Subject: Land & Household Description

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[*Written on back*: About Cornelia's things]
Pamela Burr's share of Cornelia Benton's thing

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One Red black & yellow Single yarn Kersey Blanket	3	
1 White Kersey single yarn blanket Blue & yellow border	3	
1 White & yellow Single yarn Blanket not new	2.50	
1 Old red worsted bedquilt		1
1 Old Feather bed brown linen tick		3.50
6 1/2 yds. new diaper white linen homem[ade]	1.63	
Old flannel sheets what Frederic did not have	1.25	
1 2/3 yds. Coarse tow cloth for under bed		1.04
2 old linen sheets 1 brown 1 white		.75
3 New brown towels 1 1/2 yds. New kersey tow	.75	
6 old tow towels brown	.34	
2 1/2 yds. New Linen coarse		.60
2 old white <*diaper*> <*towels*>	<*.14*>	
<*1 Old pillow case*> 1 old worn out corset		[...]
3 Old cotton chemise		.16
1 Old worn out calico dress		.16
Sundry small articles twine pieces of cloth &c	.25	
Good Linen chemise		.34
1 skirt quilt & 2 skirts very old	.16	

[*Written on other half of page*]

1 High chest with 2 drawers		1.50
1 stand with 4 legs & drawer		1.50
1 Trunk covered with <*Leather*> skin	1.00	
1 New papered trunk		.75
5 Old baskets all she had here		.34
1 Little old papered trunk		.20
1 set blue cups & saucers		.34
1 Blue Pitcher		.17
Several Old wooden dishes all she had	.30	
2 Old pewter cups 1 quart 1 pint	.25	
2 Old pic tins		.13
Old Candlesticks		.16
Some Old crockery & tea canister		.12
1 Old pewter tea pot		
2 earthen milk pans		.12
1 Pair cards		.25
1 Old red Bedsted & rope very low		.50
1 Pr. Silver <*corset*> frame spectacles	1.34	
1 Old Calico Bedquilt in Squares	1.00	
Emelines Bed puff of Blankets plain wove plain filled with wool	1.34	
1 Pair Cotton pillow cases partly worn Emelines	.18	

[*New sheet of paper*]

<1 Blue & white cotton & wool Blanket $6>
Emeline's Share of C[*ornelia*]'s things

1 Blue & white cotton & wool Blanket	$6
1 Red & Green Blanket doubled & twisted wool	4

1 Old large Silver spoon	2.50	
1 Pair New Linen Sheets Marked No 1	2.50	
4 Old Linen Sheets 1 old kersy table cloth 1 white towel	1.72	
3 Pair New Linen Pillow cases	1.50	
1 pr. No. 4 1 No. 7 1 pr. Not. numbered		
3 1/4 yds Diper new		1
1 Large fall leaf Table		3
Half Loom Harness &c	4	
Best Low Chest	1.25	
Taylors Iron		.75
Looking Glass		.25
Large quart Glass		.12
Blue Plates		.50
Steel yards		.25
1 Linen Chemise		.34
		29.49

[*Written on other half of page*]

1 <*Nearly*> New Feather Bed		$10
Weight about 23 lbs. Linen Striped Tick		
1 New Red worsted bedquilt yellow lining		10
1 Pair <*Nearly*> New Flannel Sheets		5
1 Trunk Largest covered with skin		3
1 Pair New Linen Sheets white	2.50	
1 Calico Quilt pieced in Striped	1.50	
5 yds. New Linen		1.25
3 1/4 yds New Diaper		1
2 pr. New Linen Pillow Cases		1
1 <*New*> Linen Chemist	.34	

The letter C. is marked on both the Flannel sheets & C.B. No. 2 is marked on the linen sheets & No. 2 on one pr. of Pillow Cases & No. 3 on the other & C.B. on both

	35.40
	16
	$51.40

The above articles & 16 dollars in clothing are Susan J. Benton's [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*] share of Cornelia Benton's House Hold furniture & clothing
Feb. 26 1838

[*On the reverse*]

New Diaper near 1 1/2 yd		.36
2 Old white diaper towels		.14
1 Old linen pillow case	.06	
		.74
		29.49
		30.23
Clothing		23
		$53.23

Emeline Benton's share of Cornelia Benton's household furniture and clothing

It is set down on both sides this paper She has $3.07 cents more than I do because I took a Bed puff & pair cotton Pillow cases that were Emeline's for my self with 1.53 & paid her out of my share of E's things
March 10. 1838 Pamela [Benton] Burr

[*Written on other half of page*]

Emeline's & Jane's things that were Cornelia's are all in Emeline's low chest that was Cornelia's best

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

Wellington O}
Sept 24th}

Brighton September 3 '' 41

Much respected Relatives

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

And I would thank Cousins Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] for the tokens of remembrance we have received from them, and I hope they will embrace every opportunity to write to us. As for our health I can say I have enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health since I left Norfolk, ~ and Eliza's health I think improves from one year to another. She thinks she can endure hot weather and fatigue much better than she could two years ago. Her finger that has been so troublesome is improving constantly but not very rapidly she does not bandage it this summer, but subjects it to all the exposures and hardships that she does [her?]/others Our family consists of four, one a boy in the seventeenth year of his age whom I have taken till he is 21 and a hired girl, we live in a log house 18 feet by 24 partitioned into two rooms we have a stove instead of a fireplace and this hot summer weather we place it in a shed on the north side of the house where Eliza does her work leaving the kitchen for a sitting room, cool, comfortable, and pleasant You eastern folks who have always been accustomed to houses with more rooms in them than you well know what to do with, have but very imperfect ideas of the convenience enjoyed by people of a new country, who often have kitchen, buttry, bedroom, parlour, and cellar, all in one apartment of the size I have mentioned the dimentions of my house Now do not picture to yourselves a huge potatoe bin and a long row of musty ciderbarrels as the most prominent objects in such a room. for we have a way of not apt to produce cider till their owners are able to build cellars, but such rooms are placed where the neat housekeeper can display of no small share of taste and skill in so arranging her little stock of furniture that each article shall appear to fill its proper place without being unduly prominent, and in giving to the whole an air of neatness and comfort &c And such little rooms are great places for indulging in the sweets of anticipation for instance one thus situated will think of the time when the dense forest which surrounded the little mansion will give place to cultivated fields. When his little cabin will be exchanged for a mansion of greater size and elegance, when all the inconveniences incident to the settlers of a forest country will be overcome — when the fields and highways will become stumpless and smooth — and when all around, the impress[es?] of art will be stamped on the rude face of nature In Brighton we are thinking of the time when we shall have a meeting house — without steeple or bell to be sure — but commodious for the present, and we even talk of the time when it will require a larger building than 27 by 38 the size of the frame we have erected to accommodate the first Congregational Society of Brighton and it is possible we may then even listen to the "sound of a Church going bell" [marking] Eliza and I attended the commencement at Oberlin the 25th of August The day was taken up with exercises of the graduating class in the Collegiate department, Three young ladies took the degree of Bachelor of Arts Viz Miss Mary Hadford of Oberlin, Caroline M. Rudd Huntington, Conn Elizabeth [S.?] Prall New York City, They have been through with a full course of study — they

did not speak in public on that day but their compositions were read by professor Morgan and they appeared on the stage to receive their degrees, I have understood they were all affiance to [...] young men in Oberlin, the next day the theological graduates exhibited themselves we did not attend not finding it convenient to do so We were much interested with the exercises of the first day, the singing was excellent I should like to have cousin M [*Mary*] & C [*Caroline*] come and measure heads with Oberlin ladies

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

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

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

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

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

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*] June 2, 1843

My dear Parents, Sister & Brothers,

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

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

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

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

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

It was not very convenient for me to write much on the boat, so I just noted down a little now & then on a slip of paper which I will transcribe after writing a little before we left Albany — We just drove up to Mr. Butlers & talked a few moments with Jennette she said Ann Phelps was going to Chicago soon 90 miles from us — called at the school house & <*just*> said "Good Bye" to Desiah — as we passed along a little below Mr. Sam Gaylords Daniel sung Bounding Billows &c. several verses — some quite pretty & appropriate — it did me good — perhaps you can get them of some one — The first day as you probably learned of Joel, D [*Daniel*]. rode with him some leaving me to drive then Joel rode with me a little way saw no pleasanter farms coming to Wisconsin than in Sheffield & beyond — the next morning Joel & I went on to Albany 26 miles had a good visit reached there about 10 — called at a public house where I remained until 2 o'clock then I went on board the canal boat. Brockport, Capt. Chappel <*Capt*> when we reached Albany Joel went immediately to ascertain about a passage for us. Daniel arrived with the goods past 12 — & for some reason I was taken to the boat without looking for any carpet filling — J [*Joel Grant*] said he would get some I want to know about it I did not get any sacking for the settee because I thought we could get it here without the money & Joel said he presume 'twould be as cheap. Soon after we went onto the boat Jo [*Joel*]. came down & almost immediately word was given that we were to go to the other side of the river — So he bid us good bye & hastened out — an hour or so after Capt. brought from him a note saying that he had been looking at some stoves & thought twould be well for us to get one — D. [*Daniel*] looked & purchased one for $16 — funnel two spit boxes $5. I think it a very pretty stove — should think rather smaller than Uncle Silas' & much handsomer —

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

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

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

yet still I found I thought a good deal of meeting them on the steam boat on the lake — as we knew no other face —

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

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

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

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

* boat weights 30 tons

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

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

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

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

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

& spent a few hours, laboring to convert I suppose eat for supper bread & butter, cake & pie

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

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

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

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

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

[*page torn*] [...] about noon the cards had [...] was a boat going out to Milwaukie that P.M. & we got on it, for [...] we had [...] & gone to the falls Mon. did not know when we could go to Milwaukie as they could not tell when a boat would go out — want to know what you think about it all — do not you feel troubled — do not feel very badly — I do not feel as [...] gentleman did, "that he could

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*:] Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
Folio post.
[*Post stamp:* Prairieville, Wis. [*Wisconsin*] Feb 25 1844]
Dear Parents,
I have just returned from the office with the sad news of sister M's [*Mary Burr Hill*] sickness. I wonder we have not heard it before. Fear much the next we get will be more melancholy, but we wish to hear <*all*> particulars.
I hardly know what to write, but think as I have neither time nor room to say much I will confine myself mostly to some particulars which C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has noticed. You wish to hear more about our land & I will make you as well acquainted as I can with the limited time and room which I have. It is as you know 3/4 of a mile long from east to west, & 1/4 wide, containing as nearly as I can guess about as much marsh or wet prairie as dry land, the wet, pretty wet, and the dry, very dry. Many people think the marsh will be the most valuable land in a few years & I think there is some reason for such a supposition but our upland is not as good as I wish it was, it being white sand or gravel, that is, considerable of it. There is however from 20 to 30 acres good land and perhaps a little more, but that is but little for such a farm. The object I wish to accomplish is to sell 40 or 80 acres here and buy forty on sec. 11, the E. line of which is <*a*> due

S. line from the W. end of this farm. the S.W. corner of this 1/2 mile worth of the N.E. corner of that. Besides preserving all the advantages of this, it has a good many in addition some of which C [*Caroline*] has mentioned. The tract contains 80 acres, 40 of which Joel owns. We cannot sell this at present for money, but presume we can in a few months. have two opportunities in view not room to tell about them. If we buy where we wish to at the price C [*Caroline*] named we <*have*> must decide soon, for others stand ready to take it as quick as it is to be had. It is land under a mortgage & not likely to be payed & the mortgagee has made the mortgager an offer for it in lieu of foreclosing & he says as we have one half of it he will let us have the other half for what he pays. The land I bought for J [*Joel Grant*] sold for $8 per acre last spring J [*Joel*] paid but little more than half that & suppose that I can get the rest for $4 If you can furnish the money, we can use the avails of this land if we should sell part of it, to build a house, if not we must let the opportunity go. I feel that if such an arrangement could be made our condition and prospects will be much improved, at least, I believe I shall be contented. wish father would advise as much as he can in all my affairs

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

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

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

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

My love to all our relatives & friends,

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

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

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

Mr. I. Mills

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*], May 7, 1844.

My dear Parents,

Mr. I. Mills called here unexpectedly last Thurs. P.M. and we were very glad to see him — He observed things pretty closely for he said he supposed our Parents would "quiz" him —

Daniel has been so busy this spring that he has not got the house & yard &c. in as good condition as we should like to have them — in fact we are rather ashamed of the looks of things but hope for better times —

We have not yet got <*that*> a mirror plate as they would ask for putting it in $1. in Mil. [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] & we have had other uses for our money. I have had considerable leisure this Spring for reading — half or more of the time I take is consumed in reading news papers & Miss Heralds [The Missionary Herald, *monthly publication of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] — for the last 6 weeks we have had no milk of our own so that I have had less to do than usual — but the cow has calved to day — & we rejoice — we have had milk occasionally of our neighbors. as our appetites are not all the time very keen we find it rather hard to be deprived of <*milk*> it —

I am glad that you have got a pr. [*pair*] stockings footed for me, for I dont seem to get along with knitting as I do with sewing — I wish to knit Daniel a pr. [*pair*] suspenders, but cannot tell how to get it right — I have commenced two or three times & tried <*till*> long as I thought 'twould be of any use — no one here knows, at least that I have asked perhaps Matilda can tell you so that you can write — does She take off the first stitch & then put over the thread. & then narrow as we generally do? or does she narrow backwards — I suppose you will think I ought not to have forgotten. I think so too, & had no idea I had, till I tried —

<*The heels of the*> The stockings that I heeled for Levi [*Levi Grant*] had apparently rec'd [*received*] but little attention & new heels were needed I thought — Mrs. G. [*Grant*] wished them — I knit them to accommodate & I know dried apples & peaches will not come amiss —

I saw recently in one No. of our Cultivators a cure for Corns. — An individual pared off what he could with a sharp knife & then bathed it freely in sprits of turpentine & put on it a linen cloth wh. [*which*] he wet with turpentine — in a few days the corns came out root & branch. Daniel has just said that one of our neighbors recently applied some turpentine to a corn & it made him very lame & pained him so much that he was obliged to discontinue the use of it. I presume it does not affect persons alike —

We last fall bought some corn & have & expect to feed it to the hogs & oxen, except enough for our own use, as the<*y*> oxen are old & need something beside this marsh hay

Daniel has written a letter to Uncle Pettibone [*Amos Pettibone*] & given some description of land wh. [*which*] would probably interest you though I do not know but Mr. Mills will tell as well. Dan'l [*Daniel*] helped me make nearly half a barrel nice soap a few weeks since —

[*Written across second page:*] My health is pretty good though I dont believe it is perfect.

[*2 maps drawn on third page: one of the plot of land, one of the house*]

Daniel drew this map of our farm & was expecting to describe it to you, but I think he will not have time — there are 40 acres in each square — that crooked line is nearly a dividing line between the marsh & dry land — most of the upland rises rather abruptly from the marsh — the land fr. [*from*] the E. boundary rises slightly as far as the barn — there is quite a pitch between the house & barn there is a plain west of the house extending about 50 rods & from 10 to 30 rods in width — the remainder westward is broken — the 10 ft. 35 ft &c. on the map means that distance above the marsh. as we guess at it.

I think you will understand the house d. means door — w. window — if we stay here intend to have a closet partitioned off at the east end of the bedroom & perhaps move the partition between the bedroom & pantry so as to have the <*pantry smaller*> bedroom larger

we yet go up chamber with ladder. intend to have the settee stand extending from the S.W. corner of the kitchen to the library shelves. there are three rows of shelves on the N. & W. sides of pantry — the lowest one not quite three ft. from floor — on each end of the upper shelf on the west end stands a pile dishes not often in use, on the north end of the shelf large platters &c. between them are the canisters sugar boxes, &c. — on the second shelf at the S. end of the shelf first is an old tin platter with knives & forks daily used on it — next are the common earthen dishes tumblers &c & then blue cups & saucers plates &c. on the lower shelf at the S. end stands the soap dish the remainder of the shelf is used for milk at the farther end & between that & soap I put dirty dishes — the lower shelf on the N. side is used for milk & tin dishes, the second one for food & the third for candlestick & many "notions."

Dear brother Erastus,

We would like your help & company & I will write for Daniel something that you might expect D. [*Daniel*] says. people get from 12 to 50 bushels per. acre according to the quality of the land, the time of sowing & the manner of plowing & getting in seed to the ground — 50 bushels per acre is a very extraordinary yield — many say 25 " [*bushels per acre*] is an average yield but D. [*Daniel*] thinks 20 is — our land was not plowed well & some of it was sown rather late & D. [*Daniel*] thinks we shall do pretty well if we get 15 bushels per. acre this year — it now looks as well as <*some*> almost any other<*s*> about — The price of wheat is generally 50 cts. [*cents*] per. bushel, many times more & not often less. he does not know how much it will cost to prepare the land & gather crops, or at least cant very well tell now, but perhaps will sometime, but he says you could probably earn from $10 to 11 per month the year around — I think of you a great deal & love you much I want you should form right principles & opinions now & pious ones too — be kind to all — if you do sometimes feel that it is hard to be, Your affectionate sister, Caroline. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

[*Written across last page:*] We have got our crickets partly made

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

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

My dear Parents & Brothers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] Messrs. Eben. & Erastus Burr
Norfolk [*Connecticut*]

Sat. eve 9 o'clock March 3, 1849.

Dear Children

This P. M. your Father [*Ebenezer Burr*] went to town to Meet Mr. Hill [*William Hill*] they reached home about candle light bringing your letter mailed Feb. 11. So as soon as we have told 'bout things here will say what we wish to D. [*Daniel*] & try to send that to Dea. [*Deacon Elijah*] Grants tomorrow. The house was in order Mary Dressed & tea nearly ready when <*Mr.*> they arrived now near 10 o'clock they <*are*> Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Mr Hill are in the South room made very warm by a box stove which we borrow for a few weeks your pa & Ralph are in bed I am by our cook stove in the kitchen burning some coffee while writing. Suppose <...> that bed was worth 50 cts. [*cents*] a lb. [*pound*] here but I would not sell it unless you are coming here to live & never intend to go back there <...> to live Dont sell it <u>with</u> without cash down — & do not sell it at <u>all</u> it seems very strange that you should even <u>think</u> of selling the only good bed you have every family wants a bed & you would not be likely to buy a good feathers again why do you wish to sell it? It is late & I have a great deal on my my mind & cannot write well & have a poor pen so good night hope you will do what is best we are all well don't sell any thing for less than it is worth

Pamela [*Benton*] Burr

& we do not wish to advise <u>very strongly</u> in regard to D [*Daniel*]'s, going to California because we do not <u>know</u> what is <...> best The prospect of Caroline's coming home to stay with us 2 years is a strong inducement to us to consent to Daniel's going — <...>but I had much rather he would come here with you & about here a company talked of going from this town Levi Phelps Levi Gaylord Frederick Porter Charles Mills & others were going & Ralph was anxious to go & at one time we half consented but upon further reflection thought it not best & one after one they all gave it up <*after*> in the course of a few weeks & as far as I know <*e*> <*any*?> every one thinks they acted wisely in doing so If Daniel goes I am afraid his health will be <*poorer*> worse instead of better & <*poorer*?> <*insisted*> that he would be poorer instead of richer The outfit & 2 years time will be a great deal for him to lose

Dear sister & brother

It is now Sabbath morning – but am obliged to write now in order to get this off to Dea. [*Deacon Elijah*] Grants — I think the same as Caroline about D.'s [*Daniel*] going to California & know not how to advise — I should dearly love to have Caroline here – but I should be anxious & fearful that all would not end well with Daniel — Dont know exactly when or where we shall be married – this [P?] probably Tuesday evening at home – some wish us to go to church & have the ceremony performed just before starting — If you do not come on will write you a long letter soon — So good bye now <...> how I have wished you here with me dear sister all these long months kiss the darling children for me – love to Daniel & Caroline from their affection sister

Mary Burr

Dear Sister & Brother

<*want advice*?> I would by all means advise Daniel to go to California I think it would be beneficial to his health & that he would get some money too, & more than that I want Caroline & Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] & Eddy [*Edward Grant*]
to come out here to stay. Yours affectionately

Ralph E. Burr

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[*Addressed to*]

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

[*Note at the left side of address leaf*]

Caroline Grant
Apr […] 1849.
I think my children & Grant children may
like to read this.

Waukesha [*Wisconsin*], Apr. 2, '49.

