much pleased with the blue ware.

Almon seems better than usual this year. His department had just had it graduating exercises this evening. They report that the boys did very well. We are hoping to get Carrie off to school somewhere this next year. Where has not been absolutely determined upon yet. Carrie is very miserable this summer. so is Harold. Arthur is well & happy as usual.

Please remember me to Mrs Richardson & Mrs. Ticknor. also Mrs. Howell. Was glad to hear of Edward's people. Hope that this year will be a better one for them. Just a few things to day, that were Arthurs.

With love to you both,

Your aff daughter

Abby E.G. Burr.

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Bolton March 28, 87 (Mond Eveng.

My Dear Niece -- Thank you for yours & the other letters. You said I need not answer immediately. I delayed. I think I told you I anticipated coloring. I am happy to be able to tell you I have accomplished the delectable job quite successfully although not quite to my mind but as well as I could expect with no knowledge of the science. I have colored considerable in my life but always felt as I do now that I dont know much about it but I have always succeeded so that I rather have the articles after I had colored them than before. This time I colored Thibet or something that looked like it, all wool, a light brown for Sue a dress. It had a faded look, now it looks fresh. I also colored an all wool dress that <*that*> Sue had worn & soiled so that it was of no use as it was, [alittle?] darker brown for Mollie I dont think any one would suspect they had been colored. I colored some dresses that were soiled & faded, Enough to make me two morning dresses & a few other little things, I feel glad that I have got that disagreeable work done. I hope I shall not find it necessary to color again for a good while if Ever. Mary hopes so too. <...> She did the pressing & helped what I would let her but I would not let her put her hands in. She was invited up to Miss Osborns to tea the first day I commenced coloring. I did not undertake to do it all in one day I got all through with Sue's & Mollie's the first day that I colored for myself was part cotton & gave me more trouble but I got all through & I cleared up the third day. I took it so moderately that I did not get over tired & am well rested now. I had my common housework to do in the mean time. Tomorrow I expect to wash It stormed so today I concluded to wait for a

plesanter day. Mary usually washed rain or shine. I dont know as I told you that I was braiding matts I have made one good sized one & have another about half done, If you never braided one you dont know anything about the labor of it. I dont know how to do it very well & dont have the best materials but is such as I have been saving up for some time & when I get a matt done it looks very well. I made two last & am making two this Spring

Thurs. Evening I meant to have finished this letter before now. How time flies, the last day of March I can hardly realize, "The Winter is over & gone" although there is some snow to be seen now, We heard robins this morning

I hope you will persevere & get the old letters read over & burned most of them I hardly think any of your relatives will have leisure to read them over There is so much to occupy the whole time of Every one who can do anything & there is so much interesting [reading?] I presume your husband will read to you the Commentary your daughter sent I should think she was quite pleasantly situated & has good society &c I am pleased to read her letters I judge she has not much leisure time. & the Flemington girls are just as busy as they can be I am glad they can so manage as to pay a $100. on a note. Minnie seems to keep up pretty good courage which I am glad to see I wish her strength was Equal to her ambition. It seems that Lizzie Anderson Hyde has got to help pay for the new house if she has one I dont know as you have ever told me how much she had from her father & mother.

Sue & Mollie got through with the school examination very credibly & performed their parts in the dialouges very well indeed The High school gave an entertainment at the Hall in the evening which was very enjoyable the scholars were at liber[*ty*] to invite who they pleased & the Hall was pretty well filled.

