**Subject: Legal Documents & Discussion**

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Know all men by these Presents that we Pamela Burr [*Pamela Benton Burr*] as principle and Robins Battell as surety are holden and stand firmly bound & obliged unto W.B. Rice Esq. Judge of the Court of Probate for the District of Norfolk [*Connecticut*] in the final sum of Two Thousand dollars, to be paid to the said Judge, or his certain attorney or successor in Office
———
Now Therefore, if the said Exectrix shall make or cause to be made a true & perfect Inventory of all & singular the Goods, Chattels, Credits and Estate of the said desceased, which have or shall come to the hands, prossession or knowledge of the said Exectrix or into the hands or possession of any other person or persons for her — and the same so made do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the registry of the said Court of Probate in the District of Norfolk at or before the 12th day of March next ensuing: & the sd. Goods Chattels, Credits & Estate, and all other Goods, Chattels, C. & Es. of the said Deceased at the time of his death & disposed of by said last Will & Testament which shall at any time come into the hands of or possession of any other person<*s*> or persons for her shall & do well & truly administer, & faithfully discharge the duty & office of Exectrix of the said last Will, & duly execute the same, same, settle the said Estate of said deceased according to the provisions of the Said Will the Orders of the Court of Probate & the rules of Law; & shall settle all the accounts thereof with said Judge, within such time such time as he shall limit & appoint: Then, on such performance, this obligation shall be void, & of no effect; but on default, to be and remain in full force & virtue

(L.S.) P.B.
(L.S.) R.B.

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[*New sheet of paper with a London watermark*.]

Notes <u>on time</u> are liable to interest after they become due, whether demand is made for their payment or not —

Notes <u>on demand</u> are liable to interest from the time demand is made until the payment of them —

_____

$200.00 Tolland, Nov. 1, 1841.

On demand, for value received, we severally & jointly promise to pay Joseph Ross, two hundred dollars

I. D. Bond
F. H. Bond

Either of the signers to a note of this form are responsible for its payment —

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$75.00 Tolland, Nov. 1, 1841.

Six months from date, for value received, I, John Frost, as principal, & I, Henry Frost, as surety, promise to pay J.D. bond seventy five dollars.

John Frost
Henry Frost

The one who signs as surety in a not of this form is not responsible for its payment, unless from the inability of the principle —

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Form of Receipts —

$60.00 Tolland, Oct. 1, 1841. Received of George Carpenter, sixty dollars, in full of all demands.

J.D. Bond.

A receipt of this form is good against all claims, of whatever kind, if it cannot be made to appear that the person giving it acted ignorantly of facts which would have influenced him to do otherwise.

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$25.00 — Tolland, Oct. 1, 1841. Received of Lewis Tiffany twenty five dollars, in full of all accounts.

J.D. Bond.

A receipt of this form is good against accounts only.

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Cash is debtor when it is received -- The person from whom it is received is creditor
Cash is Cr. when it is paid out or goes from you. The person to whom it is paid is Debtor
In book account mark the right hand page Cr., & the left Dr.

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

East Haddam [*Connecticut*] Jan 31, 1847

Mr Ebenezer Burr

Dear Sir. I yesterday read a letter from Madison Ill. [*Illinios*] stating that the lawyer, with whom I left those claims had gone as a volunteer to the Mexican war in June last. His father states that according to his books he had collected $327. dollars on the Stapp Judgment. & nothing against Sheets & Grower. He had charged to me in May 1845 $100 cash & exchange $2. which I read & distributed. In Feb 1846 $177.78 which I never received although [*although*] his books say it was remitted. For costs paid $72..50 For his fee $25.. making it all $377..28 leaving me indebted to him $57..28 If the $177..78 was put in the mail it must have been taken out it never reached me. The Pinchot affair may be 2 or three years in collecting if collected at all. The Circuit Court sits but 2 times a year in Oct & April & the Supreme Court but once at Washington. Pinchot was sued last July. I have collected but little since I saw you $20 from F. Smith &c I wish I could meet you, Philo, & Frederick & have those old claims disposed of at auction sometime next March, though I would not wish to do so unless we could dispose of them. They are in my estimation growing worse & worse every year, I would in 1843 have given much more for the uncollected claims than I would be willing to give now. But still I am willing to give a fair price or to sell very low indeed.

We are all well & have just written Philo Frederick & Emeline

Most Respectfully

John S. Wallis

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[*Addressed to unknown*]

(Copy) of Sarah W. Curtis writing
Lee, Nov. 14, 1921

As all things have so changed I have destroyed my will and leave this writing in place of a will. In the first place I would have all debts and care of me in sickness, and all funeral expenses fully paid, together with my name on the stone in Stockbridge where I would be burried beside my Dear husband and as things now are I would have Ethel C. Ambler and Lucy C. Grant share equel in all that is left. I have promised our Dear Heavenly Father that should I get the money in the note given by Lizzie Cobb, I would give one tenth for missions and in doing this I would give twenty five dollars to the church in Interlaken and Twenty five to the church in Southfield and the remaining one tenth to go to the Baptist Association Incorporate for the aid of the feeble Baptist churches in Berkshire County. Should I get the money on the Cobb note I should be glad <to> if there was enough left to give one hundred dollars to Helen Wurtzbach and Fifty Dollars to Mrs. Adda Wilder, and Fifty dollars to Charles Curtis' two boys, Twenty five to Raymond and 25. to his brother Charles, and if there should be any left I would have Lucy Grant and Ethel Ambler share equel. My heart is with you all.