My dear Parents,

My dear husband has this day taken his departure for California, & you will of course know that I do not feel much like writing – but I wish to ask some questions & have you write back before I wish to start for Ct. [*Connecticut*] do not now know just when that will be – probably sometime in May, perhaps the fore part of it. I will not now rehearse the reasons wh. [*which*] led D. [*Daniel*] to <*the conclusion*> decide to go, but he felt that it was best to go — Joel wrote us a letter approving of it – but, O dear – Father & Mother Grant are very decidedly opposed to it & D. [*Daniel*] says you all are. R. [*Ralph*] excepted – rece'd [*received*] her letter & yours a few days since & had two or three days previously recd one from her – poor Mother I am sorry she feels so badly & Daniel was, but he had all his a[rrange]ments made had put in some money, & it was di[ffi]cult to "back out." The company were not willing he should and he did not know as it was best – though he said if he could get his pay back he did not [know?] but he would stay on account of her feelings*

* he is afraid it will wear upon her & shorten her life.

— he has good company – in the wagon with him is a physician & wife from this place, one of our <...> best ones, & a conscientious Christian man.

Should we live we know not whether we shall wish to live in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] & we have concluded that I had better take with me one or two boxes at least of the best of our things. I shall probably go on the canal though I now feel that should the cholera rage much I shall wish to take the railroad — Should I <...> take the cars (& I dont know but if I should not) my box ought to be directed Daniel only to the care of the owner of the depot at Canaan I think. I do not know his <u>name</u>, probably R. Battell or Wm Lawrence & others [etc.] & <u>will you ascertain soon as possibly convenient</u> & <u>write to me</u> — I shall not sell the bed – dont know whether it is best to take it – can leave it with a neat nice woman who will take good care of it & use it for a spare bed, & has but little company, & we could send for it <*if*> when we wish<*ed*> to – if there is any thing in particular that you wish me to take please make it known – shall I take the seive & that little 2 qt [*quart*] brass bottle? — We are going to let our stove go but have reserved the copper tea kettle – shall I take it? Shall box up nearly all of the things that I leave – shall take the good bed clothes. What shall I do with the blue crockery? suppose I could sell it if best. I know not the price of it – could you send me the bill? have sold the largest rocking chair for $2.25 cash – intend to take the other along – do not intend to sell things at much sacrifice – how much is the table that we have worth?

Mother Grant requested us to write to her immediately on receiving her letter I have had no time until now, & I do not feel as if I could write to her but she will probably receive one within two or three weeks after you receive this, as Daniel said he would partly fill a sheet & send to me to fill it & send on — I expect to suffer a great deal from loneliness I suppose Mary is now in New Jersey – hope I shall receive letter from her before I leave Wis. [*Wisconsin*] – hope you will have some tomatoes growing – children are both well Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] talks a great deal about going to Neticut It has been a job to get Daniel ready – have been obliged to hire considerable sewing done.

Love to Erastus, Nancy & little May Ellen, Ralph and all — You must not reckon too much on seeing us you know some or all of us may be taken away before we meet —

Yours aff. [*affectionately*]
Caroline

I hope it will not be too much trouble for you to write within two or three days after receiving this, for perhaps I may find company or for some other reason be very anxious to go —

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

Dear parents brothers & sisters

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

Mother has given me a nice calico comforter beside what they wrote about & will lend some covers for the boys. My comforters both quilted & one bonnet made &c.
For three weeks or more I was obliged to dress every day for receiving calls. But they <...> have all <*through*> been I believe & my return calls are nearly finished My comforters are liked & quilts too, & every thing else too I believe — I often think of you & want to see you all – the darling little Mary I want to kiss — Love to all — Dont fail to write soon — Remember me to Kendleton & Canfield families & all friends & relations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear parents brothers & sisters

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

think I shall not have to work hard at all this summer — She washes & does up fine clothes beautifully — She has been here two weeks next Monday – does all the washing & ironing – there goes the door bell —

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

Dear Ralph,

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

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

W [*William*] Hill

Love to uncle, aunts & cousins — Will endeavor to write Aunt Eunice & family soon – as I promised to do — How is Matilda? When the beautiful boxes of cake arrived William said "this is aunt Norton like is it not"? We have radishes fit to pull and peas in blossom also potato tops six inches high in our own garden, and plenty of weeds. Have an acre of potatoes in the field just

coming up and ½ an acre of pumpkins planted a week ago. Today have been white washing over house inside. Converted the top of Box (Yankee) into a table to wash dishes on under piazza the other day.

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

Date 29 ‘’
Good Night

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut

Flemington, [*New Jersey*] Nov. 1, 1849.

Dear all of you

Before sending my last Mother could not tell me whether to send for yarn. She has now decided & I thought that the sooner you knew the better. She would like two lbs. of the white – wishes it three threaded, soft wool & not much coarser than this sample – would prefer it not any coarser — She would like 1 lb. of the colored – no finer than the sample & no lighter color – is not particular whether black or blue mixed – but wishes it dark – what I gave her washed lighter than this. Mother thinks that 1.$ per lb. was very reasonable (& cheap I believe) for the other & expects to give more for the white.

Beside my regular weeks mending – have mended the night cap I took home – a pair of drawers that were washed there – the chemise I brought from there – my trunk cover (quite a job of it) & two bits of old carpet. Mother & sisters are doing considerable sewing for me. Miss Dorotha Exton dined & spent the afternoon & evening with us yesterday — She set up some socks for William out of the yarn you gave me — My health continues good William is almost worn out with hard work – he has some chores in which Ralph could be of considerable assistance – such as feeding the beeves – milking a kicking heifer &c. However think the hurry will be over in two weeks – perhaps in less time — When orders for lead pots come they must execute them quickly or be in danger of loosing the custom[*er*]. Immediately on getting home I got Catharine a calico dress at 10 cts. [*cents*] yard – which softened her for a while — The effect is beginning to wear off – but I do not at all mind her occasional ill humor – would not like to attempt a change of help — Have given up the boy’s room to her charge — The flannel is not thought right — & I intend it home excepting shawls — Why is not borax as good as white oak bark? I think it would be pleasanter & mother says it would be better — I want to hear about little Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] – tell when Eddy [*Edward Grant*] takes the first step & how Nancy succeeds with Mary — Do not fail to apologise for my not calling at Uncle Norton’s & Mr. Eldridge’s. All are anxious that I do not exert myself too much & I do not. Am glad Ma had been no sicker before the last – fear she has been since – please be careful in diet &c. William thinks that a porter would not carry a trunk so far as from depot to the “Merchant’s” – thinks perhaps the bill at the Merchant’s will be only a dollar – they did not charge him but a dollar a piece for us – though they charged me alone 1 ¼ doll. William is so very fond of the maple sugar I wish Ralph would bring him three or four cakes more if you can spare them. I want to hear from you all — Kiss the children a thousand times – how plainly I see little Eddy reaching up his hands to be taken –

Affectionately your daughter & sister
Mary B. Hill

It is now between 8 & 9 in the evening — William has been writing his books until this moment & feels too tired to write in this – besides he has to take this to post tonight & wishes to be off & back again & to bed — So you will please excuse him this once. He s[ends?] love with myself.

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Corte Madeira [*California*], May 28, 1854.

Dear Parents

Have most joyfully recd. [*received*] some letters from home once more, Yours of March 25th & Will's mailed Apr 2nd, with one from [K?]ate, & one from Le [*Levi*] at his ranch near Sacramento reached me last Monday evening. Think I shall be able to get all the letters that come to San Francisco for me.

Am sorry to hear of Pa's poor health hope he will not be troubled with sick headache long, I sent a letter to Will last mail telling him all about our farming &c. don't expect to make much here every thing is cheap as you hear flour 12 dols barrel old potatoes 12 1/2 A bushel in town, costs three times that to get them there, new ones are worth 3 cts pound now, not many large enough to dig, ours are not

Can tell when we get through whether we make or lose not now. We have cut & sold about 40 cords wood pay 1.50 for it standing & sell it for 7,00 costs nearly .50 cts cord for team to haul it so we clear $5,00 cord have also burnt a pit of coal, have 378 sacks nearly 2 bushels in sack, expect to get six bit or a dollar sack next fall its only worth from 4 to 6 bits now, sell it in the city where they […] it to cook with &c. Levi Johnson was here & helped us a little about burning it, he is not dead nor likely to be though he might as well be for all the good he will ever do any one, he is a drunken worthless fellow, he came here first Feb. grunting & whining round pretending to be sick with only 6 1/4 ds telling over his hard luck (all of which was caused by his drinking) & tried to borrow money of Ethan to go home with but E. [*Ethan*] had none, he then wanted all of us fellows from that part to each lend him a little, but we knew 'twas the same as giving & did not feel disposed to do it, so he had to go to work lived here with us & burnt a little coal pit & chopped a little wood with our help & by the first of this month had about $75 clear & went to town to go home Ethan went with him to help him off, he could have bought a ticket the Nicanager route for $50 which would have left him 25 in N.Y. [*New York*] but he would not go, said he wanted more money, expect wanted Ethan to give him some more, but 25 is just as good as 2500 for him he would spree it away on the boat home, he has been over 200 dols expense & Eat. In this country now in one way & another, the last we heard of him he had started for Humbolts bay in Oregon & I hope it is the last we shall,

That piece of land of Mr Pendletons is just what I have thought a hundred times I would like to have added to ours but never expected there would be a chance to get it without the <u>lower meadow</u> too, if I was to have our farm I should take that by all means. I know it seems bad for me to be out here & leave Pa & Ma alone, if I had money enough to go home & take the farm would like to do it, & live with you, but I can never think of going there to work for 12, 15 or even 20 dollars a month to pay for it, nor would I want to buy it,& 80 to work on it to pay for it, & give any great price, if I can get money enough here to satisfy you for the farm before I get off the notion of going home, shall like to go & have the farm, & that of Mr Pendeltons with it, If you want to buy that land you can take what money I have sent home to pay with & give me your note, & when I get some more will send it along till 'tis paid for, & then if I ever have the farm you will have the use of the land for the interest of, the money & if I shouldn't have it should want the money & interest of course. We are on a creek about a mile from San Francisco Bay, there are a double of packet boats one of which goes from here to town each day & returns the next fare 2 dols each way Hart & Capt [Vandrum?] had a steamer running here to town this winter but it did not pay & Hart has sold out, must have lost considerable

Don't know how much on the boat. We have, been reckoning up to day how much Hart is probably worth & make out that he cant be worth anything in this country, if he has 8,000 at interest at home as he says he has, he is probably worth

That clear, we don't <u>know</u> for certain but have good reason to think so. we are in the village of Corte Madeira [*California*] there are two boarding [houses?] & [seven?] dwelling houses besides ours

Is my life insured yet?

I never had better health such a thing as cold or cough is not known here

There are some Indians around not but a few & plenty of Grizzlies though we can never get sight of one. The boys hunted for them considerable this winter but could see none although fresh tracks were plenty, they are harder to get near than [boxes?].
I have never seen one yet. There are five women in this village all married bloody Irish Hart has a river claim & is […] this summer
Levi has always been an honest, timid, true hearted friend to me & as good a fellow as I would wish to come here with.
Ethan is the same though a little inclined to take things [aisey?]. Tomorrow I shall be your 23 your old.

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

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

Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 4th 1849

Dear Ralph

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

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

Had our first green peas two weeks ago tomorrow, have had them most every day since but the hot & dry weather is cutting the crop short, the second crop are fast coming in but will not do much. First string beans day before yesterday, new potatoes are not quite fit to dig yet though I have pulled up a hill or two just to get a taste. Cherries & raspberries are ripe & currants nearly so (Mary says that currants were ripe 10 days ago; she wanted to be at them because they were red) also goosberries, We have no goosberries cherries or raspberries here but plenty of currants & can get goosberries plenty at home & cherries most anywhere. Well Ralph it must be something of a job to lay those thumping stone fences yet there is one consolation, once done they are a fixture, they always stay where you put them, Dont they? Now here we have to build a new post fence every twelve or fifteen years, sometimes sooner than that according to the kind of ground on which they are built The rails will last longer but the posts seldom do. Say to your Mother that a short time ago good molasses sold in New York for 36 per gallon by the barrel and tolerable nice brown sugar fro 4 3/4 & 5 cts per lb by the barrel. Just had our house painted outside a light brownish red, window shutters & frames white down stairs, up stairs Venetian

shutters green window frames white, are getting pretty well snuged up except some fence to white wash which will be one of the is to be done's for some time yet I fear. They are about to build a large hall in our village 60 feet by 30, 3 stories high, by stock subscription, for the use of the Odd fellows, Sons of Temperance & co. with one large room to let for lectures small shows & so on. 'Twill be quite an ornament to the village and is to be on a new street that has been laid to induce others to build in same street. Am sorry to hear that your Mother has had a sick turn again. Tell she must expect to find me somewhat mysterious sometimes in my writing. I was sure that she would say rather that M [*Mary*] was in bed than sewing. well we do go to bed pretty early and find it very comfortable after working hard all day. Give my love to Mrs. C. [*Caroline*] Grant with all the rest, Tell Mrs. G. [*Grant*] to write to Mary and that I would be glad to see her in Jersey any time. The Californians appear to be getting along pretty well, keep up something like a government among themselves are building up several little towns quite rapidly. Have one Presbyterian Church organized among them, & stern necessity will develop the agricultural resources of the country & after a while a civilized man might feel half at home there. Do you take any interest in foreign politics? I rejoice with the Hungarians & the Romans & hate the French for their foolish interference at Rome, with their cowardly folly in sticking to the wrong after they have found themselves out to be decidedly so, but that cursed false honour of the human race which drives men deeper & deeper in the wrong for the sake of others praises or blame is a prominent point in French character. Hope that it will not be long before the whole of Europe will bid adieu to kings & Emperors, and they be counted only as things that were.

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

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

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

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

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

Wankesha. Prairieville, Sept. 11, 1847 –

My dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

We have not made much taking boarders, don't know but we cleared 50 cts. per week. Think it was better to board Mr. Purington than to paid a dollar in or even 75 cts money. he called his board 1.50 & the house rent the same

Mr. Canfield the young man who boarded with us 14 weeks has lately gone home to Vt. [*Vermont*] Are now alone – expect before long to board a mare to pay for some work done on the house –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to:*] Miss Mary Burr
Care of Madam Sigoigne

No. 7. Washington Square
Philadelphia

Penn [*Pennsylvania*]

Written by Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] from Wis. [*Wisconsin*] – Gives description of their room at Mrs. Roots &c.

Prairieville. Jan. 8. 1847 –

My dear Sister,

Yesterday & to day are much the coldest days we have seen this winter. but by keeping our stove filled with wood we find no trouble in keeping warm in our snug little room. Several inches of snow fell a few days since & we have now fine sleighing –

A district Convention of Congregationalists & Presbyterians is to meet here next week – we have offered to furnish meals for two provided they <*they*> go quarter of a mile to lodge where our spare bed is – Mr. Curtis' family have removed to Milwaukie. The Cong. [*Congregational*] church there is divided <*&*> on they subject of Slavery & Mr. Curtis is to be the Abolition preacher – we have here hired for a year Rev. Mr. Tenney recently from New England – he has not such an interested eloquent manner as Mr. Curtis, but as much so as ordinary preachers, & seems to be a very holy man & preaches good sermons – his family are not yet here –

Daniel has been teaching school about a month at the upper end of the village nearly one half mile from here – has had between 30 or 40 pupils though it does not average [that?] 4 to 18 years of age – has $14 per month & boards at home – he is as well pleased as he expected to be – his health is good now though he has times of complaining of his head & stomach –

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] is generally well – she has some days of worrying on account of her teeth – she has 5 single <*teeth*> ones another almost through & 4 double teeth wh. [*which*] have almost made their appearance – she grows some speaks a great many words plain, & kisses very sweetly –

My own health is good except that I suffer some from pain in my teeth one side of my head & face – expect it is partly nervous affection

I enjoy myself much better than I expected to living in the house with another family – Mr. Root's people are an excellent family to live so near us. Find it very convenient & pleasant living so near church &c. we are but a few rods from the Cong. [*Congregational*] house. D. [*Daniel Grant*] has the care of sweeping it making fires &c. for wh. [*which*] he receives some compensation – $1.50 or $2 per month.

We live well this winter – use as many dried apples as we want D. raised our own potatoes more than we shall need for our own use we bought a nice fat hog for 3 cts lb. weighing about 350 lbs. We have several dollars due at the store so that we obtain sweeting & what else we need – our heifer gives 3 or 4 pints milk a day & we make as much better as we wish to eat.

It has occurred to me that perhaps you would like a description of our room. This house fronts the south the front door opens into Mr. Root's room – about half a dozen steps to the N.W. is the door leading into our room as you enter just at the right stands the stove & in the corner near is <*are*> the wood & chips – about three ft. long 2 wide & 2 high wh. [*which*] answers for a chest & seat. On the same side is a recess just large enough to admit a bed before wh. [*which*] hang 2 white curtains (sheets) – I will not attempt to mention the things kept under the bed – on the west side next the bed is kept the stand, with the band box on it, & the carpet bag filled under it, next are placed two or three chairs then a cupboard the top of wh. [*which*] serves for clock shelf, & book case, it is one of the boxes in wh. [*which*] our goods were brought out here in wh. D. has put 9 shelves & before wh. [*which*] hangs a white curtain.
On the South side are 2 windows, between them is the table, above wh. [*which*] hangs the mirror & under it stands a trunk, a chair is before each window
On the <*north*> east side between the door & wall is another trunk with the water pail upon it, there is also a window on the west side –

I will endeavor my dear Sister to give sufficient attention to my teeth to preserve them, though I do not feel that I shall often expend an half hour daily upon them – I laughed when you said that you had <u>commenced</u> <u>being</u> <u>particular</u> <u>with</u> <u>your</u> <u>own</u>

Wm. Pease said that my front teeth were decayed very badly to fill, & that he gook a great deal of pains in filling them. But I am sorry to say the filling in two of the cavities has for some two months or more been loose & recently a piece came out as large as the head of a pin – there had previously one or two very small particles came out –

Why do not the Madame's & Md'lles' [*mademoiselles*] let you have a better place to study French than in the midst of "A mirthful noisy school girls?" & only occasionally a recitation! I do not see how you can make much advance <*much*>. I would not spend a great deal of time in writing to cousins &c

Harriet Prevost's death must be a deep affliction to her friends – present to them our sympathy & love –

D. Hurlburt appears much as he used to intelligent agreeable &c. looks some older has two children a girl & boy – has acquired a handsome property.

How do you like that plaid dress? The trimming that was on my white hat that I intended to have taken home I have found since returning –

Have had no letter from Father Grants people since my return – have had two from Joel [*Joel Grant*] & Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] – J. has been sick most of the time since June – I rec'd [*received*] letter from our people soon after yours, am glad they sent yours, your lecture to Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] was needful & good, hope he will hear it – I am anxious about Erastus [*Erastus Burr*] – Should like you to forward this home as <*I*> it will save my writing so soon to them –

We are not yet decided where we shall live next summer. Daniel cannot feel that it is best for us to return to Ct. [*Connecticut*] & stay a few years. As it will be so much expense to go & come especially if we move our goods & if any were left they would be in great danger of being destroyed by mice or persons or both & he does not feel <*as though*> that there is any one here with whom we could safely trust our property, land &c & think it would cost a third more to live there than here – had he built a house last fall the man who was to build the barn would have put it up & [some?] of the $50 that Mr. Short was to pay & some money for D's work last summer was expended for lumber so that arrangements were made not to run much if any in debt for the building of the house

Mr. Short has not yet fully paid the $50 & there have been no deeds exchanged

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[*Addressed to Caroline Grant Burr*]

Jan. 23. 67.

My very dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24, Wednes.

As to articles I bought from you, none came [....?]. Even those little, new patches wh. [*which*] I almost thought c'd [*could*] do no good, (you know I am not partial to small <*pa*> patches) are just the thing for mittens, & the black hood, with short cape, is just the thing on the windy prairie, the clothes pins too, woe to the garment that falls upon this black sand. But brief time <*fails*> does not allow me to say how often I am reminded of yr. thoughtfulness & kindness. The boys think you are a wonderful aunt, & that cousin E. Pinney must be a wonderful cousin to think to send them maple sugar. Please remember me very kindly to cousins Orville & Elizabeth, also Mrs. Allen Mrs. Lawrence & all inquirers. Mrs. [Batcham?] (our nearest neighbor when with you) says, Sylvia Allen was one of her most intimate acquaintances when she lived in Granby, Conn. that she was well acquainted, with Truman Allen's family etc. Whether she knew Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Allen, I cannot tell

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good Bye for the present dear sister.

