Subject: Letter Writing

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

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

Dear parents brothers & sisters

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

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

Soon as we find it convenient – Shall get a Single bed & bed stead for the Spare room Expect a man that owes William to make our cherry tables — Have a pine table in kitchen — Mrs. Emery (merchant's wife) sent us a stone jar of <*preserved*> dried and sugar plums. Mrs. Wirts (lawyer's wife) a jar of preserved carnation cherries. Mrs. Clark (lawyer's wife) preserved raspberries. — Your aff [*affectionate*] daughter & sister – kiss little Mary. I want to see her —

Dear Ralph,

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

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

W [*William*] Hill

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

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

Date 29 ''
Good Night

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

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

My dear mother & sister

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

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

I expect to be confined the latter part of October. William has proposed my going home this spring (that is if I will go without him) but I think that a visit so soon again would probably give

you more trouble than pleasure & I have very little idea of going. My girl is to make a visit to New York in May.

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

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

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

Yours affectionately

Mary B Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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

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

I measured the land for M yesterday and will have the deeds made out as soon as I can get them done – The piece contains about 10 acres –

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

---

Perhaps Super Phosphate of Lime would improve your pastures – it seems as if they ought to be renovated – now cheese is so high priced WB Hill

Wrote as far as above and went to breakfast taking care of myself and Laura [*Laura Hill*] who always meets one at table with a perfect string of Papa's and no one else answers half as well as Papa – Poor little thing if she knew how often her Father wishes her in bed or somewhere else would she be so eager for a seat on his knee Must away to office and work with love to all I am yours as ever

William Hill

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

[*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

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

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

By Mary Burr}

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] March 20, 1840

Dear Caroline

Your little black eyed sweet sister Mary, is going to leave us this morning ~ I cannot let her go without saying one word to you. And first I wish you had been here to make Mary come & see us more

She has rarely been in our room, this year & forsooth she says because she always finds a room full, which I do not admit. I have just lectured her for it. Yet she is very dear to me & ever will be.

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

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

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

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

Most affectionately yours

Abby Moore [*Abigail Moore Burgess*]

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

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

[*Addressed to Pamela Benton Burr?*]

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

up a coloring That is something I can do & take my time to do it. Mary will have to do the pressing which is always pretty hard work. There is a good deal of hard work to be done in the course of a year to keep things up. It seems as through we could not do much more but I suppose we could but not in addition to what we now do. We endeavor to take pretty good care of our health which we consider of great importance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday All our families have gone to church but Mary & I fancy you are at church also We have but one service & no Sunday school in winter Our minister preaches in Berlin 4 or 5 miles from here in the P.M. so one minister answers for the two towns We are hearing candidates now. Mr Boys the former Minister that married Mary Edes has gone to Nantucket.

We are trying to get a minister to suit both Parishes & thus be able to give a salary of $1,100 & the use of the Parsonage. Both congregations are small. Do you take any interest in the Andover controversy & which side do you favor the Professor or their opponents? I hope the Professors are in the right although it is contrary to my early training. "As the tree falleth so it lies." There seems to be quite an over turning of old beliefs & a great searching after the truth.

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

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

Affectionately

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

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

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

My dear Mother,

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

You expressed some anxiety about my health, and speak as if you supposed I was still afflicted with sore breasts. This is not the case. I was troubled twice in the fall and early part of winter with sore
hands, but drinking the sarsaparilla syrup cured them in both cases and they have not troubled me since until the past week they have been a <u>little</u> sore. About a week after my confinement my breasts began to swell, we tried the usual remedies for swelled breasts in vain, they continued to swell, but were not very painful unless I moved my arms, and in less than three weeks they broke three times. Since then they have never troubled me but once, and then it was a cold which was removed by sweating. I have much reason to be grateful that I got through with them with so little pain. I was quite out of health for two or three months after my confinement, had a diareah which reduced me a good deal and was bought on by the least excercise, but I have got entirely over that, and for the lat two months have been as well as any body need to be, and have grown quite fleshy. I have done my work alone 8 or 9 weeks this summer and do not now wish for a girl. I find a good deal of excercise agrees with me. Mr Grant has been in very good health the most of the summer, but has for some past days been severely afflicted with the toothache. He went this morning to attend court in New Philadelphia, and Elizabeth and I are to spend the night alone. Elizabeth is very healthy and good natured. She is rather small featured but very fat, and I think resembles Jane very much. It is very gratifying to me that she does. She lies upon the floor a great deal, but sleeps very little indeed. We do not use a cradle let her wear caps, or give her paregoric; three things which astonish the people here very much. I put her in a pail or tub of water every day if I have the time, if not I wash her thoroughly all over. She likes either method of washing, but prefers going in a tub of water. I wish you could see her. I am afraid she will not be so good when she is older, but I intend to try to make a good girl of her.