Sarah W. Curtis.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr Elijah Grant
Colebrook
Conn [*Connecticut*]
New Haven 18th Feby 1833.

Respected Father,

I have made all inquiries in respect to the existing dispute between Colebrook and Winchester relative to the pauper Balcom which can in my opinion be of any service. I have not however obtained much new light; but the opinions of judicious lawyers here together with my own more mature reflections and more extended investigations, have diminished my doubts whether Colebrook can recover.

In order to state in the plainest manner what I suppose to be the law bearing on the case, I will review it in detail. If Colebrook sues it will be necessary on the part of that town to prove

1. That Balcom when he came to reside in Colebrook had a legal settlement in Winchester
   On this point I suppose there will be no difficulty.
2. That before the expiration of six years he received assistance by way of support from the town of Colebrook at the hands of some person authorized to furnish it
   The individual who furnished it should be able to testify distinctly that it was done with the expectation of being remunerated by the town and not at all on the individual credit of Balcom. If he should be asked if he did not intend the thing furnished as a gift, by way of friendship or charity, he should be able to answer of positively that he did not.
3. That Balcom needed the relief furnished
   But it is not necessary on the part of Colebrook to show minutely how poor he was; if the agent, acting in good faith, had such evidence that he was needy as would satisfy a judicious man it will throw upon the other party the burden of proving that he was able to support himself. And it would not be sufficient to prove that he might have dispensed with the assistance rendered without serious inconvenience; if he was in such circumstances that the aid he received was a great favor and contributed materially to his comfort he was unable to support himself, within the meaning of statue. And if while in such circumstances the town supplied him be became sufficiently chargeable. But if it should be obvious that he might have been comfortable without any aid, it might raise a strong presumption that it was furnished for sinister purposes.
4. That the claim of the agent for the supplies furnished was duly allowed and paid by the town.
   This is necessary in order to show that the town was in fact put to any charge.

I have thus far spoken only with reference to the aid rendered before the six years expired. The claim on which the suit is bought must also be proved like any other similar claim and it must also appear that the relief rendered was necessary.

There is one point which may be material in case on which I have no information whatever. It is in respect to the notice which the town of Winchester may have received of the circumstances of Balcom last winter. Regularly, notice should have been given within five days after the selectmen were apprised of the residence of Balcom – that is the town liable for his support. Stat. p. 370. But if upon demand of payment within any reasonable time the selectmen of the town applied to, disclaim all liability it is an implied waiver of particular notice. So I am advised – and so it was decided, as I understand it, in Newtown v. Danbury 3 Con. Rep. 553. And when a pauper's place of settlement is a matter in dispute between the two towns, I take it, though I am not quite certain on this point, that the town supporting the pauper, after the other has disclaimed its liability, is not confined to $1 a week in its action to recover their expenses – but may recover all the actual expenses.

The statute, it would seem, would apply only in those cases when the place of settlement is certain and known, or at least may be certainly ascertained.

If Colebrook has a good action in respect to the foregoing rules, that town will certainly recover unless Winchester can show that the assistance furnished before the expiration of six years was with intent to prevent Balcom's gaining a residence. And if Frisbie testifies positively that that was not his intention, it can only be shown by discrediting his testimony. If for example any credible witness should say that he heard Frisbie declare that he would not have supplied Balcom but to prevent his becoming a resident – or anything like that – Colebrook would probably fail. Or if it was made to appear that certain persons inhabitants of Colebrook, procured and persuaded Balcom to make the application with the intent on their part to prevent a residence that might perhaps, destroy the action – especially if Balcom's circumstances were not then necessitous.

I think you may gather from the remarks a pretty correct opinion of the prospect of recovery. But I find it necessary to use another half sheet – and shall therefore enclose it, postage to the contrary notwithstanding –

E P Grant [*Elijah Phelps Grant*]

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant
Colebrook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

[*Says in corner*] From Joel Grant Aug. '38 Speaks of his purpose to aid John to study &c.

Berlin [*Maryland*], Aug. 8, 1838.

Dear Father;

I have no time to write much now and perhaps there is no necessity that I should. My principal object in writing is to inform you that I am well, am doing as well as could be expected, having a small but pleasant school numbering about 15 scholars. As this is the time of year when there has usually been a vacation of four weeks in the school, and as the habits of the people here are to a considerable extent accommodated to that arrangement, I have concluded myself to have one so that I may go on and attend Commencement at New Haven [*Connecticut*] and spend about two weeks at home. I shall therefore close my school Thursday of this week and proceed directly to New Haven [*Connecticut*]. Thursday or Friday of next week I shall hope to reach home. This letter will give you such an explanation of the matter that my arrival there if in the night need cause you no alarm, but as to any further information respecting myself or my school, I prefer deferring it till I see you.

I am desirous that brother John on my return to this place should accompany me for the purpose of preparing for College [*Yale University*]. I feel under great obligations to you for the assistant you have given me in the pursuit of my studies, and know of no better way of returning the favor than by rending the same assistance to John myself. I think I shall get my life insured, so that if by an early death I am prevented from earning money to assist <*ance*> him, he may not be under the necessity either of giving up his studies, or of calling upon you for support. I mention the subject now because I would like to have you think of it some before I arrive at home, <*His clothing*> and that you may make some preparations for his departure if he can come on with me on my return. I am in haste,

Your affectionate Son,
Joel Grant.