E. Burton [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

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

[*Stamped on upper left hand corner of address leaf*] WILKINS
PA

[*Written in stamped area*] Oct 19th

East Liberty [*Pennsylvania*] Aug. 8=1839

Dear Father,

Whatever concerns us, I suppose you will be interested to hear. We have finally concluded to go on to a farm. I have accordingly purchased in Pike County Ohio. The farm I have purchased consists of 232 acres, about 100 under improvement with a house nearly finished which will be sufficiently large and convenient. The farm is situated 2 miles from Piketon the county seat, and 4 from the great Erie and Ohio Canal. There is at Piketon a small presbyterian congregation to whom it is the arrangement that I am to preach as my health may permit. That and the surrounding neighbourhood I should think presented a field for usefullness.

But my chief object in writing at this time is to endeavor to persuade you to remove and settle down by us. Upon a general view I have no doubt it would be to your advantage and that of your family to remove to the west if you would sell at a price which property be as in New England. As to the particular part of the country where I have purchased I am not alone in the opinion that it is at present the most favourable point for purchase and emigration at least in the State of Ohio. The land is less than half the price of land <*of*> of the same quality generally in Ohio. <...> Various circumstances, which I would detail if I had room, have contributed to prevent the rise of land in this particular section of the state but circumstances which must now cease to operate. For the farm I purchased I gave a fraction over <...>nine dollars per acre. There are other farms, one immediately joining, to be bought for from ten to twelve dollars. It is the opinion of good judges that the price must in a few years be more than double what it now is. Should you have ant serious thought of removing I would write more particularly and I think could furnish you with additional facts going to justify the opinions I have expressed. I leave the remaining part of the sheet for Elizabeth.

Your affectionate Son
Wm. [*William*] Burton

Oct. 11.

Dear Mother,

Mr. Burton has left me more room than I can occupy. I hope we shall <*if nothing*> make a final remove in the spring. I am pleased with the idea of going to a farm Cannot you go and settle near us? I fear, from what Cousin Parnel says of your health, that you would find journeying difficult, but you could come by water from Albany almost to the place. We are not perhaps, on the whole, more in favor of frequent removals than you, still we think, as I suppose you do, that they prove advantageous sometimes. Mr. Burton thinks he has made the best bargain, but that other good ones may be made still. He pays $2250, — $1000, this fall, the rest in a year.

I was very very glad to see cousins William and Parnel. I hope they will arrive safely at home, tomorrow as they expected.

We are all well. Little Mary is still well, and I have not weaned her yet. I must as soon as my girl returns. I suppose she will come tomorrow

I do not much expect ever to visit New England, though I may. It appears a married lady never knows what she can do, or what she cannot. It is all right or it would not be so. It is easier to say “it is right” than to feel so sometimes. This is indeed a world of wonders

If friends can meet, can enjoy each other society in a world of bliss, beyond the grave it matters little where they sojourn here. O my dear mother, shall we meet in that better world, fathers and mothers, brothers, and sisters sons, and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, and all our relatives, how numerous they are, but I ought not to say a word upon this subject, I am so ready to make a [portion?] of this world. Next Sabbath is sacrament here. Mr. B. [*Burton*] goes to his preaching place tomorrow.

I could say much more but M. E. [*Mary Elizabeth Burton Shurtleff*] is waking, & it is bed time. I only add do not show this. I have neither attended to grammar, <*or*> chirography or composition in writing it.

How is brother John, how are you, how are the rest. I was so glad to hear from you by cousins.

E. G. Burton [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

The more I think of it the more I want you to be neighbors to us. The society needs to be improved, though our farm joins Gov. Lucas's I think, and there is already some good Yankee society I am glad of that The Yankees are the best after all

The little girls are in good spirits and send love. M. [*Mary*] is improving and I doubt not would look very inquisitive upon her grandmother if she could see her. She cannot walk yet

E.

We had little M. E. baptized the last time Mr B. preached at [Mc. Keesport?]. How little can be said on a little piece of paper, besides it is becoming more and more difficult, I fear, for me to find time to write. You must not look for a letter from me often. Maybe you will come to Ohio yet. I should so rejoice to have you, though I know it is very expensive as well as troublesome moving. By no means move or have any anxiety on my account. I only ask you to pray for me and mine

I think sister Martha is a very <*fine*> good girl from what cousin P. says. She says she does a great deal of work and keeps the house as neat as a pin.

Love to all.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elisabeth Grant
Mill Brook.
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Wankeshaw [*Wisconsin*], Apr. 12, 1848.

My dear Mother,

We rec'd [*received*] your letter enclosed in Joe's yesterday -- were very glad of it -- have been looking for it ever since the receipt of Joe's letter in Jan. as he said he though you intended to write soon -- We are very glad to hear that your health is comfortable & Father's good -- as you are to have workmen this summer I hope you will have help so as not to be obliged to work so hard yourself -- You speak of the hope of visiting us within a few years -- we hope it may be brought about for we should greatly rejoice to have you do so. Am much obliged for the little present sent in your letter -- You speak of sending some things to us, they will be gratefully received -- shall think a great deal of any thing left for us by dear Martha the dresses you spoke of will come just [right?] for I shall be obliged to have some soon, & may thus be saved the necessity of getting any, or more than one at least -- dried apples will be very acceptable -- we have been without through the winter, for we used ours all last summer having so large a family we have had a peck of green apples this winter. My Mother wrote sometime ago that they were expecting to send some dried applies & a few other things, & asked me to mention what we most needed -- I hardly know what to say -- the first thing that I now think of is a pair of india rubber over shoes, though if it is not convenient to send them expect we shall get them sometime in the course of the [...].

She spoke of getting some knitting done for Abby -- she has a supply for the present, but next winter will need two pairs of every day stockings. I am afraid she will have them knit too large -- a pair of coarse mittens would not come amiss -- she has very small hands & a slender foot, but rather long --

Mrs. Root writes that they intend to have their Parents come out here & live with them, & does not know as they shall all be ready to come until sometime in the summer, but says Mr. Root will return early this Spring -- do not believe it would be best to trouble Mrs. Root with the care of anything as she would have her aged Parents children to see to, & if she had not I dont know but any thing would come as safely alone as with her --

Should think it would be well enough to send by Mr. Root if he does not come too soon for your convenience & it were not so much trouble to ascertain about it -- the same of Mrs. Root's Father is Wilcox (Reuben I think) they live in Alford a small town near Stockbridge --

Daniel was very well through the winter, but for two months past his health <*it*> has not been as good -- for the last three weeks he has been quite unwell with what the Dr. calls pleurisy,

occasioned by a fall he rec'd [*received*] three or four weeks since -- he has not been confined to the house, but has been unable to do much he is non improving & we think will soon be pretty well -- My health is about as usual -- Abby is most of the time pretty well, though she has suffered more or less for two or three months with cancer in the bowels & the blind piles -- is under the Dr's care -- he gives medicine & ointment that relieves & we hope will permanently cure --

She plays & talks a good deal -- I was saying something to day about a duck & she said, ducks is down to Mr. Lockwood's. She had in her mind one of our neighbor's ducks that she used to follow around last summer. I think she has not seen it since -- I did not know as such little children remembered things so long -- though she has often spoken of incidents several months after their occurrences. She knows nearly half of the letters -- we cannot very well avail her learning them as she commenced a while ago asking the names of them as she was looking at pictures in books -- we did not intend to teach them to her for sometime yet --

We have felt quite rich for a week past for we have new milk -- our cow was dry two months & a half & for sometime previous to her drying up she gave so little that we could make no butter -- we have been obliged to live very plain this winter, but have been blessed with good appetites to relish what we had, & now as Spring advances & our appetites call for more variety, a kind Providence is providing it for us -- we expect soon to have some maple sugar, eggs &c -- think Abby has a very wholesome appetite, she often takes a piece of bread or cold potatoe & eats it with a good relish she seems to have a great dislike to beans -- every thing else she east that we have --

We have our bed room floor laid. -- hope to have in the course of the summer more floor partitions laid up the remainder of the windows in, & some plastering.

Our Antislavery Sewing Soc. [*Society*] meets this P.M. usually attend, but I thought best to day to take the time & write to you, & beside I have some sewing on hand to do for Mrs. Codding which she wishes soon as may be -- believe Mr. Codding is expecting to remain another year -- he gives good satisfaction so far as we know -- there has been this Spring more than usual religious interest in our church -- some <*who*> of the many who had got far away from God were brought back to take their proper places before [...], & there have been several conversions but there has not been a general outpouring of the Spirit -- we feel that our souls have not been entirely passed by without a blessing -- last fall Mr. Tenney our Minister last year gave us a book entitled "Views of Sanctifications" by Prof. Finney -- I think his views of prayer that you speak of are not in this book, but I believe that there is a book containing some of his sermons, in the place wh. we will endeavor to procure & read –

Dear Mother,

In haste I sit down to write a few words <*just*> though I hardly know what what to write

I would like to know what is the matter with uncle Luther is his mind affected? give him my respects, and also the rest of the family tell Martin to write to me I will try to answer if he will

I have been trying to get a living by teaming and could do so very well if I could get my pay as I go along, but I cannot however it will be wanted when it comes I got the team on account of my health and I know my health is better than when I labor on a farm I could have done better this winter in a school I suppose but the spring has now come and I believe I can do better with the team than any other way my health has not been good for some time but as good as ever when the warm season is approaching. I am now quite comfortable and feel that the spring seasoning is almost past if so it has past much earlier than usual I have hired a man to drive the team till I am strong again and get some other business done up He has now been here a week and we have earnt in that time $16, besides some other work that we have done I drove the team about two months before I bought it and my health improved rapidly during the whole time and until the middle of Feb. when the warm weather commenced my health never was better.

I intend to write to our people before long -- I mention about [her?] shoes Abby's stockings &c because I thought perhaps it would be convenient for our people to read this letter some time before they would get another from us

D. <*Daniel*> last fall build a very comfortable warm stable for the horses & cow of rails and [strake?] --

give my love to all friends --

Your aff daughter --
Caroline

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

My dear Mother & Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope we shall soon hear from you.

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

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

Jefferson, Ashtabula Co. O. [*Ohio*] Sept 17, 1850.

Dear Father,

Having understood from Mr. Smith that you have some thought of removing to the west, I am induced to drop a word in regard to it and will merely state a few facts, and how the matter strikes my mind in view of them. And in the first place, there are farms for sale near this place, of different sizes, from 200 to 30 acres; one of 30, with a small but new and well finished house and barn, within about a mile, all considered cheap.

But another plan has struck our minds, -- the house we have purchased is quite large enough for two families, with a barn altogether larger than we need, indeed large enough for a middling sized farm. If you had a mind to come and occupy with us, we might entertain the hope that it would be agreeable all around. The amount of ground attached is only 6 1/2 acres but if you should still be disposed to do something in the agricultural line, there are pieces of land for sale within from one mile to half a mile, from this place. If you should be disposed to pass the balance of your life in comparative ease the plan of removing would occur to me to have the recommendation of economy. We both now occupy an extent of building that we do not need,

and not available to any profit, at all corresponding to the amount of capital invested. In the plan of your occupying with us, and improving a small piece of land, there is on our part a touch of selfishness. Is it that you might afford to our sons, some part of an agricultural education. They promise to be tolerably able bodied and have altogether more action than either they or I in our present situation, know what to do with.

If you wish to inquire as to any particulars I have not stated please communicate.

If you should seriously entertain the thought of removing and occupying with us, and would wish a piece of land in the vicinity, I would either improve the first opportunity to purchase such quantity as you should designate, or have it till your arrival, to be decided by your own judgment. We understood by Ms. Smith that you had present opportunity to sell, where you are. If so I hope you will not lose the opportunity at least, without giving the subject due deliberation.

I have employed Elizabeth as my amanuensis and for this you will see a sufficient reason in my signature. She intends giving mother a more particular description of the premises.

Yours affectionately.
Wm. Burton

Dear Mother,

I hardly know what to write, but hope to hear from you soon. Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Smith, & Mrs. Roxana Marshall, with her husband and two children have visited us since I wrote you. I heard some thing of you through them. Mrs. Smith said you had not heard from Daniel for some time. I rec'd [*received*] a letter from br. [*brother*] Jno. [*John*] day before yesterday. He wrote from Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], apparently in haste -- stated his own calculations, but said nothing of Daniel, or Marcus. Please write soon about them.

I am very anxious to know your own calculations. I hope you have not misimproved an opportunity of selling your place. I should feel so much better about you if you were located more snugly. I have often wished you could live in our house. Mr. & Mrs. Cooper still occupy some room in the house. They are very accommodating, and though Leavinia's babe cries a great deal they do not seem to be annoyed by it or the other children. I cannot say whether you would enjoy living in the house with so large a family of little children, but if you could accommodate yourselves to us, it would be pleasant to us, to have you here. I did not like to say much about it. I waited to see what Mr. Burton would say, & you know he is rather slow with regard to some things. I fear this letter will be too late.

Brother Phelps & sister Susan have been quite sick but are better.

I wish to send many thanks to sister Caroline for her kind letter. I rejoice that she manifests such a Christian spirit. I should love much to write to her, but my time is occupied. I have to write a great deal for Mr. Burton

Margaret is attending school in Austinburg. She started on Monday. I hope to hear from you soon.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] daughter,
E. [*Elizabeth*] Burton

Much love to all our friends. I am very anxious to know what father thinks of coming west. I have seen none of uncle Calvin's family yet.

Much love to sister Caroline & her children, also to Joel and his family.

I visited at cousin Leysander Cowles (Rachel's) but aunt Olive had just gone to see Kezia, & I did not see <u>her</u>. She has since returned to Austinburg.

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Marysville [*California*] May 10 1854

Dear Mother

I received your letters dated July 24 and Aug 28 one month ago and did intend to answer it by the last mail but it happened so that I could not

I am now with Daniel. I came here yesterday. He is quite pleasantly situated for a married man leading a bachelor life in California. He has seven cows now and expects three more every

day. He rents them for one half the butter and cheese that they make. As yet he makes nothing but butter.

Now for myself I have nothing very interesting to write in fact. I don't know what to write. My health is tolerable good at present and for the coming summer. I have no definite plan of operation. I may stay here with Daniel and get more cows and make some cheese. How do you make [runnet from green bags?].

I learn from Daniel that there is a chance in this neighborhood to buy a team of oxen and pay for it in hauling lumber. But the terms that Daniel says that the team is to be sold are pretty close on the buyer I think. Any how I think it most likely that I shall stay in this neighborhood what time I stay in this country.

In your letter I have a very good sermon. Sermons are a thing that I hardly ever hear here and the one you wrote I hardly believe that there is one in ten that has studied theology three years that could equal it.

In your letter were a few lines from Caroline I am very much obliged to her for them.

I received a letter from Joel about a week ago dated Feb 2.

I wrote a letter to John a month ago and should be received about this time.

I can think of nothing more to write.

Much love to Abby and Eddie,

Your affectionate son

Marcus Grant

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

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

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

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

The top of the house being then made safe by the height of the outer and inner walls becomes a very pleasant place for the gambols of children, the dances of <*the*> light hearted youth, and the

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

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

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

The French still keep up their blockade of Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*], though there is now a prospect that a few weeks will put an end to it. The more I learn of the affair the more I detest the conduct of the French, and the more I admire the conduct of Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*]. The matter is now in a very doubtful state, as it seems not unlikely that the French will bombard the city. The inhabitants who do not carry arms are leaving the city in great numbers, and it is though that there are not less than 5,000 women and children, in this city from Buenos Ayres [*Argentina*]. The soldiers with <*their*> General Rosas at their head are determined to die rather than yield to the claims of the French. To the original claims which occasioned the war France now adds about $4,000,000 which have been expended by her carrying on the war, a circumstance which presents a double barrier to the making of a treaty. But of these things I will endeavor to write more then I know more.

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

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

I now say I cannot be content more than six months longer without hearing from you. My father and mother how can I endure to remain in suspense concerning them. Perhaps they may

one or both, be sleeping in their graves. Let me assure you that, notwithstanding some faults, they, like other human beings have, never were children blessed with better parents than we. Often let our prayers ascend that as the prime of their life has been laborious, self denying and prayerful their old age may be peaceful and happy from the virtues and character of their children and their death the sweet repose of the righteous.
My brothers and sisters too how I long to know their situation. And as from time to time I run over the list of uncles and cousins which it is my happiness to have, I feel that none but those who like me have wandered can like me feel the worth of home. It is now summer here or rather it corresponds to your month of April. The winds called pamperos blow here with great violence and last night we had one which drove off to our ship 15 or 20 poor birds that could not (or did not) resist its force

Your affectionate brother Joel Grant

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[*Daniel Grant to Joel Grant*]

Sept. 27th 1852

Dear Brother,

I have nothing of consequence to add to what I have already written but feel that I must write a little more.

With our present P.O. [*Post Office*] laws I don't know whether to pay postage to you or not. I suppose you have to pay the carrier his share if you receive letters upon which you have to pay the postage which is as much as the postage is when prepaid.

It is but a short time since I learnt the use of these three cent bills which have become so common. Government must make a speck on them I think as thousands will be purchased that never will be used.

It will not be long now before we will learn whether there is anything in our river claim or not, or at least we shall soon get a prospect of a part of it. If we find nothing it will not be best probably for me to remain much longer in this country.

I have been down again since writing the sheet that accompanies this & am not yet able to work at mining, but am better than I have been for two months. Marcus is well & works all the time for me If we get nothing from the river <*clame*> claim it will be hard for me to pay him but I think there is a good chance.

<*Bartons Bar Sept 26*>

<*Dear Brother*>

<*It is now nearly two months since I received your affectionate letter dated June ??*>
I shall be able to work next week. I earned $10, last week in the co, by going on to the works & taking charge

We had some difficulty with co.s, above us & our president was sick & <*I went*> the rest were all <*fritened*> frightened so I was called upon to push on the work, & settle the difficulty if I could, though I did but little work I will have my pay as much as though I did the work of the best of them, at any rate I settled the difficulty to the satisfaction of all parties.

I wish you to direct letters to Parks Bar as I stated before.

We have had no letter from home in a long time.

Give my respects to Abby the children uncles cousins &c.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] Brother,
D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Care of E.P. Grant Esq.
Canton

Ohio U.S. A.

[Ahmeduaggur?], June 10, 1840.

My dear brother Daniel,

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

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

We are interested in our work, & happy [...] I feel that we have a wide field, & need the prayers of those who seek the extension [...] Christ's kingdom at home. Mr Burgess is devoted to his work.

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

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

Dear Brothers, Phelps & Daniel, & Sister Susan,

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

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

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

Our bathing room is one of our choicest luxuries, & we are not sparing in frequenting it. During the hot season which is now giving way to the rainy season, it has been to us invaluable. From the first of April to June 1 the thermometer (excepting two days when it stood at 99 [*degrees*]) has risen to above 100 [*degrees*] in the shade, (open air) -- quite a number of days it has risen to 105, 106 & 107, -- yet by keeping rooms shut, & by frequent bathing, in general, we have not suffered much from heat. Yet there is a [*languos?*] which unfits one for rigorous action, & is one of the trials of missionary life in India. Below is a parlor, breakfast room a small room, which I call mine, & a dispense room answering to a pantry at home also a room which I use for storing away things. None of these rooms are remarkable, they are generally convenient. The house is very old, but it is comfortable a part of it, is of stone, & part of mud brick. In my parlor I have a ding table, a pretty table, a couch sofa like, & about 9 chairs. We brought a rocking chair from America & Mr. B. [*Burgess*] purchased another in Bombay of the Capt. of our vessel. So we have each of us one, one we keep above the other below. My furniture is respectable better than I expected. Indeed I wish you to think of us as happy. As for eatables, we do not get much variety, though we have many good things . Eggs are abundant & cheap, much more than fowls,

Beef & mutton are good, particularly the latter. Sweet potatoes & onions are our principal vegetables for cooking Rice is an important article of diet. We also get good wheat bread from the baker, & I often make it myself. I have my butter made in the house, every morning. Fresh fruit may be had almost every day, some of which is very fine & would be so rare in America that we often wish we could get some to you. -- I forgot to mention that our house is surrounded by pretty gardens. It has rose bushes, just arrived, artemisia, a species of hyacinth, & many other pretty flowering plants. It is shaded too by the Tamarind the Pride of India, the gum Arabic tree, the mulberry the [pineful?] pimpuree sandal wood, & several other trees whose names it would be difficult for me to write in Eng. [*English*] I often walk in the garden, & botarize some have pressed some hundred specimens. Next vessel I shall see a letter from you, I think. Any letter you know as posted in N.Y. [*New York*] will finally reach us.