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

We had a letter from Elizabeth about two months ago. I wish they would visit us this fall but do not know that we have much reason to expect them. Mr. Grant has thought a little of taking us to see them, but has concluded not to go. He is very busy and finds but little time for

visiting. He does not thinking of going east next summer, if I should go, Mrs Whiting will accompany me and a friend of ours, Miss Fish, from Mass. [*Massachusetts*] She has been in Mrs Hopkins school 3 or 4 years, as teacher. It is of course entirely uncertain about my going.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Susan B Grant. [*Susan Boyd Grant*]

Sat. morning Nov. 3. I could add little to what Susan has written, if I were disposed, for want of room. I returned from N Phila [*North Philadelphia*] Thursday Eve. Col. Griswold's family are all in excellent health. Our books and G. Hall Jrs M.SS. came in good condition. Col. G's [*Griswold*] other goods are yet behind and no word has come respecting them which makes him feel somewhat uneasy. A letter was to be sent on their being forwarded from Albany, but none has come.

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

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

Sat. morning Nov. 3 (continued from 4th page.) Since writing a little on the last page of this sheet, I have got some red ink and concluded to add something further. One thing I wish to say is, that our Post Master never takes the wrapper off from newspapers when they are marked <u>paid</u> on the outside, thus "<u>Paid 1 ½</u>"
If therefore you wish to write to write a little in a newspaper, if you will pay the postage there is I think no danger of its being discovered. Our Post Master is one of the best natured men in the world and strictly honest, not withstanding his zeal as a Van Buren man.

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

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

Your affe [*affectionate*] son E P Grant

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

Flemington [*New Jersey*], March 23, 1861

Dear Grandparents,

I did not see much that interested me until I got to New York, As we approached the city the lighted windows looked like rows of stars at even distances from each other.

I did not expect to see the streets paved, I had always thought that only the sidewalks were paved; neither did I expect to see so many railroad tracks in the city.

In [*P.T.*] Barnum's Museum I saw so many things that I hardly know where to begin or where to end. But I saw all of Mr. Adams' bears. I saw the great sea lion, and a seal, and all sorts of fishes, and every other thing imaginable. I saw a play acted which I liked very much. I do not know what was the name of the play but in it there was a funny old man who pretended to have traveled a great deal. He told his lady love something about his travels. Among other things he spoke of meeting a saucy woman and he called her Miss Vinegar.

At Newark I saw Mr. Lincoln [*Abraham Lincoln*] while he was passing from one depot to the other in an open barouche drawn by four white horses. It seemed that he had nothing to do but sit in his carriage and touch <*and*> his hat and bow first on one side and then on the other.

I had a better visit at Uncle John's than I expected to have. I went to the Episcopal Church when I was there but I never thought that there were such funny services in any Protestant Church.

There is an observatory on the top of Uncle William's house, and we can see all Flemington [*New Jersey*] from it, and more too.

I like to stay here very much. Aunt Mary asks me to stay here and learn to write and read. She says it would be worth more than a hundred dollars to me if I could be a good and fast writer, and she thinks that I might become so by practice. And she thinks it would be worth as much more if I could get rid of what she calls the dreadful habit of drawing my words when I read. But mother thinks that Aunt Mary is not well enough to have the trouble of me and I don't believe she will let me stay. I would like to be here and I would like to go home too. I was glad to have Grandmother write to me. Mother thinks that Uncle Marcus' letter is first rate because it tells some particulars.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] Grandson

E.B. Grant

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

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

My dear niece, Elizabeth,

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

I am glad Eddie is at school, & that Abbie has the prospect of improving, useful & remunerating employment "Teaching we learn," & even more than simply by studying. The way

to be blessed, is to be in the way of being made a blessing. Our Great Examplar came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. I rejoice that you are permitted in love to minister to your father & mother. The foundation is now perhaps being laid for it to be well with you in your own advancing years.

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

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

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

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

Whom do you hear preach on the sabbath?

In continued love, your aunt,

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

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

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

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

Lat. 8° S. Lon. 41° S. July 1, 1839
13 weeks to day since we left Salem.