Sue is hired for the year to play the church organ <*for the year*> is to have $50. which is the usual price paid here Mary & Bessie have been to Clinton today (the mildest day we have had this month I think) to have some dentistry done for Bessie & to get some trimming for Bessie's & Sue's spring dress Bessies dress is almost finished only to put the satin <*ve*> vest in. Sue is to have a velvet vest in hers her school dress is about finished [Amory?] uncle in Acton is to have a golden wedding the 27 & then the whole family is invited & I think we shall have some hurrying times to get them ready but I guess we shall be able to do it. That family is quite dressy. It must be quite an undertaking for you to get ready to go to Mt Holyoke's [...] [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] 50th anniversary. I should think you much prefer to stay at home, but you are some younger than I am. We are all in usual health & all are in bed but myself. Write as often as you can. Mr Wallis is quite comfortable if he does not exert himself which he is careful not to do

With much love

S J Wallis [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

I send little samples of the spring dresses we are making. The greenish piece Bessies the lighter blue Sues & the darker brown Mollies. I hope you are both in comfortable health

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

Bittersweet [*New Jersey*]
April ' 17 ' 84

Dear Aunty,

I return Abbey's letters also the one you wished of Fathers. Am sorry we have delayed so long but various reasons have been the cause

Mrs Herland has been here a little more than two weeks as a kitchen girl She leaves on Tuesday and goes to housekeeping again the 1st of May

We have been doing all the housecleaning we could while Mrs H. was here

Tomorrow we will finish the 3rd story. Attic and all and have already cleaned three bed rooms on 2nd floor so you see we will be able to manage the rest alone Mrs H. does not clean much but she helps get the meals and washes dishes Etc

Very unexpectedly to us one week ago last Wednesday night [Lizzie?] told me that Cliff had decided to move back to his Aunts to board until their house was finished

C. thinks it too far from business here at least that is the reason he gives. I am glad he is no relation to one He is nothing but a spoiled boy. Even Aunt H. says that. Lizzie has to give up to keep peace in the family.

They C & [L.?] moved a week ago yesterday we did not like the short notice they gone and told them so we had made arrangements which we would not have made had we known our income would be curtailed in this way

But somebody will come I hope Have had several applications but no engagement as yet

The present clerk at Post Office leaves May 1st Possibly I may get the place Shall do so if I can A regular sum coming in is better to depend upon than boarders

Father would try office had he not been elected Freeholder Chalmers is Justice of Peace and moves into office of his own this week for which we are all glad

Our chickens have done well this Spring we get nearly forty eggs per day Have two broods of little chicks already

We sell all our cream milk three cows and will milk 4 after a little Are raising Sweetbriars calf which is two or three weeks old.

More than half the garden is dug and planted very early for us Chalmers helps with digging

Sophie and Will have been vaccinated three times The third time Will's took and this last week his arm has been very sore and the poor little boy has been cross His father takes most of the care of him at night He is better to day and more like himself Sophie is to be vaccinated from Will

Will is a bright little fellow tries to talk and many words can say very distinctly

He is crazy to get out doors and always wishes to go to barn to see "cows" will cry if not taken there

Runs to where his cloak hangs and says "out" "out" He seems to have more fun and mischief in him than Sophie had Climbs like a little circus boy on all the chairs rocking chairs included Seems to have no fear and needs constant watching Sophie is very fond of him and some times sings him to sleep as they lie together in their big bed in their Mama's room

Sophie is learning to pick up her play things and to go on errands and helps her Mama very often

Aunt H does not seem so strong this Spring has worked too hard the past year but will have more time to rest now that Charly Hyde has gone

Father is pretty well tho troubled with rheumatism some Is so ambitious that he will work too hard when he gets into garden. Father washed off all the old [halumine?] from the walls of his room and [rekalsomined?] it and it has been painted and looks very clean and fresh

We are all longing for pleasant days Have had a cold spring so far

I am feeling better than I did several weeks ago but want to feel stronger yet

We are well along with sewing that could be done Early

Do you know that you never said whether the little shirts would do for Carrie Grant or not

Give love from us all to Edward and Lucy and the little girls I think the baby's name a pretty one

I must stop now and retire Glad you see Mary Sage now and then

Was Glad to read Abby's letters Am so sorry to know that Carrie Burr is not strong Poor girl There are trouble enough for those who are well