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

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3 Tuesday AM.

I kept this letter that I might return Aunt J's and Abbie's

This morning none of the trains are running in consequence of the very severe rain storm of yesterday We needed the rain badly I never saw it pour harder
Mail was delayed last Eve and Father and I did not reach home until after nine oclock and had a wet dark walk

Allie fell part way down the cellar steps, on Sunday and sprained her foot and of course has to keep perfectly still

She is comfortable and we are thankful that she is no worse off. She will be able to get around by next week How fortunate that we have help

I may have time now to write a little about L's presents

Aunt H. gave her Duchess Lace for her wedding dress which was white silk long trip and our dress of little Charly gave a very handsome white embroidered fan

Louis Anderson a very beautiful set of bed-room china Mr & Mrs Hyde Grooms parents an ice pitcher. Mrs Van Fleet a large engraving of a scene from Shakespere [*Shakespeare*] I believe in a very handsome bronze and velvet frame Allie & Chalmers two handsome towels on which Allie embroidered the letter A. Father you a very pretty colored glass pitcher

Sam, Carrie and I gave a photo of Richter's "Neopolitan Bay" similar to the one Mrs Earl gave me Cousin Eliza Hill gave a set of 1 [dry?] silver nut picks in handsome case Sophie a very pretty hand satchel of Alligator shire

Charly Hill a pair of vases Cousin Annie Pierce a pair of vases Cousin Nancy some very pretty fine handkerchiefs

Dr & Mrs. Sullivan 1 dry cut glass goblets with monogram

Some one I forget whom gave a hanging lamp all there [were given 1 long?] for table not nearly so pretty as Allie's Also a tea set of china not very fine also a dessert set with butter flats three very handsome brush & comb case with contents, [another?] silver ice pitcher 1 [casten?] a very pretty lemonade set brass silver with glass pitcher and 1 dry glasses two colors 1 cake basket 1 very pretty fruit dish silver & glass Ella Hill gave a beautiful bureau

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

Single Folio Sheet

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

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

As for the house which falls so far short of your expectations, you and Mrs. Burr had so much to do with alterations &c. that a contract would have been of no use had there been one. In the letter which I wrote him I described the house you wanted after I returned, and you also wrote a description and he wrote to you that he would build such a house for $10 more than I agreed with him <*for*> i.e. for $65. The following is the plan for the house I proposed (I have a copy of my letter.)

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

I suppos[e] you wish to borrow Levi's horse occasionally which must be [u]npleasant to you. I think you had better buy one of some kind, and if you think necessary for that purpose I will

lend you some part of the money I send you which you have not laid out. It will be well to purchas[e] a mare who can do all your work, take you and Caroline wherever you wish to go and by <*whom*> which you can raise a horse in four or five years.

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

By about the time you receive this I expect to be in New-Haven [*Connecticut*] where I shall go Sept. 27. If you have not time to write, I hope sister Caroline will write in your stead. I believe she <*kno*> knows what you want, and how you feel as well as you do, perhaps better. At all events do not delay to let me know how you feel and how each of you rejoice or suffer I shall leave the other part of this sheet for mother. John etc. your aff. brother Joel Grant.

[*Other side of folio sheet*]

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

I want you to write me a great deal I want to have you write whether your well furnishes you with good water and what state it is in whether furnished or not whether you have got a well

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

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

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

Single
folio post.

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

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Brother

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

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

My Dear Children

Sep 27 1843

With a variety of feelings I commence this letter I read your letter with [mingled?] emotion I rejoice that you enjoy health and I mourn that <*that*> you are not contented with your situation I think it wise to give heed to what the apostle [...] Paul said of him self he had learned in whatever situation he was in therewith to be content I do not suppose that we ought not to try to improve our condition, but not to be unhappy even if our condition is not just what we should wish I felt when you left us that you would enjoy a great deal I felt that you had much to make you happy that <*yo*> God had been very good to you in many respects that you were happy in each other and that you were so comfortably fitted out. I thought that although your situation would be retired yet you would enjoy each others society and it is an old mansion that if we have one friend we ought to think ourselves happy and I have often thought that man [Jim?] was a good one, now my children I am not very much disappointed that you Did not find things as you expected and as I hoped but I always [feared?] and I was tempted to tell you that I learned that you would not find in that man all that was desirable and then I would think I had not sufficient knowledge [t]o say anything I had heard some things about his father that I never [wished?] to hear about any man (in regard to the property belonging to his sisters) I had my [...] information from your aunt Jerusha Grant and one of her brothers married h[is?] sisters she thought that he had not done the thing that was right but I guess he never said much about it only to me and I would not have you

mention what I have written I hope you have been able to keep your feelings to yourself the children <*will*> ought not to be judged by their parents but if they follow the examples of their parents and they are bad they must be judged accordingly it is very important that they (parents) set good examples before their children I have heard that I went to [Gherlin?] to school and that instead of making expense he had aclaim [...] the institution for his labor and there were many circumstances that made me fear that his love of money was so great that it would exceed his love to God and his neighbor but that will be the case every where you will find such cases every where all over the world and I hope you will never move on account of improving your neighbors I will tell you that I very much want to have you stay on your place and I think you will have good neighbors come to you good neighbors draw good neighbors and perhaps Mr. Knapp will come on and buy out some of the present neighbors or settle on some of the unsettled land but you must no expect every thing from Mr. Knapp and I hope you will not encourage him too much at least I hope you will not give him reason to think you can help him any more than he does you if you can be where you can put your teams together and change work I think it would be a good thing for you both but this company business is not apt to be very profitable for but one I feel that your place is well situated in regard to market and if it is not without its faults you will find that the case go where you will [Mr?] Slocum has been looking at uncle Lowles farm seven years and he has travelled all over the union and [...] to find nothing to suit him and now he is sick of uncle Sam's farm and people say that he would be discontented any where now my Dear Children do be contented do be happy it will do your mother and all your friends so much good you have your farm paid for and although your house is not a good one yet it will answer till you can add something to it at my fathers we had a log addition to our house the length or width of our house which was covered just as our [hovels?] are covered and without a floor which was a great comfort and I believe that if you should make a good log [room?] good height and well covered it would be a better want than to raise the one you now [have?] but I want to have you keep the one you have in such repair that it will keep out the storm my daughter I love your cheerful letters they breathe a happy spirit and I want to have you near you can make Daniel contended and happy I should rather live on very plain and work hard than to be in the condition that may [...] are here overwhelmed with debts that they can never pay if Mr. Knapp should come to you he will not probably come alone and it is my opinion that he will take [...] with him now my son do you sleep on a hard feather bed you mention [...] effect that your bones ache a hard feather bed always made my bones ache but straw has a contrary effect and I believe if you should my daughter try straw the year around you would like it much. your father used to have an aversion to straw but now he is more [overs?] I hope it will turn out well do be good neighbors that is is the way to have good ones live near to god is the prayer [mother?] E [...]

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

New Haven [*Connecticut*]
Sept. 28, 1843

Dear Brother,

I take my pen to write you a little not because it is long since I wrote for I wrote three or four days since in Mr. Knapp's letter but because I know you want to hear from me, and Mr. Seward my clap mate is to start to day for Wisconsin and I can send by him to Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]. He takes his wife on with him, a lady whom he has recently married in this city. I presume this letter will reach you about the same time the letter of Mr. Knapp will I almost feel afraid to write you many times for fear you may find it hard to pay postage.

We left home Tuesday night, and went with father's horse and waggon to Plymouth [*Massachusetts*] from whence we came by stage to New Haven [*Connecticut*]. Marcus came with us to Plymouth [*Massachusetts*]. We started from home about half past ten at night and left

Plymouth about half past four. We had a terribly cold night, during which we suffered a good deal. You will I presume understand why John and Marcus did not write in the letter Mr. Knapp sent. Mr. Knapp used one half and I used a great part of the remainder so that there was not much room left for mother and Martha.

I left Andover principally because it was so far from home it being about 180 miles (by Hartford [*Connecticut*]) while New Haven is but 65 by Hartford [*Connecticut*] and 53 by Waterbury [*Connecticut*] and Plymouth [*Massachusetts*]. Another reason was that John is at New Haven and I would like to be where he is. Besides the advantages at New Haven [*Yale University*] Middle year are as great or greater than at Andover [*Andover Theological Seminary*].

But to you and your farm my thoughts occur continually. Perhaps I imagine you more dissatisfied with it than you in fact are, but your letters certainly indicate a very great degree of dissatisfaction. It comes rather hard for us when people ask us about you to be obliged to say "he is dissatisfied," when they at once say, "Why, what is the matter? He was not very well pleased when he was in Ohio was he?" Thus intimating that they do not think it easy to please you. But do not think that I would be any such considerations induce you to repress any dissatisfaction you may feel, for you ought to make a faithful exhibition of your real trials, but might it not be well for you to consider if you are not, in fact, rather hard to please. And when you write letters home would it not be well to write in the cheerful manner your wife does dwelling on the things which give you pleasure, and write your letters of complaint to me? I can take them to our people and let them know as much as is best, and it will thus be kept from public view. When I carried your last letter to Mr. Burr's people a conversation like the following took place, "Well have you heard from Daniel?" "yes" says I "What does he write" was the next eager question. I answered "He writes <*a fo*> several <*verg*> tolerably pleasant things, <*but*> and two or three extremely unpleasant ones, expressing his dissatisfaction with his place and Joe's management. He wants to sell his place" "Dos he? Why we have but just received a letter from Caroline, in which she appears contented and happy, and Harvey Grant says Daniel and Caroline are very happy" Whereupon I sat down and read your letter to them, and a sad budget it was. Perhaps you will say I should not have done so, but you know your letters must be, for the present at least, common property in the two families. I hope therefore you will think best to write your complaints to me, and if Caroline has any that she would feel relieved to make known to her parents she can do so but I do not believe she has, and I am co[n]fident from her manner of writing that she would be contented, if you were, I never thought you would find as good a place as Norfolk [*Connecticut*] in Wisconsin, nor do I believe if you had $3000 instead of $300 to pay for a farm, and shou[ld?] with it buy a farm in Conn [*Connecticut*] instead o[f] [Wis]consin that you would find such a place. What do you want? Is it a farm in a village in Connecticut you might buy such a very small one for $3000, in Wisconsin perhaps for $1000. Is it a farm on the public road? Remember that to buy such a farm requires more money than you can command. Besides I have no doubt but that in twenty years your farm will be considered no more back than any others which are no farther from Prairieville [*Wisconsin*]. I did not buy your farm because I had not seen others that on some accounts were better. I did see better land, but I knew you would never live upon it nor could I wish you even if you were willing <*or I should*> or I should have been obliged to pay for them in such a way as to involve you in debt for the remainder of your days. But I think if you will be patient for a little time you will like the place you have. I am sorry about the house, but as I told you in Mr. Knapp's letter I will pay half the expense of making it better for you to live in a few years more till you can build a frame house. When you last wrote you had been in Wisconsin but three months, you had worked very hard, you had been [harrassed?] by ten thousand things you wished to do, and could not, and finally when you wrote the part, that was addressed to me you had been sitting up writing till after twelve o'clock at night, a thing which I trust you will never do again when you have been at work all day. All these reasons I presume made you feel very bad, & it may be you feel better now.

Pa says you do not write so that any one can find out whether you are doing any thing or not. Perhaps you had better mention in your next how many acres of wheat you have down, how much fence you have made and how much corn <*you will*> and potatoes you intend to plant next year. I trust you will remember that our happiness depends principally on ourselves and not on the place in which <*your*> live. Rest assured that I remember you continually with earnest wishes for your temporal and spiritually prosperity.

You aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

[*Notes to the side*]

How did Levi manage about the rails he was to get $30 worth, <*at*...>

It seems to me that two or three acres of potatoes would be as good a crop as you could raise for there will always be some people who will not raise enough in such a county as yours.

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

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

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

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

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

of this money is to go towards paying you for the house." If therefore the matter is at all as I left it there can be no doubt about it, but if you chose on your own responsibility to buy of him 3000 rails for $40 there is no help in the matter. I sent him at the time I wrote my letter $50.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Praireville [*Prairieville*]

Milwaukie Co [*Milwaukee County*]
Wisconsin

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] September 9, 1844
Dear Brother & Sister,

Your letters of July 30 and Aug 14. have been read for wh. [*which*] we thank you. We rejoice to hear of your success in all ways that you are blessed. We are glad you have been able to find a piece of land with wh. [*which*] you feel pleased and hope that in future you will have no occasion to change your views.

You have not adopted the course in reference to money wh. [*which*] I wished you to, but hope it will prove for the best. I want or am going to want it very much, unless you can sell my 40 acre lot, and even in that case I do not wish it to stay where it is one day after you can get it even for the interest at 25 per cent. I thought my instructions were plain in reference to it, that if you did not want it you should send it back to me at once, and if you have not already learned, it will be well to learn that in such matters you must "obey orders if you break [owners?]." Had you sent the drafts to me they would have needed to endorsing. But as it is get the money as soon as you can and send it to me.

Strong has written to me that Swift called and paid your note, and I shall, as you have directed, take the money and give you credit for it. I do not wish you at once to send me the money you get for your wheat, as you will have abundant use for it yourself. If there are a few dollars you can send you had better do so say some $10 or $15 but the rest keep for yourself. I would not sell at present for less than 50 cts [*cents*] per bush. as it will doubtless be worth more than that during the year.

I have been thinking some about your land in the S.E. corner of Dodge Co. I have no doubt it is good land – excellent land and all that, but had you better go to live there? How far is it to any respectable meeting? How far to a physician? How far to neighbors who can get together & form a sewing soc [*society*]? How long before there will be any thing like comfortable society there? These and many like questions have occurred to me and as I have thought of your going there it has made me feel badly. You are wild enough now without going to live among the bears. I would not however attempt to influence you, for you know best what you should do. It has occurred to me that a plan wh. [*which*] I have heretofore suggested to you will now perhaps meet your views. You now have a good lot of land, 160 acres of the very best, but man was not made merely to live on good land. He needs society and you need it as much as any one, and Caroline feels the want of it as much as any one. Had you not then better take my 40 acre lot? It is as much as you can take care of, if well taken care of it will yield you a good living. You may have it for what it cost me and the interest at 6 per cent. It is so near town that it would not be necessary for you to keep a horse & waggon, two pretty expensive articles. You could then enjoy society, go to meetings, improve you mind, and grow wiser year by year while upon the first rate land in Dodge Co. after ten years no one would know you from a barbarian. It seems to me that you like thousands at the West <*do*> forget that <u>land</u> is not all, that there are many things worthy of consideration and of weighty importance besides land. I think then you had better let the lot you have bought, and cultivate one nearer the residence of men. If you do not wish to do so, then sell my 40 acre lot as soon as possible for wh. [*which*] purpose you perhaps will not need to take a deed at once. You and Caroline will be happier however to reside upon it yourselves and then is it be best you can sell either the whole or a part of the lot upon wh. [*which*] you now reside, and you can use the avails in building a good house, where you will be comfortable and in a state to receive company with pleasure to yourselves and them. You will probably never see such times should you go to Dodge Co., or at all events not for many years. In case you wish to take my lot will endeavor to make the terms of payment as easy as possible for you, especially in case you can send me the $100 I sent you last summer.

It does not seem to me you had better let your farm for so long a term as five years. You know not what you will want to do with it long before that time comes around. If you have not already arranged that affair you had better think a little before you let it for more than two years, at most. If you are to live upon it yourself I do not see the wisdom of letting it at all.

I am willing you should cut some poles from my lot for fencing and making a barn if you wish but you must do it yourself, you must not let any tenant or hired man do it for you, even to be

used on your own farm. Could you not sell my lot there and yours together to good advantage? I always though they ought to go together and your request to cut timber from mine shows that you think so too at least in part. Perhaps some one would like to buy 80 acres of yours and mine too thus leaving you 40 acres which is more than you can well cultivate. I hope you will think well of the matter of taking the 40 you bought for me "within one mile of the village, upon a good road" as you described it when you first wrote of it, it is simply for your good I urge it. I offer it to you for less than to any one else, and that is not all I am willing to wait for you a little time a thinking I would not do for any one else, no not if they offered to pay me 25 per cent, interest. But unless you see it to be best do not be influenced by my opinion for I have already made you trouble enough. I do not doubt there is better land elsewhere, but will you be any better off upon it? What is the question, not how good is the land?

I regret to say that Martha has made no improvement for the last six weeks, but if any things grow worse. Her case is very discouraging indeed, and its result very doubtful. The remainder of our family are well. The typhus fever is raging very violent by in this region this fall. It is of a kind that is very contagious and destructive, and its [ravages?] <*ever fearful*> in some neighborhoods have been fearful, such that the hay and crops have been left untouched. Our neighborhood has hither to be spared, but a short time since Mrs. Robbins was taken sick with it so that we now have it here. Cousin Olivia Cowles and Mr. Knapp are to be married Sept. 11 (day after tomorrow) Olivia sings rather more than usually about these things your affect brother Joel. Sept. 18, 1844

I have waited nine days in the hope that some of our people would write but mother has now a most terrible and painful felon on the second finger or her right hand, and John has had one of his fingers smashed by the falling of a piece of timber. John's finger is getting better now and I do not think the injury is important. Mother's finger too is a little better and I cannot but hope she has seen the worst of it.

Mr. Knapp and Olivia were married one week ago this evening, and this morning they started for Ohio.

Martha is not I think quite as well though there is not much change.

You will see the reason why Mother does not write, and as I am in a great hurry you will excuse me for closing this letter now. Mr. Burr's people are well.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel.

Mother wishes me to say for her that many times tenants prove very troublesome indeed, and she thinks you had better not involve yourself for five years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Care of Daniel Grant Esq.
Prairieville
Milwaukie [*Milwaukee*] Co --
Wisconsin Territory

Philadelphia Sept. 13, 1847

My dear brother & sister [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*],

My last dated from you was the 11th of June which I almost immediately forwarded home. My last letter from there was June 21st which was written before your letter had reached

them. Their letter was enclosed in one from Abby Brown, Abby writes very well & has much improved -- Suppose our people have been so occupied through haying as to leave neither time nor thought for me -- I do feel very very anxious to hear from them & from you dear sister -- What has caused your long silence -- I answered your letter very punctually -- Has ill health of yourself, Daniel or darling Abby saddened your home? -- or has constant & pressing employment given your pen this long respite? I endeavor to console myself by thinking the last supposition correct. July 15th Madame Sigoigne [*Adele Sigoigne*] took her family out to the country seat of the late Mr. Nicholas Biddle 16 miles from Philadelphia. -- It was a hot summer's morn & all things in readiness when two baggage wagons were at the door & packed off with trunks & what furniture was necessary (in addition to that already at Andalusia) for housekeeping --. Then came an omnibus (or private stage) which was speedily fitted with Miss Crissa, Miss Sophie myself, three young ladies & 4 servants -- After a merry ride of two or three hours reached our destination. Madame Sigoigne Miss Adele & their maid with her nephew's two children followed in a double carriage which with a coachman she took & kept during her whole stay in the country -- and she rode every day twice each time 4, 5, or 8 miles out from home & back again -- Mr. Biddle you remember was President of the United States Bank. After losing his country's confidence he sickened & died of a broken heart it is supposed. He was a man of remarkable talent & uncommon taste which last he displayed in adorning his residence at Andalusia. The house is situated one mile from the public road & is reached by a well kept lane -- It is in the midst of a large field or rather an immense lawn (comprising many acres) which is skirted on one side by a beautiful grove <*which the field*> -- & scattered with trees throughout its surface -- The house itself is surrounded by trees, shrubs & gravel walks & about 20 or 30 rods from the river Delaware which is seen glimmering through the foliage that fringes the waters edge. The main building is surrounded on three sides by lofty columns which support the roof -- there are two wings -- the north & south -- four immense parlors communicate with each other & open out upon the piazza towards the river through large glass windows opening to the ground -- they contain one mirror reaching from floor to ceiling & two or three others of large size -- On arriving at Andalusia I ran about perfectly wild admiring the elegance & beauty of everything -- among other luxuries paying particular attention to the two libraries the largest of which equal in extent to three or four of our "east rooms' is lined throughout with bookcases most of which were locked & continued so -- I examined the contents of those that were open & quickly discovered the nature & extent of the field <*over*> which might embrace our reading -- found it one well worth traveling over -- though it would occupy years to do so thoroughly. I spent very little time in that delightfully cool & shady library but kept my room & studied French -- I had nothing to prevent & therefore made considerable progress in it -- I roomed with two of the young ladies The parlors, libraries, & some of the cambers contain marble busts & statures & choice paintings -- of the last -- one or two by Hogarth -- Down by the river's side is a little stone grotto embowered in vines and trees -- In a niche above the door upon the exterior of the grotto stands a statue of Napoleaon in his coronation robes presented to Mr. [*Nicholas*] Biddle by a brother of Napolean (Joseph) I think. In the interior of the grotto stands another statue -- also chairs settee & centre table in a rustic style floor of marble &c -- Forty rods distant & also by the water -- is a little building of two rooms -- the lower one a billiard room & the upper a reading room which last has windows on every side opening down to the floor & through every one of which we step out upon a <*piazza*> balcony The room also contains a statue -- chairs, settee, centre table & a sedan chair brought from China -- There is a large flower garden & grapery on the place -- compising 10 or 11 acres -- The vines are in two or three rows of hot houses -- which were they in one line would extend nearly 1/4 of a mile -- The garden many choice flowers, <*an*> infinite variety of roses &c. The gardener is such by profession & lives in a pretty little cottage adjoining his charge -- employs constantly in it a number of workmen -- I ought to tell you that Mr. Nicholas Biddle's family have always been intimate with Madame Sigoigne -- & not wishing to occupy the house themselves this summer they gave Madame Sigoigne the use of it -- & a most delightful retreat it has been. My time was entirely my own -- I did not sew at all -- but devoted myself to French & the reading of books to which I shall probably never again have access. Since commencing this letter have rece[ived] one from home which they request me to sen[d] [y]ou -- But wishing to send you a collar in th[e] sheet I will copy the parts that would interest you -- Much of it is taken up in considering whether I ha[d] better continue here another year -- Ma s[ee]md on the whole to concur in my own opinion--

which is that as I have endured the little trials thus far -- I had better do so perhaps a little while longer & prepare myself for teaching it if possible -- It is becoming more & more necessary every day for teachers & indeed for every well educated lady. .