I shall be obliged to leave home on Monday the 3d of Sept. in order to be sure of arriving here in season to commence my [... *hole in paper*] on Monday the 10th. Consequently I shall be at home but a little more than two weeks.

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

Double Wis. Ter. [*Wisconsin Territory*]

Andover Theo. Sem [*Andover Theological Seminary*]
July 7, 1843
Dear Brother,

Atmost two months or a little more than seven weeks have elapsed since I parted with you at Albany [*New York*] and I have as yet heard nothing from you. I can however easily account for your not writing without making any disagreeab[le] suppositions, for I know that you must hav[e] a great deal to do, and when you get a moment to devote to the writing of letters there are many whose [claims?] are prior to mine. I can therefore easily pardon the omission, and call it my misfortune not your fault. If however you have not written me on the receipt of this I hope you will soon and that for reasons which you will fully appreciate.

Within the enclosed letter you will find (unless it has been extracted) some money which as I have not it at hand I will describe hereafter, which I wish you to use at your own discretion in purchasing some [l]and for me somewhere in your vicinity. It is a small amount which I do not expect to want for a year at least, and I do not like to lend it to anyone for fear I shall never see it again, and I do not know that I can do better than to buy a little land with it. In order to buy it to best advantage I think you had better devote a few days after harvest &c. to siding around the country to see what there is for which I will allow you as much as it will cost to hire a man, and 37 1/2 <*day*> cents a day besides for your horse. This will give you a recess and will improve your health if it is out of order, and give you an opportunity to see the country, and become acquainted with the people, and the land. At the same time you can determine whether it is best for you or sister Caroline to purchase the lot which lies east of the one you own, and which as you recollect I value at $170 with interest and taxes from Oct. 1842. If you should conclude not to take it I think I shall get Levi or some one else to put up a log cabin upon it after which I think it will sell to a good advantage to some emigrant who [wo]uld like a pla[c]e t[o] put h[is] family. As f[or] the land you are to buy for me, I have but to say that I would prefer you should [buy?] it of goverment in tow lots of 80 acres and within 20 miles of Wilwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*], or if that cannot be, let it be uncultivated land within 16 miles of Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] and at no greater price than two dollars and a half per acre, or if you think it worth while to pay more, write to me. I think it cannot but be that land will increase in value in the vicinity of Milwa[u]kie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]at least as fast as [money at interest for?] some [time?] to come [if?] you [should?] [r]eally believe i[t] best to buy land at a greater distance from Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] than 20 miles, I will leave it to your judgement, though if the wise admits of it, I wish you to write respecting it before making a purchase. I should not like to have you spend more than 12 days in my service looking for land.

I suppose you will need soon to pay the taxes on my lot, I enclose $20 for that and such other expenses as you may be at on my account. Upon the other half of this sheet I will write a few lines to Caroline and if I think of any thing more to say to you I will do it there.

Your affectionate brother,
Joel Grant.

[*other side of paper*]

What do you think of the 80 acre lot that lies south of the wood lot? I doubt whether it is worth buying but in case you should not want the wood lot I do not know but the two together might be so divided as to make two good farms. The streams which would then pass through each would I think render them valuable. If however you want the wood lot I suppose it would not be best to buy the other as it would not be worth any thing by itself.

If you could purchase the land somewhere near you so that I could make you my attorney for its sale it would be well. I know the land there is principally occupied, but perhaps you could find some [...] that has been overlooked. I have not heard from home since I left, directl[tly] Remember me to Levi and his wi[fe].

What do you think of father's selling out and going to Wisconsin? I do not know that it would be best but I wish some method might be devised to free him from the load of debt under which he now staggers, and which must embitter his old age. I do not know indeed that he could be persuaded to think of the thing but if you think best I will mention it to him some time.

You probably have heard of the death of Cousin Maria Cowles. Please write immediately or send a newspaper to indicate the safe reception of this. If you send a newspaper Mark the figure 4 upon it somewhere, by which I shall understand that you have received this safe.

[*Addressed to*] Daniel and Caroline Grant
Andover Theor. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*]
July 7, 1843

Dear Sister,

You have been often in my thoughts since I last saw you at Albany [*New York*]. How often I have imagined to myself your little farm away off there in Wisconsin and revolved in my mind how you and brother Daniel felt. Still with all my revolving I have not been able to resolve my doubts, and I have looked with some impatience for a letter from one or both of you, as I thought you would by the time you had been there a fortnight be able to wr[i]te a little to me. But I kno[w] how it i[s]; you have so much to do, you have so much to see, and you were so tired after your journey that you could not write any except those letters most immediately necessary. If it should prove that you have not been sick, and that no accident has occurred, I shall readily pass over what may now seem neglect. <*I a*>

I arrived s[a]fely at your father's the day after I left you, with no other injury than a burned face. Your people made many inquires concerning you and when they heard how cheerful and happy you appeared to be, they were themselves rendered cheerful. They sent soon after some things by the Canaan people which I hope you have received ere this. I told your people they had better direct them to the "care of Dowsman & Hosmer, Agents of the Merchant's Transportation Co., Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]," and unless they have written to you differently I presume they were left there, and if you have not already obtained them you doubtless can by sending. You would do well to send to your people the <*indi*> names of the individuals to whose care you wish things sent.