Hope she may outgrow some of her trouble Really got to it and wrote Abbey last week ---------- Monday Noon

A severe storm of hail and snow Hinders some with cleaning but we are making progress

Before we know that C & L. were going to leave we had ordered new shades for parlor & sitting room They are "Windsor sage" in color, perfectly [plain?] holland with fringe across the bottom We had saved [skim?] milk money to pay for them The old ones after twelve

years use are exceedingly shabby Hope you will feel able to write soon and report progress in preparations for Hadley Have we written that Charly Anderson has a little daughter Katherine Henrietta

Aunty and Lizzie are going to Vineland soon to make a visit would like to write to Julia Burr to congratulate them on birth of boy but cannot now. Have a plan in my mind for a table cover for your parlor table Hope to get at it some day

With much love to Uncle Daniel and yourself

Affectionately
Minnie

Give my kind regards to Mrs [...] if she remembers me & is still in New M.

Will send a picture of Will by [Abbie's?] request in a few days

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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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Beloit, Wis
Oct. 14th 1885

My dear Mother & Father

Please excuse the red ink, it is so much handier for me to use just now. We have all been pretty well this summer. I did not get over a < *…ry*> full so as to amount to much till a few weeks ago, and now I am not as strong as I was before. We have had a girl in the kitchen since about the middle of July, a German, has done very well.

Uncle Harmon Burr his wife < *f…*> Morrison [Ill]?. And Aunt Charlotte Ransom and her husband from Unionville, CT. visited here two or three days in the summer. Uncle Porter also spent a night and part of two days with us. Mr. Bacon who came to be one of Almon's assistants this year was here a week at the beginning of the term. We have had other people once or twice to stay over night or to means. I have invited company in to supper twice since the term opened, not counting Mr. Bacon who has been in more than that. So you see I don't have a chance to be lonely. Aunt Ann Burr, Uncle Harmon's wife is visiting me now she is to stay several weeks. She doesn't make any trouble at all and helps me a great deal. Carrie is in the High school this year and seems to be getting along easily. Harry is going to school pretty steadily so far. Baby Arthur is pretty well and happy. Almon also is able to do a good deal besides his regular duties, he writes and delivers a lecture every week before the normal class in the academy, and carries on a large Bible study or instruction meeting every Sunday morning with the College students, it really amounts to a little sermon, he did have a Sabbath school class of < … > from 30 to 40 members beside, but he gave that up two or three weeks ago, because he could not stand the strain of quite so much.

I have made a great deal of crabapple jelley, canned some, made some marmalade, put up a good many plums in various ways, and am now putting up some apples and quinces. It does take lots of time. Aunt Ann has helped me with them to-day.

Almon is enjoying his school very much this term. I heard him say not long ago that he had never had a pleasanter school, he enjoys his associates too very much. Mr. Wright we like better and better, and Mr. Bacon is delightful. The man whose place Mr. Bacon takes was not a help.

I have been down town this afternoon and bought some warm red flannels so when it comes cold again, I shall be ready. I have shirts and drawers both.

I don't believe that I have written a letter this summer since the one I wrote you before except one to Carrie when she was at Lake Geneva. She spent ten days at Lake Geneva with Prof. Whitney's family.

How have you all been during the summer? And how are Edward's people? I think of you all often if I don't write. Those dear little girls how I would love to see them.

I was greatly interested in the plan of your house which you sent. Thank you very much Father for your trouble in making it, and you Mother for your description of furniture &c.

We have bought but little new furniture here a rocking chair or two, some new dining room chairs (cherry) a carpet for the dining room and one for Carrie's room, table and chair for Almons study and some stoves. I am interested to hear from the Flemington people, hope that I shall get around to write to them some time before long.

Give my love to Edward & Lucy when you see them. I hope that they are enjoying their new home, with much love to you both

Your aff daughter
Abbie

[In pencil] Please return Ohio letters.

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