My very dear sister, Martha,

Tomorrow we expect to see Zanzebar, & the next day to land there. Two weeks ago yesterday we saw Cape Corrientes, the first land we had made on our voyage, & last Sat. we were again favored with a similar sight of Mozambique. Mozambique is a small island. We could distinguish trees, the flag staff, & could see what appeared to us buildings. Capt. [*Ward*] with his glass, could distinguish churches, houses, &c, & said things looked perfectly natural. He has often traded there. Mozambique is the capital of the Portuguese settlements on this coast. It was very pleasant again to see the abodes of men, though sad to think of their degraded state. The Portuguese are generally very destitute of moral principle, & are a curse to the natives. They still carry on the slave trade on this coast probably more extensively than in any other part of Africa -- It can only be done by smuggling, as it is a violation of treaty -- I feel less anxious to communicate many things in this sheet, than if I were not penning things that interest us as they occur to send home from Bombay, & besides Mr. B. [*William Burgess*] has engaged to write his friends through the Recorder [Missionary Recorder*?*], & has directed a copy of each Rec. which contains any thing from him to be sent to father. The same will be sent to Phelps, Elizabeth & Joel. Our water is still good, & we spend our time much as when I wrote last. I have written to Joel, Aunt, Mrs. J. P. Cowles, & to old acquaintances in Forsyth [*Georgia*] & intend to write several more letters before we reach Bombay, about the middle of Aug. We, (the missionary company) held a little meeting in the cabin, this evening for our monthly concert. -- As we are now almost eight hours east of you, prayer will be ascending in the U.S. till we rise in the morn, It is a consolation to feel that Christians pray for us, & the cause -- the more prayer, <*the*> more success -- Dear sister, pray for us -- pray for yourself -- pray much -- do not let little things ruffle you. If you have in time past, do not be discouraged. Whatever things occur to try our feelings & temper, tend to form our character & God is trying us by them. If we yield to impatience, & are peevish once, we let down

a barrier, & are more easily led to do the same thing another time. So of any bad habit, & so of good habits. Martha, feel the importance of this, for you to have right dispositions & feelings is vastly more important than knowledge of books -- You may acquire perfect control of yourself, but not without effort, continuous effort. You will sometimes fail if you try, but when tempted, let some little prayer come up to a present God, such as "Lord, help me now" -- I feel this subject to be more important than I can express -- as it respects your own happiness, as it respects the happiness of our family as it respects your influence in the world in whatever station you may move -- Now, Martha, is the time too, -- now while you are young & at home -- Do it while young, that the habit of self control may be formed, do it while at home, for there more will occur to try you, & if you can there maintain right feeling & action the foundation will be well laid. The happiness & character of the family at home will be much affected by you -- very much. Would you have Marcus pleasant, kind & amiable Be so yourself. Would you help Daniel & have him aid you. Let him understand that you aim at doing right, You will by so doing be a blessing to father & mother -- It is a principle of phrenology that the activity of any feeling has a tendency to excite the same feeling in those around us, either good or bad -- Martha, you may tear off this half of the sheet -- keep it for yourself, if you please. I have thought of many things since I left home that I wished I had said to you. -- It was hard for me to leave you, I never felt such a tender love for you -- but my time was so short, & I had so many to see, & so much to do that I forgot many things. But one thing try to improve at home, try to make home happy. Do not feel that you cannot improve unless you are in school, or away at school -- I think home is a good place to improve by reading -- improve by conversing with father & mother -- It will give them pleasure to see you desirous to learn from them, & they will be happy to instruct you. Feel that you can thus learn much. I think you did improve the last year I was away. I know you will have much work to do -- I fear too much to take care of our great house. I hope all will try to help you to keep it neat. Do not injure yourself by lifting -- feel always that you have no right to injure your health -- Health is inexpressibly precious. the Lord bless & guide my dear sister.

I send this letter to Salem [*Massachusetts*] by ship Augustus Capt Willet. He expects to sail Aug 1. I shall send again when we reach Bombay.