I learned soon after I reached home that steam boats on the lakes had formed a combination and raised the price, so that you had to pay more than I expected you would for your passage. I was then sorry you did not gage a p[a]ssage thro[u]gh from Albany [*New York*], but it is another proof that we mo[r]tals are short sighted, and know not what is for the best.

I hope you find means to employ your time pleasantly. If you have any considerable leisure I think it would be well for you and Mrs. Levi Grant to make two or three friendly visits in the course of a week to some of the families around you. If it be possible I would select such as are in the habit of attending church somewhere. Such visits will cultivate the social feelings, remove all tendencies to exclusiveness and selfishness, and will make the time pass cheerfully. If you could start a sewing society, whose object might be to assist your minister, adorn your church, or furnish a Sabbath school Library, no finite mind can estimate its good effects. I confidently expect that in a little time, you will enjoy yourself much, and you may be the means of great good. I hope you will endeavor to make (and I know you will) your house the abode of cheerful, though not expensive hospitality and I believe you will not generally need to labor so hard by that you can have some time to cultivate your mind, your heart and your manners. More I might say but for the present time let this suffice.

Your affectionate brother,
Joel Grant.

Dear Brother

The following is a description of the money I sent you [viz?]

One treasury note of $100 No. 20412 dated Sept 2 1842, Issued [Oc]t. 14, 1842.

One $100 bill o[f] the Mercha[n]t's bank at Boston. No. 184.

One $20 of the same bank No. 665. The Treasury note has been on interest at six per cent ever since it was issued and will continue to be so until Oct 14 of this year when it will cease to draw interest. It will be taken at the land office at any time in payment for land and can be sold at its full value I presume at the brokers. I wish you to inform me what mode of sending you money will be best, whether by treasury notes bills, drafts, certificates of deposit[e] or by what means. If I could have procured another Tre [*Treasury*] Note of $100 I should have sent instead of the bill and if you can not pass the bill without a loss of considerable you may return it to me.

The Treas. [*Treasury*] notes I gave you were on interest till June 30 after which the interest ceases. Let me know how you managed them and also at what expense you <*re*> were in getting to your place.

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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.

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

[*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
Prairieville
Milwaukie [*Milwaukee*] Co
Wisconsin.

New Haven [*Connecticut*] July 28, 1845.

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

I received your letter a day or two since and as it requires an immediate answer I haste to give it. I have no news to tell. Martha is no better. We had her make a visit to Watertown [*Massachusetts*] <*to*> at Dea. [*Deacon*] Woodard's, hoping it would improve her, but it did not. She had to ride there and back on a bed.

As to your selling your place I shall be glad to help you by letting you sell a part or the whole of mine with it, but I do not think you ought to sell yours short of $500, and I think it ought to bring $600, or $5 per acre though of course you can judge of that. You know how land is selling with you and can tell better than I.

I find there are some objections to sending you a power of attorney to sell my land, though they have reference to the expense solely, which after all would be no more than two or three dollars. If after my explanation you think best to have such a power, write me and I will send it. It must be made before a justice here, and must be recorded at Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] before it will be good for anything. A better way seems to be for me to authorize you to sell and I will give the deed as soon as the name of the individual is made known to me. This will be I think satisfactory to any one who wished to buy, and will save expense and trouble. If you think differently however, let me know. At all events such a plan will suit some folks, and therefore I authorize you to sell the whole or a part of the 80 acre lot. If you sell the whole it must not be for less than $200 or $2.50 the acre. If a part it must not be for less than $3 per acre, and as you know far better than I what land is worth you may get as much more as you can, remembering that all you can get more is your own, though unless you need it much I should prefer that you would apply it to the extinguishment of your debt to me of whose amount I know nothing. [Terms], either cash, or one half cash and the remainder secured by mortgage, interest 8 per cent, (or more if you do not think it wicked to take more, less if you feel that it ought to be). Perhaps you can divide both your farm and mine thus making two pretty fair farms with plenty of wood, though at some distance. Do as you think best but remember that if you wish any one to value your farm you must not run it down yourself.

What do you propose to do after selling? I hope you will not think of going into the wilderness. I care not how good the land may be, it will never pay you for being <*ex*>secluded from society. Perhaps if you can sell your farm you can take my 40 (though you say you can take that whether or not) and buy a part of the 80 for wood &c. and then if you can get a house up on the 40 you will be very comfortable. But I feel altogether incapable of advising you. As land is not diminishing in value I should be in favor of your keeping yours for a year or more, till you can get a house somewhere to live in, but perhaps it is not best. I give you full latitude as far as I can.

I do not think I shall come to Wisconsin. You have as many ministers now as you <*can*> ought to have till people can do more for their support. I do not decide <*conclus*> finally however as yet.

Write me at any and all times just as much as you can. The postage now will not be a severe tax especially if you will hand your letters to some one who is coming within 300 miles of Mill-Brook [*Connecticut*], though you need not take great pains to do that. You can send two letters at a time however nor need you be very anxious to fill them full. Our [term?] lasts only till Aug. 21, therefore you will direct to Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] for me and to Newberg N.Y. [*New York*] for John. He has taken a school there, though his prospects are somewhat doubtful. Both John and I expect to speak at commencement. I enclose you my duplicate, though I do not see of what use it will be to you. I am certain it is of no use to me. Your affectionate brother Joel.