"Your pa was appointed committe last fall with Esq. Mills & Anson Norton to let out the roads in town & see that they are well worked. Esq. Mills does not wish to spend much time about it -- Your pa likes it & is I think at present the most active & popular of the three -- He insists on the roads being put in better repair than they have heretofore been & that pleases the community. He expects 1.00 per day beside horse & wagon & sometimes oxen &c. he has charge near 20.00 for which he expects money. 13 July -- Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] left school last Thursday -- expects to go no more till after haying -- has been strawberrying twice -- got 2 or 3 quarts at a time -- -- your pa is on the road. Erastus after same-- intended to have sent this two weeks ago but could not see Esq. Mills about the writing till last Friday -- I have much less to worry me now than I used to -- like giving up the dairy -- Nancy takes pretty good care -- cheese looks well -- butter good. 14 July -- Erastus begins to mow today -- grass is not so good as usual -- your pa is on the road -- Ralph doing chores -- think he is well liked at school & associates with the first. Mrs. Pendleton sends love -- has seven cows -- makes a cheese every day that weighs 9 & 10 lbs. Sept 11 -- It seems as if I never should finish this letter -- We sent letter to Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] with a 10 dollar bill in it (to buy drawers about the 1st inst. by [Irad?] Mills who with his wife have gone to Wis. [*Wisconsin*] also a small white flannel shawl. pr. [*pair*] coarse white cotton stockings & Carries scissors -- I told them Daniel ought to give you a mortgage & all about it. [Seoville?] has been here -- there are two closets in the kitchen 1 by the bed room the other by the buttery -- the windows are all in -- garret stairs made -- 4 bed rooms & 3 closets in the chamber partly done some of which we expect to have finished this fall -- your pa has been to work on the Crissey road this week for one dollar or more a day & his board -- Eras. & Ralph have been at work hard about our door yard -- draining stones making steps, laying wall, making trough & putting down to carry off slops, & it is now about ready to fill in dirt which they intend to do next week -- but you must not expect to see it as nice as Mrs. Biddle's place [*Andalusa*] when it is all done which will not be this year -- hope to have some painting done this fall -- Have had Mrs. Nettleton to help a few days -- most of the ceilings have been washed very clean & floors too -- Am as busy as ever -- not generally as much worried. Recd. [*Received*] letter from Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] this week -- [D?] [*Daniel Grant*] unwell with chill fever -- She & baby well -- Thankful Rogers & her sister Caroline were here three weeks ago & star'ed over the sabbath -- had things decent & comfortable -- Ralph went Monday with them to New Marlborough. Tuesday they went back to Cornwall -- Caroline stays about in Thankful's district -- sews for herself and sister & studies some -- Two weeks ago David Rogers came to Cornwall & he & Caroline went to New Marlborough. Tuesday & Wednesday came here -- he talks of going to Genesee to visit his mother's relatives -- Thankful's school will be out in two weeks --Caroline did not know but she & Thankful would go to Genesee too -- if not Thankful talks of going to South Hadly [*South Hadley, Massachusetts*] & Caroline stay about here.
"August 12 -- sab. [*sabbath*] eve" I think Ma must have made a mistake & August for Sept. "been to meeting -- Parney Phelps says Abigail has been very sick -- but is now better & expects to go to Dea Grants to morrow. Martha is very low -- think she can't live long -- I intend to go there this week -- Erastus & Nancy appear happy -- work very even -- cheese look well sell for six pence a lb. Sarah [Brown?] says they thank you for your letter -- don't know when A. can write again -- they are so busy. Nancy sends love to you & Caroline. The text to day was "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world & lose his own soul" I thought of you -- am afraid you are in a bad place for your soul -- do pray & think a great deal." "Ralph could go to school were it not for fixing about the house he cares as much as I do about that -- we agree very well & have had it done to our mind so far -- Much love to you & Carry -- from your aff. [*affectionate*] Moth[er]

The above is all that ma wrote either of Dea. Grants people or of the writing which I ought to give you.

[*written across side of verso*] Am very sorry for D's [*Daniel Grant*] poor health -- Write very soon. & tell me all about your affairs -- The collar has never been washed but once or twice though it is a little soiled now--excuse me for sending it so.

[*written across side of first page*] Andalusia is the name belonging exclusively to the house & grounds of Mr. Biddle but it is now given also to a small collection of houses & a post office that have grown up recently -- Analusia the country seat is considered the handsomest around Philadelphia Strangers who come to the city often visit the place -- Miss Sophie a blind cousin of Mrs. Sigoigne makes me every now and then a present of a collar -- as a recompense I suppose for many little favors which I render to her. Therefore I can spare you one much better than not & I send this -- it being the only one which has not been given to me I hope it will not cost you double postage -- write whether it did -- & write also how to direct my letters -- whether to the new county or no -- Miss Kenard & Bonham my last years roommates have left -- Miss Kenard gave me a morocco port folio that locked -- -- love to yourself & Daniel & many kisses to dear little Abby --

Your affection sis
Mary Burr

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

Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*] Sept. 23, 1847

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

Today we have performed the sad duty of following our dear sister Martha's [*Martha Grant*] mortal remains to the grave. She died night before last (Sept. 21) at about half past eleven o'clock, after a season of most severe suffering. I found her very low upon our return, though I did not think her case hopeless. She has been sinking gradually ever since, and about three weeks since we began to feel more anxiety on her account. About one week before her death, she became very weak, so much so that she could not see company except in extraordinary cases. Last sabbath she became still weaker and we became apprehensive that her end was at hand. Her sufferings were very great indeed, and we sent for the doctor, hoping he might give her something to relieve her pain. He did so, and she had a more comfortable night, but in the morning she was unable to swallow any thing, so that she was beyond the reach of anodynes. She appeared in the course of the day to be dying but she again revived, and lingered in great suffering till Tuesday night when she expired.

In her case we are privileged to record another triumph of divine grace. She has all along expressed herself resigned to the will of God, and has felt <*more*> deep anxiety lest she should cease to be patient under the <*deep*> sufferings which it pleased God to send upon her. When I prayed with her, it was usually the burden of her request that grace might be given her for that purpose. She felt almost ready to chide the slow approach of death. Her sufferings had made her very poor, and weak. I never saw a human being so much wasted and emaciated.

She bade us all farewell, and gave us such advice and exhortation as she judged adapted to us, and sent messages to her absent brothers. She said "Tell Daniel to be faithful to himself in the study and contemplation of religious truth, never suffering his business, his cares or his prosperity, to interfere with his religious duties. soon he may be like me upon the bed of death. O may he be prepared to follow his sisters who have inherited the promises."

A <u>post mortem</u> examination was held which showed, that, as a result of protracted disease her lungs had grown to the sides of her chest, and her bowels had become one solid, agglutinated mass. Dreadful has been the suffering she has endured, great (as she said <*before*> the day before her death) beyond the <*pow*> belief of the world in general. But she sleeps -- sleeps in Jesus, and we cannot mourn that she has exchanged this life for another. We could not take care of her. -- Physicians did her but little, if any good. All our care could not

relieve her sorrows, or comfort her upon her bed of suffering. She has gone, we trust, to the Great Physician, where her case is perfectly understood, and where no sorrow enters. Let us praise God for his grace that called her to his kingdom, and not sorrow as those without hope.

My health has improved rapidly since our return and I am now quite well. But Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] has had a severe and dangerous attack of billious fever, which lasted about seven weeks, and from which she has scarcely recovered yet. It is about eleven days since she came from her father's here and since that time has been for the most part with us. Our people are usually well.

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

P.S. Sept. 24. Whenever the business is all completed with Mahar and the papers properly recorded I wish you to let me know. The time for the payment of $15 is at hand (Oct. 1.) I wish you to use such portion as may remain in fencing out the sand bank on the 40. I think that about 1/2 an acre more or less should be fenced with boards. Fence five or six feet high, boards nailed to posts set in the ground, and with a gate that can be locked, so that no one can get at the sand without going to you for permission. I would like to have you do the labor, keeping an exact account of it and in due time I will pay you. Perhaps you might make some arrangement with Mahar to deliver the timber on good terms. Joel Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*],
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Connecticut

Jan. '50

I suppose this sheet will make double postage but I dont care for that, I pay a dollar to get it carried to the states, & I suppose it will be the same whether I send one sheet or two. The man that takes it leaves for the states on the 16th of Jan. and will take the Feb. boat, he is from Mo. [*Missouri*] has made $1,500, and thinks he can't stay from his family any longer He run a carriage from Hangtown to Sac. City [*Sacramento City, California*]. will not be more than a year from his family. I have been able to preserve your letter sent by Dr. [Blye] and have just read it, & will answer it. The logs Mr. Root was right about. You did right about the saddle. Mr. Tichenor must have been mistaken about the dollar, for I paid him the common price for all he did. The long dress I did not want, but shall I ever get home, should have thrown it away as I did a good many things, if I had had it. I sent a letter from Ft. Larimie [*Ft. Laramie, Wyoming*] in wh. [*which*] I enclosed a lock of hair, but perhaps you did not get it. Will send another lock in this, my hair is short now, cut it myself, & cliped pretty close. I will give you some description of our company. We have 2 houses built in a small <rav> ravine, about 2 miles from the road leading from Hangtown, & Weverville, to Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] about 45m from the City. Our house is 14 ft. by 12 ft. with a chimney at one end, built out side. My chums are Walter Young, of Sheboygan [*Wisconsin*] & Joseph Ludington, of Mil. [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Young is a tailor & not very agreeable, though a tolerable good fellow. I worked with him, from the commencement of my mining, till <...> December first. Then we separated, & for three weeks, not feeling well, I did not mine. He is very profane. Ludington is a very pleasant young man 20 years old, also profane but not as bad as Young. Young left his wife with her father near Diesner's mill. He is 35 years old. At the other house is Mr. Burlieu, from Sheboygan 25 years old, quite profane but a <u>first rate fellow,</u> also Mr. Peters fr. [*from*] She. [*Sheboygan Wisconsin*] 25y old very profane, but a good companion in every other respect. Mr Jones from the lead mines Wis. [*Wisconsin*] 35y old I guess, uses profane language some, & is a clever man. The other (for there are four) is Mr. Matthewson fr. Hartford Ct. [*Connecticut*] A fine young man, does not use profane language, but is not so agreeable as I wish he was, a good companion though much more so than Young. He is my present partner.

Last week we took out $168, 80, $68, of it in one one day. We are at work in what is called dry diggins, or what I should call winter diggins.

In wet diggins there is too much water in the winter and in dry diggins no water in summer. The wet are much the most productive.

A good many came from the States last summer and got from $1500, to $10000, and returned, are at home before this time, but big strikes though somewhat common, are in proportion to the number engaged, few & far between.

The mine<*e*>rs however almost invariably make money, some spend it fast as they get it, others save it, some soon as they get a few dollars go with it, to the gambling table. I have heard a report that a young man came into the mines, & was successfull, took out in a short time $5000, went to Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] and bet it all at once, at the time telling the gamblers, that it was the last bet he ever should make, whether he won or lost, & if he won, he should go home, but if he lost he should go back to the mines, He won, took his $10000, & went home. Every store almost & every public house is a drinking & gambling shop. The Sabbath is not regarded here, except as a day of rest, and not even for that by some. Probably 99 out of a hundred of all the inhabitants of Cal. [*California*] are in the habit of using language. Yet there never was a country in the world, where there was better order, & less crime.

I enjoy myself very well. You know I mean as well as I can. My greatest trouble is I am separated from my family, and can't hear one word from them or any of my friends. I never could put up with it but I think the Lord had a design in my coming therefore, I try to be content.

The Indians are somewhat troublesome in some places, not far from here, they burnt a sickman about a week since. They sometimes steal oxen & horses and other things, but if they steal to much extent, the whites raise 30, or 40 men, go in pursuit kill all they can, recover the property & take what they can from the Indians.

The country is generally barren, producing little except trees, which are scattered all over the mountains. below the mountains there is no timber, or anything else except on the ranches, as the fertile spots on the rivers are called where grass grows luxuriantly.

The winter is delightful, so far, where we are located, but a little higher up, the mountains are covered with snow. I think every day how you are hemmed in with snow & the cold wind whistling through every crevice, while I can sit by the open door, & write or read without fire, and be warm & perhaps a little too warm. A little fire though is generally comfortable.

Oxen are generally worth about $200, [ ] & cows from $100, to $150, dollars a apiece, milk at Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] is $1, per g't. Almost all kinds of business is profitable.

The rainy season is not so unpleasant as I supposed. Sometimes it rains for 3 or 4 days so hard that we cannot work, & sometime will be wet for more than a week, raining more or less evey day, then a spell of fair weather for a few days, or may be a few weeks. The nights are frosty in fair wether. The rainy season continues 3 months, & generally commences between the 20th Dec. & first Jan. This season it commenced the <first> second week in Nov. so I suppose the rainy season is pretty well along. Today is the 10, thursday & the third rainy day this week. I probably shall not make any more than $20, this week, perhaps not that.

I have written a long letter for me. I dont know who there is to read it, but some of my friends are alive. I dont know which of them. I will put a few verses in to this <...> for [Abby]. I clipped them from a Newspaper I hope that I shall see my father & mother a gain, but I fear I shall not. Your affectionate husband

Daniel [*Daniel Grant*]

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[Addressed to] <Mrs. Caroline Grant>
<Norfolk> Ct.
Dea. E. Grant [*Deacon Elijah Grant*]
Mill Brook [*Connecticut*]

California, Feb. 3d 1850.

Dearest Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I wish I knew whether you are alive or not. I shall continue to direct my letters to you till I know. I have another opportunity to send a letter to the states, & this time to Boston, the chance is so good that I cannot let it pass, for if this man is careful<l> to mail it at Boston or N.York [*New York*], it will most certainly reach you. Twice I supposed I had sent for letters when I had not, the first time I left my name with Mr. Mudd, I think from Ct. [*Connecticut*] but instead of bringing letters he went to his home in the states. Next I left my name with 3 or 400 others at a store in Hangtown, to be sent by express but in consequence of some little difficulty between the merchant, & express men, the merchant would not let the express have the names, I have sent again & the man is expected back every day. If he does not bring letters for me I shall go myself pretty soon. It will cost me at least one hundred dollars to go to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*], & back, my time too will be worth another hundred, but I want a letter I would give a hundred dollars tonight, to get a letter, if I could get none cheaper.

It costs a dollar & 60 cts. [*cents*] besides the postage to get letters from S. Francisco[*San Francisco, California*]. We have papers from N. Y. [*New York*] & Bos. [*Boston*] of Dec. 13, so that we get some news.

It seems that the rush still continues from the states to Cal. [*California*] I suppose it will as long as one man in ten thousand makes a strike, as we call it, when he takes out a number of thousands of dollars in a short time.

I have pretty good luck now and then, but most of the time I am doing but little. Week before last I got $3, and about 60 cts, last week about $30, & my prospects are better this week, I think, but can't tell, we may get $30, or more in one day & next day not more than $5,. Week before last it commenced snowing on monday, in the forenoon & snowed till wednesday night, then turned into rain & rained till Sat. night, but many who think they know something about it say that the rains are over, & I think that there is reason to think it is so, I never saw a more beautiful<l> sky, or more delightful weather, than was yesterday & day before. Today has been very pleasant, but the sky covered with thin clouds. It is clear again this evening I hardly know what to write, because I do not know how things are at home, & shall not write much in this letter. I know if I have any friends that they wish to hear from me, & I shall take every measure that falls in my reach to have them.

My health is generally pretty good, but I have a slight attack of scurvy, think I shall be able to check it, but dont know what it may do to me, My blood is very thin, & I am troubled some with the nose bleed. I am better than I was a few days since.

Rather a laughable occurrence took place when I first began to feel the effects of the scurvy. It <seen> seemed that I felt bugs crawling about me, & biting pretty sharp occasionally. I did not know what to make of it, or what to do, I could find nothing but felt them frequently, they troubled me very much. In two or three days after I began to feel the bugs, one morning I saw Mr. Young My first partner, pick something [o]f his wrist & throw it in the fire, & said he "big flea."

I knew he was a dirty fellow, that he wore his clothes a long time, & that he had worn a pair of flannel drawers, nearly 3 months & how much longer I did not know. That, with the "big flea" set me going. I boiled all my clothes, blankets &c. in water and ashes, & left the house for another place – got in near by with a man from Rhode Island who was living in a small cab<b>in by himself his partner hav<e>ing gone to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*]. Got some mercurial ointment & used it pretty freely &c, &c.

At last I found some scurvy sores, & as I have seen no bugs – I conclude that it was scurvy instead of bugs, that was crawling over me.

Feb. 6

Dear Wife,

I have been made <about> happy today – I know you can guess how – this P. M. Mr. Hoffman the man I sent by for letters returned & bought 3 letters for me. I took them in my hand, and caught <anoter> one of my companions by the arm and <ran> asked him to pay the bill and ran for the bushes, but with my happiness there was a pang your hand writing I could not see on the outside. I fear I was never to see it again, I opened a letter the writing of which I could not recognize, I read a few lines & thought I could not get the news I wanted, & threw it down & opened another, there I found your own writing & learned that you were all comfortably well at home, though it is two months since the last letter was written, a load is removed. The other letter I looked at again and was satisfied it was for some body else whose name is Dan'l Grant &

sent it back to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*]. The 3 letters only cost $5.20 I can't write more now, you know I must have a little time to think of what I have heard, this is letter No. ? Your husband

Daniel

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk
Connecticut

Marysville [*California*], Dec. 9, 1850.

My Dear Wife,

It is a long time since I wrote home, longer I think than it will be again. You may expect a letter every mail after this, or twice a month. I am now in Marysville [*California*] & have been for some time. As long as I remain here, or where I can get to the P. O. [*Post Office*] I shall send by every mail, & I would be glad to receive by every mail.

Have had no news from you since M. [*Marcus Grant*] arrived because I suppose, I have not sent for any or have sent but once & then the express did not return. I shall send to Sacramento city by the next mail, to have letters forwarded to Marysville [*California*], if the P. M. [*Post Master*] will regard my request I have no doubt I shall hear from you, but it is very uncertain whether he will, Post Master are either exceding careless here, or else exceeding indifferent.

I have been searching for a piece of land for M. [*Marcus Grant*] & myself & for cows that we could buy but both are very difficult to find or at least it is difficult to find land at the present time that suits in quality & location, six months ago I could have found it.