[*written across front*] My dear Martha, Watts on the Mind would be an excellent book for mother & you to read together. I wish you would read a few pages together in it & talk about it together every day. You remember how sister A. [*Abigail?*] used to read to mother. You may even be the means of making mother more heavenly. If Aunt G Grant comes to our house treat her for my sake, as well as your own, with tenderness & affection. You will love & prize her always the more you know her. I feel M. [*Martha*] that you must write me -- write sisterly. Tell me what are your joys & trials, your wants. I hope you will not have so much house work to do but that you can sew a good deal. I did not sew enough the first 18 years of my life. Your aff. [*affectionate*] sister, M. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess

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

[*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

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

[*undated*]

Sunday
MillBook [*Millbrook, Connecticut*] Aug 13

Mr & Mrs. Daniel Grant

Dear Relatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am as ever

Yours Truly

A.O. Finney

Dear Cousins

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

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

Elizabeth

P.S. remember us kindly to Edward and Wife

A.O. Pinney

Tues. morn [ ]

Dear Children,

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

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

Think our oil will last about two weeks — when you come probably better bring some in your oil can. And if you have <u>potatoes</u> to spare would take half bushel or peck — would prefer <u>some</u> of them at least old ones — all old if you have plenty. Shall be glad of a few cucumbers as you spoke of —

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

Mother G —

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

[*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.

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

[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Prairieville

Milwaukie [*Milwaukee*] Co
Wis. Ter. [*Wisconsin Territory*]

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

My dear brother,

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Brother

As I have never writen to you I now take the oportunity to write a few words, to you would like to hear about our crops and such things I supose. Our potatoes are <*lite*> light about <*half*> two thirds of a crop they did not rot in the field but have some in the cellar our hay crop is about half as much as we had last year our oats were pretty good the straw was very light but well filled our hogs to are pretty fat but not very large if these few lines will at all interest you I may at some future day write some more your aff [*affectionate*] Brother Marcus [*Marcus Grant*]

My Dear Children

I was glad to hear from you by Joels or the one you wrote to Joel and I will here mention that has taken quite a rise I cannot state definility how much but think I will send you a paper before long that will give you more information than I can give you I am glad that you think of keeping more stock I think keeping cows and sheep in your situation will be a good course not that I would advise you to go largely into the business at first a small stock will soon make a large one and I fear that you feel a desire to be rich but if it is so I hope you will remember the Bible injunction be not in haste to be rich also that riches bring a snare
I want you should be come[...] I want you should keep a horse and waggon that that you may go to church and wherever you want to go with less futigue I am glad that you call your little daughter Abby I wish her name to be Abigail Caroline. I hope you will give her to the Lord in baptism and consider the Lords and may you pray the Lord to sanctify her wholly body soul and spirit and preserve her blamely unto the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [live?] near to God my dear children
I want to have you bathe the dear little one from the crown of her head to the soul of her feet in tepid water daily I think it will prevent her crying so much I would not have it [creuelly into?] I must stop for want of room may God bless you is the prayer of your Mother [*Mrs. (E.) Grant*]

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

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

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

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

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

I noticed in one of the recent papers an account of an uncommon outpouring of the Holy Spirit. in Mt. Hol. Fem. Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] “We could only stand still and witness the wonderful working of God.” said the writer. A friend wrote me a few days since, that

Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyons*] had been very sick. and is now feeble. I cannot imagine how they get along with so many of the important one's gone. How rejoiced we all shall be to get the Mem. [*Memorial*] Catalogue [*from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]! It will inform us of the residence of many a loved one, and make us feel how far separate Holyoke's daughters really are. Three weeks since, I saw a notice of the marriage of Celia Wright. (sister of "Kate Wright") to a missionary among the Choctau Indians. His name I have forgotten. Did I tell you in my last that "Miss Reed," "Nancy Foote" & Miss Webster" that were, had each a son? I hope you see the Miss. Herald, [Missionary Herald *published by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] How much more are we interested in the missions where we know the missionaries. Do you hear from home often? Where is Mary [*Mary Burr*] now? I hope we shall not have to wait quite so long next time before hearing from you.
[*written along verso side*] I did not [take?] at all. when you said some of Daniels brothers & sisters did not write particularly enough, for Joel says I am too particular altogether. and that I ought not to write so long letters.
[*written along front side*] We have had a little sleighing. but it is gone, and we are now having an ice storm. I dread the wind of March and April. Should like to take a peep at N. England [*New England*] faces & scenery next summer. Perhaps we shall though we cannot now decide certainly about it. I fear Joel's health will again suffer if he should spend the hot months here. Hoping soon to hear from you. I remain your aff. [*affectionate*] sister Abby. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] Kiss little Abby for us both.
Are you sister C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] learning Phonography? I cannot get time.