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

[*April*] 1 1847

[*Date supplied from date stamp:* Lockport Apr 2 Ill. {*Illinois*}]

[*First page in phonography shorthand. Numerous sums of money are mentioned.*]

Please let me know if all is plain. I would prefer I think a mortgage on my 80 to a mortgage on any other place. If however the purchaser wishes no more than a bond I suppose no mortgage will be necessary

The letter we sent you last was not double for I had our postmaster weigh it before I sent it. Still we will be careful in future.

Write as soon as you can learn whether the term I propose suit, or if not what will be likely to. do so. I have thought it best to inclose a rough draft of a bond which should it suit you may cause to be copied and returned to me for a signature, or should it be imperfect or incorrect you may alter it.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant

Statement of the amount due each year on a debt of $300 upon wh. [*which*] a present payment is made of $36.50 and an annual payment thereafter of $33 1/3. Interest 8 per. cent. Time May 1847

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1847 | 263.50 | The amount for any year is found |
| 1848 | 251.20 | by adding the interest of the amount |
| 1849. | 237 96 | due the precieding year at 8 per |
| 1850 | 223.66 | cent to that amount and sub- |
| 1851 | 208.22 | tracting $33.33. It can be seen |
| 1852 | 191.55 | at a glance how the whole ac- |
| 1853 | 173.54 | count may be settled at any time |
| 1854 | 154.09 | Thus the payment of $43 in |
| 1855 | 133.09 | 1848 besides the $33 1/3, or $76 1/3 |
| 1856 | 110.07 | would carry the matter forward |
| 1857 | 85.90 | at once to 1851 or through th[ree] |
| 1858 | 59.44 | years. Should the purchase[r] |
| 1859 | 30.86 | wish it I am willing this an- |
| 1860 | 33.33 | nuity should be made larger. |

If fifty dollars were paid at first and fifty each year thereafter it would require not quite seven years to pay the whole, or about half the time required by the annual payment of $33 1/3. Should the purchaser prefer to enter into an arrangement to pay $30 now and an annuity of $100 thereafter until settled allowing interest as above I will assent Indeed almost any way will answer wh. [*which*] allows the lot to have a present value of $300 and provides for the annual payment of at least $33 1/3. You are at liberty to show this half sheet to any one who wishes to purchase and assure them these are my views

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel Grant

[*written across side*] Abby sends her love

[*following sheet enclosed in letter*]

Form of a Bond

I hereby bind myself, my heirs, executors, or administrators to give to Y. M. his heirs heirs executors or administrators a full and sufficient [Warantee] Deed of (here describe the lot of which I am now in full and undisputed possession, on the following conditions viz. the said Y M. to pay now $36.50 to my full satisfaction and to pay annually thereafter $33 1/3 in the same manner for thirteen years the last payment to be made in the year 1860, the said Y. M. to have the privelege of <*paying*> claiming the benefit of this bond at any interveneing time <*mak*> paying the then present value of said annuity allowing 8 per. cent interest.

This bond is to remain in force so long as the above conditions are complied with but should the said Y M his heirs executors <*an*> or administrators delay <*said*> the payment of said annuity for a longer period than three months during the first <*three*> six years or longer than one year thereafter this bond to be null <*and*> void and the <*complete*> right to dispose of or use said land shall revert to me unrestrained by any of the conditions herein <*desc*> adopted.

In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of 1847

Should it be wished the annuity part of this may be varied as follows The said Y. M. to pay now $40 to my full satisfaction and to pay annually thereafter $50 in the same manner for seven years the last payment to be made in 1854 &c

Or as follows,

The said Y. M. to pay now $42 &c and to pay annually thereafter $100 for three years the last payment to be made in 1850.

If none of these terms will suit I know not that it is best to trade.

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

W. Avon [*West Avon, Connecticut*] July 5, 1848

Dear Brother

Having waited many months with great anxiety to hear from you, I have at last concluded to take my pen and write something myself. Since your letter of Nov 7, '47 (now eight months) I have received nothing from you, and have heard only a few indefinite reports. My last letter to you was dated sometime in Dec. last so that it may <*be interesting*> interest you to know something of what has haped in the mean time. I was at that time preaching here, and after a few weeks I received a call to settle as their Pastor, wh. [*which*] call I accepted and after delaying a time I was installed the 14th of last month. It is a small society, and they cannot give a large salary, <*though*> and it is by extreme effort that they are able to pay me the $500 which constitutes my salary. They are however a very pleasant people, and the place is situated conveniently to Hartford, being about 12 miles west.

We have a son born April 21, whom we talk of calling John Cowles. He has been healthy until about a week since, when he was attacked with some kind of a complaint wh. [*which*] has made him feeble and worrisome. He is now better, and has a good prospect of recovering entirely. Since his birth (almost eleven weeks) his mother has been very feeble. For a few of the first days she seemed to be doing well, but then she seemed to come to a stand, and soon after began to recede with frightful rapidity until she reached the verged of mortal existence. For many days her case seemed almost hopeless. Such was her state at the time of my installation. At last however she began to revive a little, and she is now better; though still unable to sit up and as you may infer very feeble. My own health has been in general good. I have heard, through a report of some one (stated to rest on the authority of a letter from Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] to her mother), that you have been ill this past winter. Of the nature of the disease, its power or duration I know nothing, but presume it has some connection with the ague. I have also heard that mother has written to you <*advice*> advising you to return to this country after settling up your affairs there. If your present disease properly originates from the country in wh. [*which*] you live I should think such a course a good one and I believe I suggested it to you when I last visited you in the spring of '47. I suppose the great difficulty will be in disposing of your property without a sacrifice that would be ruinous, yet I think if your health is constantly suffering from billious attacks you must do the best you can. I do not know that it would be wise for you to return to Conn. [*Connecticut*] I suppose better farms may be bought in the interior of N. Y.[*New York*] at equally reasonable rates, and in situations equally exempt from billious tendencies. But of this you can afterwards determine.