There is a place about two miles from here where I think to go & build a small cabin & if I can get a few cows, & keep there I will, & when M. [*Marcus Grant*] comes we will decide whether it is best for us to stay there, or not.

M. [*Marcus Grant*] is still on the Yuba river & I suppose doing pretty well, I have not heard def<*f*>inite from him since I left him, some six weeks since, suppose he has had no opportunity to send.

Marysville [*California*] is a flourishing place, & I think will continue to grow for a time yet, the city as it is called is regularly laid out the streets crossing at right angles. It is a very pretty location, & I think healthy there were two or three cases of <clol> chol[e]r<y> [*cholera*] when it was so bad at S. City [*Sacramento City, California*], but I can see no reason why it is not healthy.

The buildings are mostly made of cloth & almost every house is a store, tavern or some other kind of shop. A great deal of gambling is done every day, every tavern is furnished with cards & tables for the accommodation of visiters, & loafers many is the game played for a drink & even for money, the monta bank [*montebank*] is the principal bank here, there being many of them, but Faro is common & Rolet, [*Roulette?*] Ronda & all other kinds of games are always to be found.

The stores are none of them furnished with stoves, but the weather is considered warm enough to throw the doors wide open & admit all the air.

There are but few women here of the right sort, but plenty of bad ones. It seems that bad women & gambl<*ing*>ers are good associates.

Yesterday I attended church, meeting was held in the court house. The minister is a young man, & <prety> smart enough for this country I suppose, he told us that he wanted us to contribute enough to enable him to live, said "the laborer is worthy of his hire," & "all he asked was enough to live," & I am sure it [will] not cost him but little more to [live?] here with the high prices, than it <*is f*> does most of our ministers at home. You must not think that it is for want of talent that he will live cheap, it is the absence of false pride, & a sense of our wickedness in this country, & a desire to do us good, he is some like that man we liked so well in Wis. [*Wisconsin*], I have forgotten his name.

Do you think I thought of home while I was at church, ah! you know I am thinking of home nearly every moment, but the impressions were more vivid when there.

I thought to write a full letter this time & give you a good deal of information about myself & other things here but, I think I must cut it short & see if I cant do it next time.

The last letter I sent home <&> contains ½ an oz. gold dust M. [*Marcus Grant*] wrote in the letter, he stated that I was going to packing, so I did, & succeeded in getting the load to the place, but on my return I lost both of my mules for which I paid $165.00 I then gave up doing any more packing. Send your letters to Marysville pay no postage unless Joel continues to be postmaster I am pretty well. Your aff. [*affectionate*] husband
Daniel

<There is something of a revival here I hope you & Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] will remember & pray for us all that we too may be blessed I went to meeting last Friday there was a very full prayer meeting Halsey Stevens & Ralph Cressey and others have hopes think Erastus & nor Ralph haven't been awakened R. could not very well attend meetings, I believe it began among the Methodist

Mrs. Rebecca Sexton Canfield has a son 6 days old we had never though of the thing till Mrs. Welch told of it yesterday Elmore Canfield's wife has one 3 weeks old we heard for the first time today There was a man killed yesterday in Capt. Duvals shop by the burtsing of a grind stone

P. Burr [*Pamela Burr*]

Jan 25>

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Marysville [*California*], Jan. 1, 1851

My Dear Dear Wife

If we were differantly situated I might wish you a happy new year, & of course I do, but in our present condition, if you have any enjoyments, they are lessened, by our being so far from one another, yet may you have a happy year, & pleasant times in your far off home.

I do not look for enjoyment while I remain in this Country, but <*yet*> I must stay sometime yet. This year I may wish may be more happy than last, but I see no reason why it will. If I can get some gold & start for home I shall then be a happy man, for a time I know. Marcus has been more lucky than I have since he came I suppose, he had a last accounts. I had a letter from him 10 days since, but it had been a whole month coming, he had then done very well, & wished me to come to him I could not then leave, but shall start tomorrow, he & another young man are together, some distance from my neighbors, & I don't feel quite easy about them. If I find them doing well shall stay with them but if they are doing nothing we shall probably leave that place, & seek employment elsewhere.

I have found no place to suit for a farm nor shall I be able in this section. Cows & milk are falling in value, I have not bought any.

Wm. Elder, passed through this place on his way home about a month since I saw Wm. Graves as I was walking through the streets, he recognized me & hailed me & told me that Elder had started for home, in a small boat to go down the river. I went to the landing & found the boat had not yet started, saw him got some news from home, & I learned that John Howel was at or near Weaverville, & had made
by tra<*i*>ding 30 or $40000,00 G. C. Cone had gone home with about $1500, Eliott & Woodworth were in the mines & had a good claim. He gave me to understand that he had made by tra<*i*>ding about $8000,00 but Graves said he had not made $1000,00 Graves said that he himself had made nothing, but I think he had, two or three hundred dollars, he is keeping a small ranch about 20 miles from here, says he is going home in the spring.

I have been reading some of your old letters presume you can judge better than I can tell you how they make me feel. You inquire if I suffer with headache? I was never so free from it as since I have been here.

Whenever I have paid for a newspapers it has been with others, but never have bought but two or three.

It does me good to think you enjoy many comforts, you say that last winter you did not suffer with cold feet in bed, how bad it is that next winter must come, before <*you*> I can know but what you do this winter.

I sent to S. City [*Sacramento City, California*] for letters but got but one, from Joel to Marcus containing but little news. He stated that his success in geting letters to me was so poor, that he should not be very particular. Now I presume you do not wonder that I was careless when I did not know as I could get a letter to you. I believe that we receive the letters that contain no news, but none that <*do*> are filled, I wish I could be situated so as to at least hear from home. This letter to M. [*Marcus Grant*] was mailed Sep. 9.

The weather is very dry for the wet season, there has been but five rainy days & then but little water fell. I have been told that the Indians prophesy a dry winter, & thus far the prediction is true.

You will find enclosed a draft for a little money, made payable to the order of brother John, one half is for you, & one half for John I sent it to you, because I do not know whether he is yet in N. H. [*New Hampshire*] & if not, it might be more likely to get lost. You will notice that this is number first. I shall send in a month number second, I think to Joel at Avon [*Connecticut*] if he is not there it would not be likely to be lost as at N. H. [*New Hampshire*] No. third I shall keep till I hear whether you have received no. first or no. second. I want you to use your part of the money as you please but pay sister Mary what I owe her if you can, the rest use yourself. I hope to be able to send more soon, but you know that it is hope alone that sustains me so dont be disappointed. I am pretty certain that nothing but ill health will prevent my getting something this <winter> year.

I should like to hear something about our affairs in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] but if you should write ever so much I might not get it. Mr. Hubbard did not take the land in Waukesha only till next spring, if you can make any arrangements for a longer time perhaps you had better. I fear I have said more about home in this letter than I ought. You must not think but what I am happy I have a good many comforts Much love to all health good Your aff. [*affectionate*] husband

D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Connecticut

[*Postmarked*] Marysville Cal. [*California*]
Sep. 15

Hamilton [*California*] Sep. 11 1854

My Dear Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I have no excuse for not writing to you by the last mail. I will do my best towards making it up now, though it cannot be fully made up.

I received your letter of July 2nd some time since, & it is only negligence that I have not answered it.

Your letter & one from John are all from home for a long time. I have nothing of interest to write but will answer some of your questions.

By the way why is it <*you*> Joel or someone don't write something about the Milwaukee [*Wisconsin*] place. You stated that you thought it sold, but that is all I hear Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] has attended to the cows for a few weeks past, but will brobably leave me tomorrow. I shall soon give them up, for they are nearly dry. We have had all we could do to attend to the cows, & fix up the house, & farm, so as to make things convenient for the dairy.

Prices of farmers produce is low now in this country & I think we have done about as well as any & even better for the capital invested. We have made but little, very little, but yet we have made a little.

We are selling butter at 15 cts. per lb, & cheese at 30 cts., We have sole butter at 40 cts. but not much. We dont have very good luck making cheese, but no body can beat us in butter.

I was just in time taking up land to meet the low prices, just as I expected, I should have taken land sooner but every year I thought prices would be down, till I ascertained that farmers produce could not be imported so as to make it cheap, & I thought it would be a few years before Cal. [*California*] could supply itself, but Cal. [*California*] is not only to supply itself, but is to have a large suppluss & no foreigh market. <*as I*> I am not disappointed at the result, < > It is the most natural thing in existance, that I should be just in time to make nothing, but rather strange that I have not about a thousand dollars to <*loose*> lose in the concern. Well I have one hope yet, though faint, that is my river claim. We expect to work next season, & if there is anything there take it out, so you will not look for me home for more than a year yet.

My place is still valuable for something. I think it will fetch a $1000,00 but dont know, I know that it is well worth twice that sum, as land has been selling, but dont know what it will fetch now.

I have not raised my crops atall. Cut about 6 tons hay, took one [load?] to the Mts. & exchanged it for lu[. . .] I have neighbors in sight.

Don't live in fear of being killed, can't tell whether my complexion has changed much or not, but suppose I look pretty old.

My beard is not quite five inches long, think I shall trim it before long.

Have my hair cut occasionally. Think it is not turning <*gray*>grey.

I don't keep my <*teath*>teeth in any order.

Carter & wife are still in the neighborhood believe Carter is troubled with the <*feaver*> fever some this fall. Believe Julia is well. Don't see them often.

Wrote to R. [*Ralph E. Burr*] day before yesterday. had a letter from him a few days ago well I believe

[*written up the side of the front page*] The 15 of Sept. is at hand I shall commence reading the first chapter of Romans at that time. You will if you have received my letter If you do not commence count<*ing*> the chapters & days that you are behind. Thus you will know where I am reading continue through the New Testament.

[*written up the side of the last page*] think some of mining a little this winter

Thine entirely,
Daniel Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Connecticut

Bartons Bar [*California*] July 7th 1855

My Dear Carry [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

You will see by this date that I am again at the awful New York claim

I expect this seasons opperations will seal my doom. I shall either be stripped of what I have or add a little to it

The chances for selling are so poor that I had rather run the risk of <*loos*>loseing expences & what the share will fetch than sell as by <*runing*> running the risk I stand certainly as good a chance to make as to lose

I have to charge myself with blame again for not writing I dont know as it will ever be any different I have no news to communicate nor am I very well able to write though I am not sick You will therefore excuse a short letter

Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] was here yesterday He is pretty well makes a little in his claim has not heard from home for a long time. He brought me a letter from Joel the first for a very long time I had a letter from mother about a month ago Yours the last date of which was May 3 came by the same mail

James Allen is about 50 miles from me don't know of his situation or prospects

I don't know hardly what I can say more of my health than you know I am able to work considerable but not as much as I wish I am generally able to wait upon myself & very seldom without help when I cannot

I cannot yet enter my land nor don't know when <*it*> I shall be able to do it

I want you to send me a power of attorney to sign a deed not one deed or any particular <*deed*> one but any deed that I may wish to convey in this country

A purchaser will be better satisfied than without your name

I have secured a valuable quarter section but some of my neighbors are dissatisfied & "the d-m-d yankee" is very much their way

There is a prospect that by the end of this month we shall know something <*deffinight*> definite respecting our claim in the river

We are now working on the dam.

I shall doubtless come home next spring but life is uncertain.

I am growing more anxious the longer I stay I hope to hear from you as often as once a month

Kiss the children for me

Give my love to mother I intend to write to my mother before long

I don't much expect I can ever endure a N. England climate again but perhaps I can

Before I received your letter stating that you commenced reading at Mat. [*Matthew*] I had written to have you commence again at Romans & thinking you w[oul]d probably do so I commenced at Romans & the chap. for today is the eighth of Rev. As we shall soon be through again we will if you please commence the New testament next time

As Rev has 22 chap. the 21 day of the month will finish it therefore on the 22 inst. I will com. with the first of Mat. When you receive this if you are not reading with me you can find the place & we will read together

Ever my dearest
Your aff [*affectionate*] husband
Daniel Grant

P.S. I feel better than when I commenced writing

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Feb. 12, 1857

Dear brother & sister [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

We have just recd. yours mailed Feb. 11, I do not know but you have concluded wisely in buying my share. I cannot tell. In a letter sent yesterday we mentioned a public sale. I should think Erastus would be willing to take less than $1,000 than to sacrifice what he probably would at such sale. I rather think that perhaps I ought to adhere to the thousand. <*Sh*> Were I to lower my price it would in effect be giving it to Erastus as in case I lowered I suppose you would not hesitate in <*tl*> deciding that you could afford to give E. [*Erastus*] his price of $1000.* [*written in the margin:*] *which after all would help you too would it not?

I believe that in taking $1000 I throw off about $600 according to appraisement including being made equal. It does not seem to me that I would have to sacrifice more than that at public sale for <*it does not seem as*> I cannot think that men of judgment would have appraised the property more than $1.800 higher than it would sell for. After sending my last I thought that I

omitted to say or to mention something which I ought but up to this present I have <*not*> not been able to think what it was. I feel sorry for you <*that*> to be fixed just as you are not wishing to stay & yet feeling that perhaps you had better, for must you need not <*of sacrificing to public sale*> that is if you would sacrific to public sale. I see by looking at old letters that the appraisement was $5.357. In paying E. & self as we offer you get it for $4.100 without deducting much I think from your own share of the appraised value. Still it is hard to stay where you do not wish to. Have just bethought myself again. 4.500 was the true appraisement so that counting your own at full appraisal 1.800 you get Es. [*Erastus*] & my share for only 600 less than appraisal as I have had about $50 and E. [*Erastus*] about the same I suppose of personal property.

Have written so often upon the subject of the farm that I hardly know what to say except that we are still willing to stand by what we said last fall, and should think you had as well buy the whole if you will feel just as much fastened by taking the north part. Which part I should prefer to take if divided as proposed. It has more meadow and lies more contiguous to buildings, of the wood and facility of getting I am not able to judge except that south part lies nearer town. Should think that that south wood lot would sell pretty well divided into 1. 2 or 3 acre lots and sold to towns people that have to buy wood. Know that here it would sell very rapidly and at good prices, but perhaps you have thought of all these things and more besides. Should not be afraid to take the place myself were I near it and run the risk of selling it or turning the wood into money and selling the meadows and buildings as well as I could and think by that time would have my money back and could afford to give some of the pasture lots away Property can often be sold to advantage by selling it piece meal – Saw 18 acres of land sold at public sale close to the village the other day in 5 lots for an average of 105 dols per acre that 25 years ago or so was bought for 28 dols per acre and it is in bad order as regards fence and state of improvement generally – If you take ours will be satisfied with the way in which you speak of paying for it as long as we do not have to pay a larger interest for money to use in its place. We can readily borrow at present at six per cent. Tell Erastus that we do not mind taking a little very little trouble to get money if we have the opportunity.

If you go to farming would advise you to raise a colt occasionally if you do not keep them till they grow to be horses as at 1 year old they are here/ and I think likely with you, as profitable as any stock and bring more in proportion counting the risk than when older.

Shall be glad to hear that you have become settled and hope you may have it all fixed by the time you receive this. I spoke in my last about coming up but if you have all things arranged it will not be worth while, would come now but cannot leave until after 1st of March. Will have ac[. . .] of Stock to take in shop &c. You must try and find time to come and see us some time as it will be doubtful whether we get up next summer. Wrote to Erastus sometime ago wonder whether he received it. Think I remember hearing that he did. Should like to know whether he remembers it. Give my best respects to all our friends and if we have not written satisfactorily please excuse us as we have done the best we could in the short time we have had to think about it and our limited knowledge of the property. Knowing but little about the woodland & pasture and nothing about the value of land except that if it was much lower it would be worth nothing. We are as ever

Yours truly

William Hill

P.S tell Daniel not to give up writing and not to fear his brother in law. 'Twill do him good to write even if it costs an effort WH [*William Hill*]

[*Written in margin*] I wish Daniel would write more frequently add something to the letters. I always like to read what he writes

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Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Sept. 21, '58.

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I am thus far on my way to attend to your business at Jefferson various causes have combined to delay my going -- it is not necessary to mention any of them.

Arriving here I have received $75 from Mr. Hill -- and to night I start for Whitewater as being the first point necessary to make on the journey. How I shall go from Whitewater does not

yet appear, for no one I have met here seems to know any thing about the way from there to Jefferson.

I obtained from Mr. Hill a statement of your affairs and find them substantially as follows

Due on the note of Mr. Rogers (the last of those given for your place)	$38.00
Due on the money lent by Mr. Hill	139.00
Total	$177.

I carefully examined, the sum total might vary a few cents from the above. Of course the amount will increase a little every week.

Mr. Hill says the money can be paid on a very short notice. The $139 is loaned <*his*> to be paid on call, and probably will be paid when asked for, though he must be doing a remarkably good and safe business who can pay 12 per cent interest on such conditions. On the whole Mr. Hill thinks it will be as well to have the whole settled up, as you have no other interest in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*].

I would not attempt to advise you particularly, but would say that as the amount secured by Mortgage is now very small (only $38) a sum too small ever to warrant the foreclosing of a Mortgage I think it would be well to end that if there is an opportunity. Mr. Rogers says he will pay for it Oct. 1, and as soon as may be convenient thereafter he would like a release of Mortgage. He does not require it at once, but if you think fit to ask payment, you had better get it as soon as may be convenient. I inclose a form of release and will suggest one or two ways in wh. [*which*] you can execute it.

The best way, if not too inconvenient is to have the release acknowledged before some Justice of the Peace, who can attach to the document a Certificate of the County Clerk, certifying to his identity. <*Another way probably more*> I presume there are Justice of the Peace in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] who can secure these certificates with a few days delay -- perhaps at once.

On consideration I think this is the only way it is safe for you to use. In Illinois such a paper acknowledged before a Notary Public would be valid, but this is Wisconsin, and the laws are different.

I am <*am once*> expecting to move again -- I am going in the course of a few weeks probably three or four to Newark [*New Jersey*], part by to see John [*John Grant*] & consult with him about his affairs, and partly in the expectation that it may be best for me to take his school. Abbey [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] will remain here for the present until something definite is arranged. The times are so hard that just now it seems not easy or advisable for me to insist on the payment of certain debts due me -- amounting in all to near $300 about half of it for salary & the other half for other things. Under these circumstances, I would like if you think it best to take up your money in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*], to secure the loan of it for a year at 10 per cent. It will be a help to me & I should consider it a great kindness on your part. Perhaps you might be willing to let me have a part if not the whole.

If you think fit to act on this suggestion, please answer this as soon as you can inclosing an order somewhat like that in your last letter.

Should you wish it, I can secure you by mortgage or transfer of secured notes.

I will write you again after I have been at Jefferson

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother

Joel Grant.

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Chicago, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 23 ‘58

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I have just returned from Jefferson, and am prepared to make a Report. Unfortunately neither you nor I thought of the necessity there was that a description of the land should be given (& the Township, Range, Section, and part of section) and therefore my journey failed, in part at least, of its object. We could not find the name of either Grant or Burr among those whose property was sold for taxes <*& and*> & therefore I could not select yours from the large list of “unknown” who were represented as the owners of nine tenths of such land.

The matter can however be arranged now. Please write at once to

Wm. Sanborne
Country Treasurer
Jefferson Co. Wis [*Wisconsin*].

<*requ*> giving him a description of the land, <*thereupon he will*> & requesting him to write to me the amount of taxes due upon it, whereupon by draft I will forward him the money. He will charge about 25 cents -- possibly 50 but that will be all.

I found that in 1857 the townships transferred to Jefferson Co. were re-transferred to Dodge Co. on the ground of illegality. Consequently the taxes for 1857 are to be paid in Dodge Co. The way to meet this is to address a letter to Clerk of Boars of Supervision Juneau, Dodge. Co. Wisconsin giving documentation as above & requesting him to write to me what amount is due -- & I will forward to him also by draft & in this way will have it all soon settled up. Each of these men will forward a certificate that the property is redeemed. This certificate costs I believe 25 cents in each case. I may think it best to go again to Wisconsin, & perhaps near Dodge Co. -- but if I do it will not be for your business (--wh. [*which*] had I known as much as I do now I could have settled without stirring from my study) and if I do I will endeavor to step into the office & see that all is right.

My expenses are as follows

Chicago to Milwaukie 90 m.		$2.00
Milwaukie to Whitewater 50		1.75
Whitewater to Jefferson 15		
& back by horse & carriage 15	3.00	
Lodging & breakfast at Whitewater		.75
Whitewater to Chicago by Janesville, on the Chicago		
St. Paul & Fran du Lac R.R.		3.75
		$11.25

This is a large outlay for paying a tax, but is less than you could have got any one else to do it for. I have a free ticket on the road from Lockport here -- hence there is no charge for that part of the journey -- I staid with a friend while at Milwaukie, so there was no charge there. It was expensive travelling from Whitewater to Jefferson, but there seemed no other way so good. There is a stage every other day, but as I was there in the morning & it did not leave till near night, and even then would have charged me $1 each way, it did not seem best to waste time in waiting for it.

Should you ever have occasion to send to Jefferson again, the best way is from Chicago through Janesville 175 m. <*all the*> to Whitewater all the way by R. R. [*Railroad*] Probably in two or three years there will be a R. R. [*Railroad*] all the way from Chicago through both Jefferson & Dodge Co.

So the $11.25 above charged to you I must add 75 cents paid to Mr. Hill for $50 in gold – making my charges $12.

I stopped last night at State line Depot, staying with Dwight Phelps. He and his wife are well.

With love to Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] & the children I am

Yours most truly
Joel Grant.

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

Bristol, Ill. [*Illinios*] Feb. 5, 1859.

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 29th ult. reached me to day just one week from date. It reached Lockport [*Illinios*] day before yesterday. My family are still there, but I am employed here, a place 25 M. West.

As to St. Paul, or lots in it I know nothing whatever about it or them, and if I did, it is now too late to give you advice. This letter cannot leave till Mond. the 7th and and will not reach you before the 12th, or a fortnight from the date of yours. As to the lots in W. St. Paul [*Minnesota*], so much depends on this situation that no one could tell whether they were worth little or much without seeing them. You need to sell your farm well <*to*> if you take them. One annoyance connected with them will be the taxes, for in a city or growing village (as I presume W. St. Paul may be) the authorities lay taxes almost as often as the months come round for some purpose general or Special. How ever, if you have become the owner of them you must, I suppose, do the best possible with them. It is a place much visited by travellers in summer, and by some of them we may be able to learn something. It is a good ways from this – about 330 miles from Chicago, in <*in*> a straight line; probably 375 <*in*> by any of the ordinary routes of travel. At present real estate is very much depressed in Minnesota generally, & I presume in St. Paul also. If these lots are not now sold for taxes, and you can keep them free from that kind of incumbrance for three or four years, they may prove of value, but I should rather have $300 than both of them at a guess. I presume you think so too.

As to your taxes I have to day received the last letter that I needed to get them into shape. Matters have gone a little contrary, but we shall now be able to manage them I think. You will recollect a letter I wrote to the Clerk of Board of Supervisions & sent from your house. I received answer to that to the effect that he had made <*a*> two mistakes, in the letter to wh. [*which*] mine was an answer. This speaking of the sale as taking place March 10, instead of April 10 he admits was a mistake, but says truly, that it was of no consequence. Another mistake is of consequence, but it is against us. The sale was April 10 for $19,98, and in his first letter (Oct. 16) he had added 12 1/2 per cent ($2.49) for interest for six mos. and 25 cts <*cost*> fees, making $22.72. In his second letter he says this was a mistake because the Rule & Practice of the Office is to charge 12 1/2 per cent interest for the first six moths, and 25 per cent for the second, and if it is six months & a day the charge is 25 per cent & 20 on to the end. Hence after Oct. 10 -- then close of the first six moths -- he should have charged 25 per cent $4.99 instead of $2.49. As the matter now stands he demands $25.22 -- or $5.25 more than what it sold for last April. As he will charge no more until April 10, I have concluded to let the matter rest till March 1.

This years taxes too (or for 1858) have been the innocent cause of some annoyance. Just about the time (after Robby's death) I had concluded to return to Ill. [*Illinois*] Abby received a letter from the Collector at Ashippan, <*station*> answering mine written from your house. Without taking any note of its contents, she inclosed it to me at Newark. (Let me throw away this horrid ink) I suppose this was about Dec. 20. I arrived at Lockport Dec. 24. The same day John, to whose care letters were directed left Newark to spend the holidays in Williamsburg -- to be gone therefore some 10 days. I leaned this, and therefore did not wonder that the letter did not return at once. It did not come, however, as I expected even up to Jan 6. I then wrote to John telling him the letter was important. He wrote back that it had not come at all -- perhaps it was among advertised letters -- he would look -- I have not since heard from him. Jan. 20 I wrote to the collector (not knowing his name even) & to day I have received answer. He says he had transferred to the county Treasurer the tax list, the day before he received mine i.e. Jan. 30, and that now I must deal with him. He states the amount to be when in his hands $22.89, and I suppose it will be enlarged $2 or $3 by the transfer. I shall write to him by the first mail, setting that matter at once. Mr. [Tichenor?] says they can be paid with 5 per cent added till last of Feb., I think. I will try that plan, and will let you know its result

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

P.S. Feb. 7. In the accompanying letter I have given you the history of paying taxes under discouraging circumstances, but I think the matter will be closed up soon -- in three or four weeks. If it should prove necessary to visit Juneau before, or at the tax sale I will do it.

And if you have sold your farm what do you propose to do? You will bear in mind that the proceeds belong to your family, and only in a modified sense to yourself. You will of course lay them out in such a way as in the opinion of judicious persons is safe, and best adapted to promote their good. If you could arrange to invest in Ill. [*Illinois*] or Wisconsin, on good security, at 10 or 12 per cent, wh. [*which*] will be readily done, (and I will do it for you at the latter rate if you wish) that might be a good plan. At your earliest convenience I should like to know your plans.

Some very good farms might be bought now in either of these states at reasonable rates, for cash, and this may be the best course. Many places are now sold under mortgages, usually bringing only the face of the notes for wh. they were mortgaged, & of course going into the hands of those who have the mortgages.

I am not certain where I shall go at last. I am engaged here till Oct. next, though not so but that I can probably leave previously if it should seem best. I do not quite like the place, though the people are kind and appreciative & give me $800 salary. I go home to Lockport once in two weeks or thereabouts -- am going to day.

If you could contrive to work a part of Father's farm, and occupy a part of that great house, and let whatever money you can command be loaned, will not that be the best plan? I wish you would think fit. With love to Caroline [*Caroline Grant Burr*], Abby & Eddy I am

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

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Bristol, Ill. [*Illinois*] March 24, 1859.
Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I have to day received the last paper necessary to put your taxes in a satisfactory shape. It has been a long, though not a very laborous process. It has cost something, but less than to send a messenger to the place, while I think there need be no difficulty in managing it hereafter by correspondence. This course is best as it is hard to tell whom we can trust in such matters. I give below a Tabular view of the whole transaction so far as I have been able to arrange it. Some parts of it (as for example the original tax of 1856) I have had to come at by calculations not having the papers.

Original Tax	Int. for		Chgs. including 25 cts for certificate		Total
1856 $16.75.	2 1/2 yrs.	$10.47	.75 cts	pd Oct '58	$28.00
1857 18.47	1 yr.	4.62	3.00	pd March 59	26.09
1858 22.89	<*no*> Int.	.52	.[88?] [*smaller*] 28	pd Feb. 10 '59	23.69
$58.11		$15.61	$4.06		
$77.78					

Now this it must be confessed is not a pleasant show for a man who has to earn his money by the hardest, but even this is not all. To all this must be added the $12 expenses of my trip last fall, and the postage on more letters than I can now think of (each letter inclosed a stamp & therefore [counts?] 6 cts) the interest of the money deposited in Bank to meet the claims, and the interest of each of these payments up to the present hour. I mention these things as you are only part owner of this property & others must therefore share the burden with you.

I will now present the account so far as I am able to make it out.

Charges to last fall's journey	$12.00
Postage on 8 letters & replies (I presume there have been more but these are all I can recollect)	--48
Int. [*interest*] on $37 kept in Deposit in Chicago to meet these taxes as soon as I could find their amount; 3 mos. at 10 per cent.	.90
	13.38

To this you should add such expenses and such interest of money as <*to you*> is justly due you. The account, as already met by you is something as follows

Oct 1858 To Mr. Sandborne <*Dodge*>	Jefferson Co.			$28.00
Feb. 1859 Allen & Atwater	Dodge Co		23.69	
charge 1859	do	do		26.09
Expenses of my trip in Sept. last			12.00	
Postage paid by me				.48
Interest				.90
				$91.16

Thus far for the taxes. Let us now look at our individual accounts.

In Nov. last you let me have $50, conditioned on my paying up these taxes.

Daniel Grant Cr. by Cash Nov. '58 $50

Int. 3 months (ere the three months was up I had to Deposit it to have it ready) 1.25

$51.25

Contra Dr. 1859.

Cash Feb. 10 to A.A. Atwater $23.69

do March 22 do 26.09

Postage .48

Interest----------.90

51.16

Due you ------ $0.09

I gave you due bill for $50. If you think under the circumstances you can be satisfied to strike the balance, and give it up, you may do so at your earliest convenience, sending me due bill in a letter. You will notice that the charges connected with the taxes of 1857 are large = $3. There is dishonesty there though I see not that it can be helped. You recollect the German correspondent whom I suspected so much when at your house. Well he wrote me in two letters that your tax last April was $19.98, and after Oct. must have 25 per cent added to it making 24.97 & 25 cts for certif. $25.23. I saw no reason to doubt this <*but*> and therefore sent him $26.09, judging that he ought to have 75 cts. or more for his trouble. On the first of Jan. however he & his Company went out of office, & were succeeded, I suppose, by those who sign these certificates. They present an account whose total is only $23.08 add 25 cts = 23.33 almost $2 less than he claimed. I can discover no explanation for this, other than that he deliberately exaggerated the tax. But having got the money he keeps it $2.75 for his expenses! He would have kept the whole, unquestionably, if I had sent it in bills, but I sent it in a draft in Chicago, that specified the purpose for wh. [*which*] it was to be paid.

I am sorry this and some other accidents have happened, but am glad the matter is ended & doubt not you are so -- I inclose the certificates. With love to Caroline & the children as well as yourself I am,

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother,

Joel Grant.

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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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[*Abigail Cowles Grant to Caroline Burr Grant (1861)*]

Lockport. Ill. [*Illinois*] Nov, 8. 1861

Dear Sister C.

When my husband sent the letter home just before he left for the war, I was too much occupied with his clothes to write, but tho't I should do so, soon as he was gone. But <u>then</u> came a week of prostration in wh. I could not do any thing, after wh. I had to look after many things & get the N. wing room cleared of all manner of things that were left about and get ready to move in. Having no help, except for washing, I had to take it slowly and rest. Then the moving work, the work after, arranging, the work after that, had to go to Chicago, when taking the cars to return found two Cos'n's from Syracuse, one staid two days the other 11, since wh. I have tried daily to find time to sit down and communicate with you, but this is the first, & it is now past 9 P.M. John & I are living in our N. Wing; have a shantee kitchen, sitting room (John sleeps here on a wide lounge made up as a bed closet, & my bed room -- we have use of cellar, barn for the cow, &c &c. & two chambers. the front one keep just as it was, a smaller one is store room. We are very comfortable in these small quarters, much more so, than if we had more room to take care of. I am succeeding nicely in my line of house work, and John is cheerfully helpful & obedient. He is also much interested in his studies, and looks as anxiously for the daily paper as I do. Our state of mind for the day here depends so much upon the morning paper, wh. comes in from Chicago, on the 9.30. train. From past experiences: we have little to look for but defeat. Today came the news of retreat from Columbus, Ky. the old story of unequal numbers, and attacking an entrenched enemy. The Ky. news takes my first attention, now -- The report of the Investigating Com. in Fremont's case, is painful, nobody to be trusted; his farewell to his soldiers is dignified and uncomplaining --

I hear from my husband once or twice a week. heard to-day. he has been at Smithland, Ky some 20 miles from Paducah for two weeks. will be there but a short time longer -- Is well except a cold, is very busy, and on the whole enjoying himself as well as he can any where away from his home. I hope he can come & make me a short visit ere long. I find it very loansome living without my dearest friend beside me, but make the best of it in every way. Mr. G. thought it best to go as it no doubt was, and I try to feel brave. My greatest comfort now is in committing him to our Heavenly Father's care asking Him to take care of the dear one, and keep him in safety, making him useful to souls around him and directing his efforts in every way

We have a kind christian family in the other part of the house, we try to be a mutual comfort to each other. It would be so pleasant, if you could come and stay a few weeks with me, we should have a quiet time for visiting. I really enjoy doing my work, tho' it makes my back ache every day. But my bread is so nice, & I can see that it is so much economy in wood & every thing else, that there is really great satisfaction in it -- My eyes will hold out no longer, so good night to you --

Sat. P.M. A hard frost last night makes everything look more like winter coming than before. Potatoes are very bad here this year. We have none now. 2/3 of what we had were discarded -- The dry rot is on all this region. We have two bbl's nice bell flower apples for winter. had a good many summer and fall apples.

[*written along side of last page*] John has gone hunting to-day. I am always afraid, but his Pa says he may go & provides the gun & ammunition, so I hope he will not get hurt --
Joel writes he was never so busy in his life. Do you hear from him --
How is your sister M.

[*written along side of middle pages*] What do you know of Aunt B. and Cos - Ellen -- & all the friends -- I shall think of you thanksgiving day. J. & I shall be alone probably. I shall have time to think how all the dear friends are far away.

[*written along side of first page*] We have a Soc. for serving for the Hospitals. By a Festival we raised the first $25 to get means to do with. We are making Hospitals shirts & drawers socks, sheets, & cot. & pillow ticks -- We send a box Mond. to the 19th Col. Surelin From another Festival, the eve before the Band left we made $50 more so we shall keep busy for awhile Let me hear from you soon I will try to answer more promptly -- Love to Father, & Mother. & you all, your aff. sister Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] --

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[*Envelope addressed to*]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Cole Brook
Mill Brook P.O.
Conn.

Oberlin, Aug. 17th 1865

Dear Aunt Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]:

I never intended to be so tardy in answering the good long letter you wrote me, the latter part of last Apr. – But you have probably heard something how the time has been taken up. I suppose that mother is with you now, and that you have learned from her, all the events of interest which have occurred in the family, of late. We are hoping that her visit at her old home, and among her early friends, will do her much good. If she could only forget the unpleasant things which seem to weigh upon her mind so heavily, she might be a very useful woman, and a great comfort to her family, for many years yet.

I should like to have known of mother's intended trip, a few days before, as I might have assisted in packing and getting her ready. It was almost too bad to find she had left just the day before I reached Austinburg [*Ohio*]! I got my goods together, and came away with William and Theodore last Tuesday. The boys all seemed well and in good spirits. I was much pleased that [Theo.?] seemed so self reliant, and at the same time so industrious and so practical. I think it probable he will prove the best [fanancier?] among the boys. Mother will have a strong arm to lean upon as long as he lives, she may be sure.

Philander expects to start with the sheep next week. Joseph Cowles' family will probably move to Jefferson in September, and then I cannot see that Austinburg will hold out many attractions to any of us, longer. I can not see what makes mother feel that it is so desirable a place to live in. I am sure that to <u>me</u> Grinnell would present far greater attractions.

I think we are going to enjoy our stay here very much. – We were disappointed yesterday in the boarding place we expected to have, (at Prof. Ellis') After having made all our calculations upon going there for several weeks, Mrs. Ellis came home from the west, bringing with her a cousin, whom, not knowing her husband's plans, she had engaged to board in her own family, and they could not furnish us all, <u>rooms</u>. The Prof. seemed very much chagrined, and would have had the young man seek another boarding place, if his wife's relatives would not have been displeased. As it is, we have been so long unsettled that we feel like seeking a home of our own, and Mr. Shurtleff is looking around for a house which he thinks would suit us. I fear we can not rent a desirable house, and real estate is high. It would not matter much if we expected to remain

here permanently, but as it is somewhat doubtful whether we stay more than a year, it is hard to settle the question whether to board or keep house. It will however doubtless be settled in a few days, by our finding, or failing to find, such a house as we would like, in case we went to housekeeping. If we should get established in a home of our own, we shall want mother to make us a long visit before she goes to Iowa.

Friday morn, Aug. 18th

We tired ourselves out yesterday in looking <*for*> at houses for sale, and returned to our boarding place, without suiting ourselves at all. I think we will stay where we are as contentedly as we can, until an opportunity presents itself for a favorable change. We are very pleasantly located as <u>boarders</u>. There are few more desirable places in town, than the one where we are stopping – Mrs. Lincoln's.

The fall term opens a week from next Monday. If we board, I expect to take three or four classes – shall probably relieve Mr. Shurtleff of one of his.

We have a call, and I must close. – I am very anxious to hear of mother's safe arrival at Colebrook.

With much love to one and all,
Mary B. Shurtleff

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[*Stationary*] Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio [*handwriting starts*] Apr. 6th 1875.

My dear aunt,

I have been thinking from day to day ever since I received you last letter that I must not delay answering it, and last night, in order to be sure not to fail in sending out a letter today. I decided to begin writing this morning before any other work should engage my attention. I have something to tell you about, in which I know you will be interested. I attended the <u>golden wedding</u> of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Malthy last evening, and will produce to you some of the features of the occasion which particularly impressed me.

We received our invitation more than a week ago from a Miss Ayers (the Principal of the High School) who resides in the house between the Malth's and Prof. Smith's. She said the neighbors were greatly interested in the coming anniversary and were going to do all they could to make it a success. To relieve the family, who were to have company from abroad, they insisted upon <*preparing*> providing all the refreshments except, I believe, the meat and fruit. Nicer cake and biscuit I am sure I never was made.

The company was received in the two front rooms the double doors being thrown open. There must have been over fifty present. They were all from Forest St. except the relations from abroad Prof. & Mrs. Cowles, Mr. & Mrs. Brand, Mr. S. and myself. We considered ourselves quite honored to be invited.

The rooms were pleasantly adorned with flowers and evergreens. Festoons of evergreen hung from the casings of the double doors and other appropriate places. There was a beautiful pyramid of rare flowers in the recess of the bay window where the bride and groom sat in easy chairs, and there were handsome boquets in baskets and vases in other parts of the room. I think all the green houses and conservatories in town must have been laid under contribution to furnish so many. <*After*>

After refreshments were served Prof. Cowles was called upon for remarks. He naturally dwels somewhat at length upon the great changes which have taken place since he and Jesse Malthy were school boys -- the greatly increased educational advantages and progress of Christian enterprises of every kind. He referred to the upright and excellent character of the large family, thirteen in number, of Mr. Malthy's father, and mentioned the fact that a daughter of an older brother present, was a missionary on heathen ground.

This brother followed with a short speech which I did not distinctly hear, but which had reference to the value of early Christian training. Mr. Shutleff then read from letters of about relations expression regret a not being able to be present, among them one from Lea Collar and

his wife. Mr. S. spoke of his visit at Lea C's -- his pleasant impressions of the country and people about Mrs. Malthy's old home &c.

The bridegroom in his characteristic way gave an account of <*the*> his marriage the manner in which he pursued his work of carpentry and joinery in those <*years*> days, his trip to Ohio, his residence in Bristol and since then in Oberlin, Some things which he said were quite funny and amused his hearers very much. In conclusion he thanked the neighbors for their interest and kindness, and thought he should know them better after this. Mr. Bushnell (the father of Mrs. Prof. Smith) made the wittiest speech of the evening in giving reminiscences of the time <*evening*> when he and Mr. Malthy and a few other were managers and proprietors of a Rail Road. They were so generous to passengers that they not only gave free tickets but entertained them on their way. Of course we soon perceived that he was talking of the underground R.R. for transporting fugitive slaves to Canada -- Prof. Ellis made the concluding remarks and a prayer which was full of interest and feeling. I have gone so much into detail because I felt sure you would be interested and I hope that through you Mrs. Collar may hear about it unless she is more particularly informed by some one else. I learned yesterday from Minnie Hill that you are in Flemington and I want to write to Abbie I will communicate what further I have to say to her, expecting that you will also have the benefit of it. Your affectionate niece.

Mary B.S.