It has been a matter of surprise to me that you have given me no information concerning my business affairs. You have [*been*] appointed my confidential agent with all the formalities of law, and besides this I wrote you a very urgent letter last December, a letter which I expected nothing but bodily inability would prevent your answering. On the first of last April a $50 annuity was to come into your hands, to be forwarded to me, or to be satisfactorily accounted for. You

had bought a team with my funds, and at my risk; and common justice should have led you to report to me the result, or by some means signify to me a just cause why you did not. A report (I know not that it is to me, though it comes on the authority of a letter to Mrs. Burr) has reached me that you have sold them. With this I do not find fault, but why do I hear nothing either of the sale or its proceeds from you? As to the $50 annuity I admit that it may never have come into your hands, but if not why am I not informed, both of the fact and the [the?] reasons of it? I must confess these things give me great anxiety, the more so as I am in immediate and pressing want of money, and shall be yet more and more so for some time to come. The propriety of the matter does not rest upon this, however, for it is the undoubted duty of agents to inform their employers of the state of the affairs entrusted to them, and faithfully to deliver over all property that comes to them in a shape to be thus delivered.

May I then expect that you will give an immediate answer to this, informing me [both] of the present state of the team and all the affairs connected with the sale of the 40 [acres]. Of the payment due from Timothy Mahan on the first of last April, whether the note then due was taken up, & if not the reasons why as far as you know them? Perhaps it will assist you to <*tell*> be told how far I understand these matters already. Your letter of last November is my only source of information and from that I learn that you sold my 40 for $250, taking in payment,

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 mortgage deeds of village lots | $163.00 |
| 2 notes of $29 each | 58.00 |
| Cash to balance | 29.00 |
| | $250.00 |

(Of the last item you make no explanation, leaving it doubtful in what way you received it, or whether you received it at all.)

You afterwards bought a team for which you gave the mortgage deeds above mentioned, and agreed to pay $37 this spring and $37 next November, making its entire value about $237.

As far as your account with me is concerned I believe it is embraced in the following items

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Oct. '47 | Cash received of T. Mahan | 15.00 |
| April '48 | do. do. | 50.00 |
| Nov. 47 | 2 notes of $29 each | 58.00 |
| | <*2 village lots mortgage*> | |
| | Cash (rec'd to balance as above) | 29.00 |
| | Investment in team | 163.00 |
| | | $315.00 |

From this there may be something to be deducted for taxes <*due*> laid on the 80 before I sold it to Mahan, but I know of the way in which the rest can be accounted for. If there is any error in this statement you will inform me. [Thus?] let the matter be at once explained, however bad it may be. I shall keep a copy of the above statement , so that I can see what I wrote to you and compare it with your reply. I have endeavored to get the whole case before you so that you need have no difficulty in explaining it Brother John has left his school in Woodbury [*Connecticut*] & is now engaged as Tutor at New-Haven. His health is as good as it has been at any time since he had the operation performed.

Abby sends her love to you and Caroline to wh. [*which*] I would add a great deal of my own. Do not delay to write directing to West Avon Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant

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Hamilton [*California*] May 20/ 54

Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I received your letter dated at Flemington [*New Jersey*] March 17 two weeks since & thank you much for it. It is the only one received since Christmas mailed Nov. 4 but it cannot be all you have written I have not written directly to you since I can't tell when but I think in answer to your Nov. letter at any rate about that time principally because you wrote that you were intending a visit to F. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] & I was not sure where to direct.

Thank you exceedingly for the kind tone of your letters & for the greatness of soul you exibit in our separation. I have been gone long from you, altogether too long but it seems that you take about the same view of the propriety of my staying <*of . . .* > that I do. I could make something here if I could be permited but the continued series of bad luck that has marked my course hitherto it seems is enough to discourage <*stoughter*> stouter hearts than mine. But yet I cannot entirely give up though at times I think I will.

For some months my luck has not been particular discouraging & perhaps that is the reason I am not completely discouraged yet, though there are some spots that look bright there is a dark cloud hanging off yonder of which I am continually in some fear. The cloud seems to be growing somewhat less angry but it is not altogether certain but it may yet gether new fury & burst fourth with violence. The law suit I so much feared a few months ago I fear no longer.

In my last letter to you I made a remark that you might not take as I meant that is a man can save more to work at home at $20, per month than to come here to work for $40, I would be understood to include the time & money spent coming & returning & we will set the term at five years.

It does me good to have you write so particularly about the children. I have for a long time been intending to write to Abby but you know I have no small talk for children & it has been more than I have done to get time to write all I wish of more importance.

You will learn before the receipt of this that I am in the dairy busi at present making butter but soon expect to make cheese. Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] is with me we have 12 cows If <*you*> we were a little more advanced with our farm we would have 20. I[t] is a very pretty business I like it & shall probably make it my business while I stay here Shall come home as soon as I <*co . . .*> can sell this place whether it is soon or not at least I think so now.

Is there any work published upon butter & cheese making? if there is & you can posibly get it I wish you would send it to me by mail I can beat anybody making butter but I can't say so of cheese.

I feel quite slighted that Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] did not call on me before going [below] I have received <*one of*> no letters from him for so long a time that if there was nothing else to keep him in remembrance I should have forgotten him long ago. I will write to him soon.

M. [*Marcus Grant*] is going to write some & I must give him a little room. How I long to be with you.

Your affectionate husband
Daniel Grant

May 21, '54

Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

As Daniel has left a few lines I will try to fill them. I received a few lines from you, written nearly a year ago about six weeks ago & I feel very much obliged to you for the few lines you wrote stating that the grape vine was alive and various common place things that our people at home never think about except John and he is in a part of the country that I know nothing about and is not able to write of things about home much.

I expect if things do not take such a turn as to show very plainly that I should stay longer to return home this fall

Marcus Grant

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

Hamilton [*California*], Apr. 14, '55

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

It is some time since I received the letter containing the news of your fathers [*Ebenezer Burr*] death. I have no excuse for permitting so long a time to pass without writing & I believe It is not best for me to make any calculations about writing often. I wish I was with you to comfort you in your afflictions, but it is not to be you know the true source of comfort. If the Lord spares us a few months longer we shall meet again on earth.

You wish me to come soon as my interests will not be sacrificed here. I will just mention that that time will never come, my worldly interest will be sacrificed when I leave this country, & are now impaired by the fact that this is not my home.

For the first time in my life there is an opportunity now open for me to provide, not only the necessaries of life, but many of its comforts, yet I suppose that I should not be permited this chance if It was my home, & I was so situated as to make it available.

I do not mention this to disharten you but thoug I know it is foolish for me to feel so I am not quite willing you should think I can leave here without a sacrifice when it is not so.

It is not to late yet for matters to take a different turn from what present appearances indicate but it will not be my fault if they do

I have laid your last letter where I can't find it & don't know as I shall answer it as thoroughly as you wish. I think your fathers will is wise <*It is not the*> I do not desire to be enriched by the property of my deceased relatives but our friends must die & their property must pass into other hands & it is propper that it should fall to the legitamate heirs & that they should lookout for it the same as though they had bought it with their own money therefore I must take an interest in such things when it falls to my lot to do so

I have nothing of importance to write and should not have written but for the fact that a long time has passed since I wrote.

I saw J. Allen a few days since he is troubled with the ague some. He told me that Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] was also troubled in the same way I told J. that I should like to have him try to persuade M. [*Marcus Grant*] to go home this spring it will not do for me to meddle with the matter for if I should he will be sure not to go

I will try & give some historical facts relating to Cal. [*California*] to have some thing to write from time to time & first I will hit upon the aboriginals or natives of this country Of their origine history has been deficient but there is reason to suppose that the natives of China and the Pacific Islands carried on a commerce with this continent some 800 years ago & the complexions of the natives is strong proof that they are decendants of those eastern countries or we might here say with more propriety western countries

How their knowledge was lost or how their commerce was alowed to cease must be a matter of speculation

It seems that not more than 25 years ago the indians were pretty numerous in this valley. <*Tthe*> The old sites of indian vilages here shows to some extent that such was the case I saw a statement in a M.ville [*Maryville, California*] paper in 1851 purporting to come from an old Californian He said he traveled through this country from the south part to Oregon in the summer of –4[2?] & returned in –43 When he went up the valley was thickly populated with indians but there was very high water that winter wh. [*which*] caused it to be very unhealthy the following season & great very great numbers died so that when he returned the valey was almost depopulated & dead bodies lay st[. . .]d over the surface of the ground The account I thought was not to be credited & it was but about a year ago that I succeeded in getting any clue to the matter. At last I learnt that at that time or rather 10 years before for it was in –33 instead of –43 the Columbia fur company were trapping here & the indians being troublesome they inoculated two or

three with the smallpox & it came near exterminating the whole race but they are fast dwindling away now & the same ratio followed back for 25 years would find a pretty large population

Yours entirely
Daniel Grant

[*some very faint writing in another hand vertically at the top of the page:* Dear Mother, I recd these Sat. last and feel so much relieved. All well here. If Abbie has a first reader & does not need it will you pleas send it. ]

Hamilton [*California*], May 2nd, 1855

My Dear Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I have done wrong very worng, I do not deserve forgivness. You see by this that more than two weeks hav passed since I wrote the other sheet, but I have suffered a mail to go without it & it was then a long time since I had written.

I am sorry but that does not remedy the evil. I can give no other reason for such conduct that the U.S. surveyors have just passsed through our neighborhood surveying. As was of course expected it caused a gooddeal of excitement, & the excitement must be my only excuse. I did not forget, but by some unaccountable cause I neglected to send the letter.

I cannot now give you any deffinite, or at any certain knowledge about my [preemption?] but shall doubtless be able the next mail or the first of June. Things are favorable. My health pretty good.

There is certainly a difference in my luck from formerly. It is strange that anything beyond my control should shape itself to my advantage, but I will not crow to soon, it may yet be dashed from me, still I am thankfull for present appearances.