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Omaha July 11th 1875

Dear sister Carline,

Your kind and sympathetic letter, with a note enclosed from Abbie, was duly received, and I was very glad to hear form you. I am very anxious to keep up communication with my husbands friends, but all have family interests and duties which occupy their time so that I cannot expect to hear from them often. I am sorry that Daniel finds it necessary to stay in <*Kansas*> Missouri when it does not seem to be desirable for him to remain, but I am told that there is every prospect of a very fine crop there this year. I was in Kansas about the last of March and all the crops were then promising and Mr. [Bossierre?] writes me that every thing is very encouraging. The grasshoppers have done little damage and crops fine. You seem to be able to make your self useful wherever you are, which must be a great comfort to you in your unsettled life. I hope Abbie will soon have a home to which you can go whenever you choose. I am here with my children and shall probably spend the remainder of my days in the west. Jennie Boyd and myself are boarding with Wm & Mary are just now on a visit of a month to Utah and Colorado, and I expect this week to take the two little children and meet them at Grand Island (where Libbie lives), on their way home, Libbie has a family of 6 children four boys and two girls. They are living in a region which was devastated by the grasshopper last year and of course it injured Mr. Hurfords business very much. You who live at the east can have no idea with how much interest the movement of this insect are watched here. I presume half of the days for a month they have been passing over as so that looking up toward the sun was like looking up into a snowstorm. Very few have alighted in Nebraska though in some cases the gardens have been quite destroyed and I have heard of a few wheat fields which were consumed. We have had terrific storms this season of hail, wind and rain, but vegetation seems to thrive in spite of it all. I am glad that you can visit the old home of our fathers occasionally and that Newark lies in your way to Flemington that you can see John and Gertrude sometimes. It is matter of regret to me that I was not with my husband that last winter in Kansas but he thought it not best for me to go back there until our home there could be made more comfortable. The new house is now finished, and how sad it was to me as I went through the three pleasant rooms adjoining the library designed for our use, to think that he who had planned and labored to carry out the plan could not enjoy them. But I do not feel that his efforts to benefit humanity are lost. Others will arise to carry forward the work, while he is at rest. It is pleasant to me to read your words of appreciation of my dear husband and I know that he felt a deep interest in your welfare.

I should be very glad to hear directly from Daniel and hope he will yet write to me.

Please let me hear from you as often as you can find time to write to me

Your aff Sister
S B Grant

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Hallowell Maine

Sept 8th, 1875

My dear Mother,

Your letter has been just received. I forgot in my living of moving and settling that I had not answered your question with regards to the cape. I have been thinking for two or three days days that I would write to you right away, but I should not have thought of the cape. If you think that aunt W. or the [Stewarses?] would value the cape any I would just as soon they would have it for it will be some fuss to get it fixed and [thou I?] know how pretty it would be. I am not particular either way. We left Andover Miday Aug 27th and spent most of the day in Boston. At 6 P.M. we took the Steamer Star of the East and sailed for Hallowell. We reached here at half past 8 on Saturday morn, and found Dea. Page waiting to take us to the school. We were here in advance of all the others as the school did not commence until the 2nd of Sept. We did not more than get settled in our rooms before the time commenced and there are quite a number of things that are not arranged yet, brackets pictures, &c. We have a large parlor 18 x 21 upon which is quite a pretty carpet, but we furnish the rest. We bought in Boston a very handsome haircloth lounge and rocking chair, our four black walnut [cameseat?] chairs which we had at home were packed with the things and came safely. We bought in Augusta a large Mahogany [curtis?] table, and quite a pretty camp chair. Also a little [ratain?] rocking chair for the children. We have [hung?] several of our pictures in there but the room is so large that it doesnt seem much furnished yet. I am going to have a small rocking chair soon and my large wooden one that I brought from O. can be covered newly and when my flowers are started we shall be quite cosey. The bedroom opens out of the parlor through a closet which I have carpeted and in which stands a bureau when I keep the childrenss clothes. We also hang some clothes that we need very often there. The bed room we also carpet ourselves but they furnish it otherwise we have a full bedroom set light color. The room is about 14 x 16 in it are two large windows in the parlor are four. They both have doors opening into the hall and between them is a door opening into a large closet which we use.

Here is a rough diagram at the other end of the building

Almon Hall has a small study.
The view from our room is quite pleasant.
We can see the river for some little distance
but the hills close us in pretty [roughly?] Pettie
is writing a letter to you one of the girls gave
some paper and envelopes for her own use.
I asked her to wait and [...] help her write it, but she was in too much of a hurry. We received your letter with the $10, for which we were very thankful, and Edward sent

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Hallowell Maine
Nov. 1875.

My dear Mother,

We are having cold dismal weather now but are getting along nicely I think. Almon seems to be prospering with the school. I am pretty well and dont have much to do. and the children are pretty well too. Pet seems better than ever she was and Harry is stronger and less fretful than last spring though he doesnt seem to be very healthy yet. Almon thinks that he grows but I cant see that he does.

Our rooms are getting to look a little more cheerful than they did I have several plants. some hanging baskets and some dishes of moss and little wild things. I take the whole care of

any rooms I have no one in particular to take care of the children when I go out but am going to try to find some one next time though I dont know as I can. It is very hard to find any one to help here. and we dont feel that we can pay a girls whole board for what she would help. I wish we could go to housekeeping but it seems as though Almon ought to be here in the building for the present. This is a cold dismal land except for a little while in the summer. I dont enjoy the board here very well. We have so little fruit. and things are not always well cooked. but upon the whole I suppose that the board is very good.

The soreness about Pets eyes seems entirely cured now which of course improves her appearance very much I like most of the people whom I have met here very much. quite a number have called and I have been out to three evening companies.

I hope that you are all well at Uncles. and that company has ceased to pour in upon you.

A little farther up this hill upon which we are there is one of the most beautiful views that I ever saw or rather was for since this landscape has lost its summer and autumn beauty the view has lost much of its charm but is still very beautiful in a bright day. I send some pieces of my dresses. the silk was two dollars a yard. I got 25 yds. the making up in simple style yet stylishly was $15.00 aside from lining &c. the cashmere was $1.25 per yard. 10 yards. the making cost 9.50. The Alpaca was well I have forgotten exactly what. but it was a remnant. and I think was 35 or 37 cts. per yd. I have a wrapper of it.

We heard from Edward a while ago. I am so sorry that he has to go wandering about so much. I wish that we could find a place for him here but nothing has shown itself yet. We shall not forget him though. What do you hear from Father and from Aunt Mary and family? I hope that you are well With much love

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

Almon is very much tired just now. but vacations is soon coming.
How are all of Albert's family? and [Jennie?]

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[*Printed:* Water Color Work Studio of Benton & Rogers, Artistic Photographers. Large Work a Specialty.] Crayon & Ink Work

Hoosac Falls [*New York*] July 23 1880

Dear Aunt

I have just finished reading your letter and was much pleased to get it. Now to business first and chat afterward. If after what I tell you you still want Ed's photo copied I will be glad to do it and <u>give</u> you 4 or 5 The picture is considerably faded. It was a good one, I think, when first taken, but now being faded I am afraid it would loose in the copying. I think you could get Ed to sit for a 1/2 doz which would be more satisfactory, though it may be you want them like this one for associations connected with it. Now please dont think by what I have said that I dont wish to do it for you. It will <u>really</u> <u>give me pleasure</u> and may be I can get a better one than I think. At any rate if it will not be convenient to have him sit for more please send me word <u>right</u> <u>a way</u> and I'll see what I can do. We are not yet very busy so I'll have the time plenty. I dont think I'll need that money, if I do I'll let you know

Will send you at same time as this letter one of side view of our house, that I took when home last winter. Would also send one to Uncle & Aunt Collar only I have but one more, and unfortunately the negative was broken when we moved so that no more can be printed. Will send them one of front view which is not so good however, that is of the house though it shows the grounds to better advantage, and on that account I like it. When first I looked at it through the stereoscope it made me feel a little homesick it seemed as though any minute I might see Father or one of the girls go up the path.

In Bennington I had become acquainted with several very nice people and hated to leave but then we cant always do as we wish. And another thing: There we had a nice reading room and library

to go to. Here there is a small library but there is no reading room where we can see the papers, and what to me is of more consequence the magazines. You ask how we prosper. I think in a little while we will do pretty well. We are beginning to get work from a nice class of people. One Gentle man who took home some photo's of himself last night this morning came in and ordered some more saying they were all pleased at home and he thought we would get some more work on account of the way his were done. Of course commendation from a customer can not help but please us. My health is generally very fair and by care I hope to keep it so.

Whe[*n*] I was at home I used to wonder a little when I heard people talk of christians being drawn toward each other so much. Then I did not understand it. Now that I am among strangers I do for I feel it myself. I meet so many scoffers and rough irreligious men that it does one good to get among christians, especially as it is with some I meet whose lives bear out their professions.

I have been wondering for some time if Mary Burr is married, and now from what you say in your letter I conclud she is. Am glad to hear that Ralph has such a nice wife. If I can so arrange it, when I go home next time I will stop a day or two in Norfolk to see them all. It is now almost six years since I was there. Is Ed any where near getting married; but then I'll write to him in a few days and put the question to himself, though I doubt getting as much satisfaction from him as I would from you. I knew you were to spend a short time in New H. and it may be that I had heard that you did. Nellie had some very sweet traits, and toward the last she was (so they have told me) more drawn toward her Heavenly Father than ever before. It is pleasant for me to think of. Fannies husband wrote me a day or two ago that Cousins Mills, Cornelia Raymond & Bessie are going west next week, Where I don't know.

Thank Uncle & Aunt for their regard for both Lewis & myself. Lewis says he remembers with great pleasure his visit there and told me to say he <u>may</u> go again sometime He expects to go home in the fall and if I remember right he spoke of stopping there on his way; That was several days ago. If it is possible should like very much to stop myself. Now don't forget to let me know if you wish that copy made; If you have not time to write letter a card will answer.

Love to yourself Uncle & Aunt

Your aff nephew
S. R. Hill

Hoosac Falls
N.Y.

July 18, 1880

My dear sister.

The switch arrived all right -- it is very nice & good -- Suppose it must have cost two or three dollars -- which I will try to remember -- cannot very well spare the money just not now if not actually obliged to. Have had to get new napkins, towels, pillow cases &c. Am using <*three yr.*> some old linen sheets to be washed once around, thus saving the necessity for more than a pr. or so of new cotton ones.

Wm [*William Hill*] read D's [*Daniel Grant*] letters -- says it is impossible to advise him at this distance As to stock-raising -- he supposes that D. would of course have to invest money & he would have to depend upon others for much of the work in it" -- But it seems that is the one thing he <u>has never tried</u> but <u>always</u> <u>wanted</u> to try -- when he has lost every cent in the business -- he will probably be ready to come East & be taken care of -- though if he does go into it -- it would of course be best to <u>hope</u> <u>for</u> better things. In the light of the past it looks as though more money would be made by putting what he has left at interest & earning his board at <u>house</u> <u>work</u> if he could not do it any other way -- He might go to Leadville & set up a laundry. But all must be left to Infinite Wisdom I think D ought to contrive to do something at which he could earn his board, but it may not be possible.

I have a new lawn dress -- black ground with small white figure -- material cost about 1.50 the making two dollars -- the girls would have me get it -- & I suppose I really did need it -- We did nothing whatever to my last summer's hat but to take off the flowers I had worn 2 years & put on new ones & put on last winter's bonnet strings -- Carrie has my old flowers on her hat

Carrie seems about the same in health as before -- but we dont allow her to sweep nor iron -- she does light work. I have very little more idea of Abbie & the family than before she came home -- Have had very little opportunity to question,

Love to Uncle & Aunt
Your aff. sister
Mary B. Hill.

Carrie says she did not work much at Abbie's. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

Will send next time D's letter in which he tells you to live in your income & that he is going to Indian Ter [*Territory*] & one of Abbies saying perhaps they will not stay & asking you again to come, i.e. if you wish them.

You would better at once put in a sure place this letter of D's telling his affairs & with whom to communicate.

Wed. 21 Wm says that this additional sheet will make the letter double postage -- so opened it to put in the other letters & have them off my hands -- Am going riding Wm & I with Mrs Lukens this morning.

Carrie does not seem to know that they had surely decided to go back to the Hall -- Thinks it very probable that they will stay in house the year out. Carrie is very useful. There is much she can do without doing hard work.

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Arkansas City, 2, 23, 83

My Dear Wife

Yours of the 9 ins't. was rec'd in due time.

Intended to have answered it night before last but it was not convenient and last night impossible before 11 oclock when I went to bed. I might as well have set up for I couldn't sleep. Now it is two oclock <*P*> A.M.

I was hesitating about a piece of land when your letter came. I was well aware judging from the experience of a pretty long life that whatever I did would be the wrong thing but was rather in favor of going east and comitting the wrong in that way than to commit it here but when I found by your letter that you were quite indifferent about my coming decided to stay here some longer.

I found 80 acres of land vacant one mile from town and have laid claim to it and am building a small house upon it.

It is not very good land. If it had been it wouldn't have been vacant for some knew that it was vacant who would have taken it if it was a good tract. They were very careful not to tell of it tho for they though if they could keep it vacant till they were ready to take it, it would be so much good luck for them. They are now sorry they did not taken it while there was a chance.

I believe I can make something out to fit as it is so near town. Even the township assessor whose business it is to know what land is vacant and what is not was ignorant of it.

I recolect when I was in Norfolk one of the Kilbourn boys testified in court that he made some rough land he had pay him the interest of $100.00 per acre in pasture. If I can make this pay half that I can make a good thing of it.

I intend to put about 50 acres in pasture. I can easily get all the stock it will keep. Some of it is very good land. It is thought to be good land for grapes. If it is that will pay. I can rent the good land so that it will pay better than to cultivate it myself if I was able to cultivate it.

My health is better than before I went to Eureka Sprints but my strength is weakness yet. I presume that a little hard work will bring back all the <*hard*> bad feelings I used to have. I have not had any hard sickness since I have been in trade.

When I tried to farm was more or less sick every year. I begin to feel sleepy Will finish some other time.

There are springs within 10 miles of here that are becoming quite celebrated even more so than Eureka Springs. They are called the [Guida?] Springs (Pronounced Goda).

I don't know what else to write about. Perhaps a little on the weather will not be uninteresting. I always like to have you tell about the weather in New England.

Feb. 24 I was Sleepy last night. Last Sunday was a very stormy day. Rain and snow. Good sleighing Monday Tuesday and Wednesday but snow most all gone now. Winter has been very warm and pleasant.

Vegetation had started considerable before this storm. Probably the fruit is mostly killed. I don't know as I have told you who to write to if you want to wh. I don't expect you will.

Ridenour and Thompson They are [juclers?] in this town and particular friends of mine.

My old partner Mr. Wm. [T?] Benedict with whom I stopped for a time after my return is dangerously sick. His disease seems about the same as old age tho he isn't quite so old as I am.

Much very much love.

Thine Entirely

D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

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[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant
<Mill Brook> Canaan
Conn.
Care E. D. Grant

Soon after reaching Beloit in Aug. '84
Beloit Wis, [*Wisconsin*]
Aug. 1884
My dear Mother,

There really hasn't been a chance to write before for lack of a suitable place, even if the chance had come other wise. I think of you and know that you are wondering why you don't hear. It has been very hot most of the time since we came, though it is cooler now, and settling has been slow work. Here the house is a very inconvenient one with but few cupboards and closets, and it has been hard to know what to do with things. We are getting along now so that we are beginning to see through

After we left you we went to Aunt Charlottes. There Arthur began to have bowel trouble I <made> had some neutralizing mixture <and> which I gave him, and he improved a little, but while we were at Lymans it gave out. On our way to Oberlin I stopped at Alice Leonards as we expected, but after leaving the train I began to worry at the character of the passages, which I hadn't fully observed in the close quarters on the train. At Mrs. Leonards he grew worse very fast. I sent out and got the ingredients for some medicine for him and began giving it but Mrs Leonard was so alarmed that she wanted me to send for the Dr. he came and pronounced him a very sick child. I told him what I was giving him, but he knew nothing of it, so I let him treat him as he wished. Baby grew worse faster than before. I felt that I must get to father Burrs with him, and went on the day before I intended to, the Dr gave me medicine to give him every half hour on the train. When I reached fathers I said to Mother as quick as I got into the house, "I want some neutralizing mixture as quick as I can get it." There happened to be some in the house already prepared and he began to take it immediately. Before twelve hours had passed he was much more comfortable, before two days were gone I felt he was out of danger. But if it hadn't been for the neutralizing mixture I believe he would have died. He was <u>so</u> sick poor little thing. He hasn't been quite so pleasant and happy since his sickness as before, but seems well.

We find Beloit very pleasant, the people are kind and a number have sent in things such as apples, green corn etc. a good many have called already too. Our house (The one we used to speak of as the Rowland house) is in a very nice neighborhood on a pleasant street. When we came Pres. Chapin meet us at the station and took us to his house to tea, and to spend the night.

We are all pretty well now. I hope to hear from you before long and hear something of father. Give my love to him. Have you made any plans yet? What do you hear from them at Uncle Erastus's ?

I must get to bed.

With love Abbie.

Mond morn

I found there were no envelopes so did not get my letter off. I forgot to say that we called on Aunt Susan and Jennie in Chicago. John of course was not at home again. Little Susan is a sweet child. Not as tall as Arthur but about as broad.

I had a nice visit in Oberlin both at Fathers and Mary Shurtleffs. Spent two or three days at Mary's and was there at tea once or twice beside. Annie and Laura renewed their intimacy and were very happy together. Prof. S. was in Dakota but returned the day before we left for Beloit. Father and Mother Burr are well. Nettie much better than when I last saw her. She is wearing an electric belt which she thinks helps her. Celia rather under the weather with rheumatism
I send a picture of little Arthur

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Hartland Vt. *[Vermont]*
Jan. 5/91

Daniel Grant Esq.

My dear Sir:--

According to the "Year Book" your church has no pastor?

I am exceedingly anxious to find a more congenial field of 'holy toil.'

Can you obtain for me a trial? or if the church, of which you are the clerk, has now a pastor can you refer me to some vacant charge?

Hoping for a favorable reply

Sincerely Yours

Ralph J. Haughton

[*On verso, a penciled diagram with distances marked. Written in another hand in pencil:*] Map of our Wood lot in Norfolk I think -- am pretty sure -- C. Grant. that D. marked off.

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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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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Southfield
Berkshire Co.
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*

[*Note on envelope*] from Abigail E. Grant Burr
Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*
May 29th 1892

My dear Mother,

We were so glad to get a letter from you again It was such a very long time since we had heard, & were glad of all the particulars that you gave, for I have wondered so much how things were going with you & Edward. Will attend to matters of which you spoke, [spoon?], bible &c. I know I shall be glad to have some of the things of which you spoke, [bidding?] &c. Mr. Burr is sick to-day but is keeping quiet, & hopes to be around tomorrow. The children are all as usual, are at church this morning. This is a most beautiful day.

Tuesday we.

Mrs. Emerson came down yesterday to return all her furniture from the house. She could not have come at a more inconvenient time for me, as we are expecting company this week – Almons classmate – Florence Kellogg & her husband. And the Academy reception comes in two weeks. Commencement company &c. It looks like absolute meanness, because she knows that [theres?] no time to replace things now.

You ask why we cannot pay more rent? Because we cannot afford what she asks. We now pay $20.00 a month & she reserves some rooms We do not feel that we can afford more than $25.00 a month. We have offered that but they want $40.00 a month so that we cannot pay Neither is the house worth it. Every one says that they cannot get it. About Mr. Emerson, no one knows what he thinks she wont let him peep & manages everything herself. I presume if they put the place in decent repair that we would pay $29.00 <*or*> - $35.00 pr year rather than more, but I think from the way Mrs. E. talks that they, would rather let the house be vacant. <*than wait*>

Your second letter enclosing check to be signed came yesterday, have signed as you see & will try not to forget to put it in.

Was glad to see Mary Shurtleffs letter it told me quite a bit of news, as you surmised different from what the girls write.

Adelie Emerson is still here though visiting elsewhere for a few <...> days, will be back with us the last of the week. I think she is improving quite fast now. It has been our intention to have you come back with me when I come home from my visit, & we hope that nothing will happen to prevent it. We expect to have room for you whenever we have to move. I would like to stay here for your sake if we could have the whole house, but as it is now, we could have no room here, for Mrs E will not let me have the large front rooms upstairs, unless we pay $40.00 a month, so we have to move. We feel very much that we must have you with us this winter. The children want it as well as we older ones. About our coming, we shall not all come as we at first planned. I think that plan was given up when Father died. I doubt if Almon comes, & which of the children or whether either I dont yet know.

When would you prefer to have me come? As soon as I can after Commencement? or later? I dont yet know when I <u>can</u> come, but will try to come at at your convenience if possible.

Do not worry about your dresses. We can get dresses [after?] at the house here & it will be much easier to attend to your wardrobe than there.

I was glad to hear a few words about the children, in whom I am always interested.

Arthur & I are looking forward to much pleasure in driving there by & by.

With love to you all

Your aff daughter
Abby

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