Somebody says “never say die” “never dispair” but is a man to endure forever especially when every effort is a perfect failure & only sinks him deeper in the gulf of misery <*an*> Occasional success will enspire hope & if this my last effort in Cal. [*California*] is destined to prove successfull I shall have some reason to hope on but if it fail <u>but it will not fail</u> I will not give up.

“When ruin hangs grim o’er our passion tossed bark,
And the future approaches all cheerless & dark,
Or the past is o’ershadowed by errors & crimes,
Resolve still to conquer & hope better times”

This verse does not all apply to me for just at present the future is not as dark as frequently it is or as it is generally even nor am I aware of any crime that that o’ershadows my path however many errors I may have committed except my neglect to write home which has indeed amounted to a crime.

“When vices allure us or evils assail,
And good resolutions repeatedly fail,
<*Resolutions repe*> Resolve still to conquer & nobly declare
Independence of spirit, & “never despair”.

This verse is very good & applicable to anyone. You wrote me once that brother Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] thought me persevereing. I thought then he was not as well acquainted with me as he would be some time. but alas! he was, unless his spirit is making acquaintance without my knowledge but I never thought I was very persevereing yet I now think he had more reason to think so than I thought he had then. But adieu.

Thine, Dear Wife,
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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Norfolk Ct. [*Connecticut*], May 4, 1856

My dear beloved husband [*Daniel Grant*],

I wrote to you by the last mail (24 Apr) a long letter sympathising with you in your bad feelings & trying to persuade you that there was no occasion for them, & I do sincerely think the same now & I hope that you will feel that you can come & live here as well as any where & I verily believe that you can better. I hope you have not undertaken anything new, for I do feel as if you have not the health & strength sufficient. you need nursing & kind care & I feel anxious to do it for you my dear Husband. & I am sure the children would do what they could to comfort you.

I wrote to you that Ma had been feeble for some time & that we felt somewhat anxious about her but I did not then anticipate that I should so soon have to write to you that I was motherless.

Yes my dear husband I followed my precious Mother to the grave last Tuesday P.M. April 29. She died on Sat. eve at half past 10 o'clock Apr. 26. – There was an inactive state of the liver connected with irritation of the Stomach & bowels. She failed very rapidly for the last few days. Although the Dr. felt that there was some liability to an unfavorable change in her case, he said he was not looking for it so soon, if at all.

Abbie is now staying with me & in a few weeks, Mother Grant expects to visit to Ohio when Eddie will come here too. & Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] is now here with her two youngest children to spend some weeks. & then when she leaves, may I not hope to have your Society? or at least before the setting in of another cold winter. I cannot think what excuse you can have for remaining now that your land is sold & your river claim at an end. Hope you & Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] will come together & take care of each other on the journey

Considerable property is left to us, beside any share of the real estate. Ma has given me one half of her property, wh. [*which*] is something as she owned some land here beside the personal property. & that was p[ris]ed after Pas death at about $2000, so I think there is enough here to make us a comfortable home if you should feel like occuping it.

*<I sent out to you>*

Mr. Tichenor says you were mistaken about Mr Barneys paying so much for the Kimbball place says he gave $3300 & $200 for a small piece adjoining, says Mr. B. will give no more than $1000 for ours & I herewith enclose the Quit claim deed wh. [*which*] Mr. T. [*Tichenor*] drew up for you to sign, expecting you will return it soon as you conveniently can, if you do not come yourself & bring it. I also send the directions that he sent about the execution of the deed, wh. [*which*] you will please attend to, as he seems to think it important.

Write to me when I shall look for you.

Your very affectionate wife Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Abbie send love.

Ma has given one two hundred dollars for being here since came from <Wis?> [*Wisconsin*] beside the wages I have steadily received.

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], May 5th 1856

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*]

I wish to address you not only as a brother by the tie of humanity but as a brother through sympathy with one to you the dearest object on earth and I wish to speak to you upon one particular subject and ask you forbearance if anything I should say seems to you more than I have a right to say – C [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has told you of the changes that have taken place of her sorrows, and her hopes, and I have seen through your last letter your failure to realize those fond wishes for which you "have endured" so much and your wife also. Let me entreat you to take one hours calm consideration of the subject of your return home, look upon it in all its bearings, consider that those here now need the comfort of your presence more than ever, and though your lack of sympathy of some of whom you have a right to expect it. You are certain of the sympathy and confidence of others, and above all if any one resolves before God to perform a duty which they have solemnly decided to be a duty they are sure of strength to perform it. Though it require much self sacrifice; and its burdens seem impossible to bear. (My " strength is sufficient for you saith the Lord") ("God is truth") With assurances like these before you let the troubled waters of your soul grow calm, think of the joy of reunion with those you love most, and that more than half

our troubles come from anticipation of evil. Decide then and act before the hour of weakness has time to come again and my word for it you will find less to bear and more strength to bear it than you anticipate. Here you will be almost sure of enough of the things of this life for comparative comfort and though you would have to sacrifice much of self in returning be assured that Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] would have to sacrifice as much in doing that which would be her duty did you positively command but which love for you and her children, and past experience otherwise forbid.

Do not feel that I reproach you in any way my feelings towards you are kindness and nothing else and such they will ever remain. I wish to cheer <*you*> and strengthen you, hoping that the darkness that seems now to oppress you may brighten into day and that the day may soon come when your return shall be light & Joy" to those who fondly look for your coming. Hoping that you will receive this in the spirit in which it is written and write to me if you feel like it. I am

Affectionately your friend Br. [*Brother*] William Hill

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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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