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

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

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

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

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

I believe you think the letter I promised you when I sent the goods I have been so long about to send has been very tardy in its movements indeed it has been very different from what I intended it will be of no use to enumerate the many obstacles that have come in my way but after all last monday a week to day I went with the barrel well stocked with good to the Depot and I there found John Watson son of Jacob Watson who said he would see it started in the P M I have felt somewhat uneasy since that I did not see the Agent myself but he promised that he would be faithful and I thought he would so I left it with him to do the business and if he does the business as he promised I hope you will receive it ere long when I went with the barrel I carried your sister Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] she and Mr Burton have after so many years made us a visit and it was a great pleasure to me she looks oh altered a good deal since you saw her my son she and I went in our waggon and Mr B in the stage she enquired about you and your family thought she should write to you but she has her hands and her heart full Lavinia is married and Margaret has poor health her children she left well they returned the northern route and had it in contemplation to call on Phelps at Canton I will have mention that the barrel was directed to the care of Mc Clune & Williams Millwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Mr. Allen was buried last monday I wanted to attend the funeral but felt more that I wanted to go with Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] as far as I could he has been in a suffering condition for a long time I shall mix my letter up in such a way that you will think strange perhaps <*that I am more than usual light*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Daniel Grant
Waukesha
Waukesha Co
Wisconsin.

West Avon [*Connecticut*] Feb. 26, 1849.

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

Your letter mailed Feb. 9, was received about three days since, and we were truly glad to hear from you once more. Your letter found us in more than ordinary affliction. I was confined to the house, & mostly to my bed, by a severe ear ache, the result of a cold; and our little boy was afflicted with a very dangerous lung fever. Through God's blessing we are both now better.

Our fathers family is much afflicted this winter, as you have doubtless heard in part, though all are still living. Father & Mother are living entirely alone, & Mother has been so feeble as to be unable to do any thing a considerable part of the winter. John has had another operation for the removal of tumors, through wh. [*which*] he has passed as we hope, safely, though he writes that his back is not healed yet. He has resumed his duties as tutor nevertheless.

Since my wife's recovery from the severe sickness which she passed through last summer she has been gradually improving in health as we hope though there is still much room for improvement.

I think you must feel singular to be left without a house after laboring so long to obtain one. Of course you are the best judge as to what you ought to do, but it seems to me the price for wh. [*which*] you disposed of it <*were*> was less than it was worth by a good many dollars, especially as the pay is not prompt. $220 I should think a low price for a house situated as that was; however, I do not profess to be able to judge.

So it seems you are again without a home, and are somewhat perplexed to be able to tell what you had better do. Probably you will have decided before this reaches you, yet I will venture to say just a few thoughts. As you are out of business at present would it not be as well to try California? According to all accounts the success of those who go there may be presumed to be

good, in some cases excellent. It strikes me favorably, if you can get some one to bear your expenses and then divide equitably the results of your labor, inasmuch as that will involve no pecuniary risks. Indeed I suppose it would be impossible for you to go on your own responsibility, as the expense of an outfit would be quite considerable. For a single traveller I find the outfit at Independence Missouri (& it will cost $20 at least to get there, probably more) to be thus stated by Col. [Gilpin?] a man who has been over the whole ground

Riding horse----------$60
Two pack mules---------$120
saddle bridle, & spurs-----12
pack saddles----------8
----------$200.00

Provisions 150 lbs. flour----------$3.00
75 do bacon----------2.00
20 do coffee 1.50 50 sugar 4.00 5.60
Salt pepper vinegar etc.---2.40----------13.00
$213.00

Besides these <*blan*?> he puts down Mackinaw Blankets at from $10 to $16 the pair, & he might have put down many other things so that the expense of an outfit at Independence cannot be assumed to be less than from $250 to $300. He sets down the time necessary as two or three months. But of these things the people of your place know far more than I can possibly If you go I trust you will go comfortably.

There will be many risks to be run, but I think the probabilities are altogether in favor of its doing your health good. You may be sick, you may die, & if you could avoid these things by staying at home, I would advise you by all means, not to go. As it is I am favorably impressed with the idea of your going.

I hope you will be able to see to the forwarding of the money due April 1 from Mahar. I received the $49 of which you write, though I was very sorry you did not send it sooner as I wanted it very much. <*It*> I understand that it was 88 cents more than was then due. If you should be unable to see to the business yourself please to designate some one by name, whom I can make my attorney. I presume it will not be [weeping?] to make an attorney this year but it may be another. Let me know the name of the lawyer who did my business for me when I was there last; his whole name, for he seemed to be a man worthy of confidence. If possible I hope you will forward the payment for this year before you leave

Should you go to California, take with you paper pen & ink and keep a diary of your course and forward it to us as you may have opportunity. I have many things to say, but I have not the leisure to say them now. Let what I have said suffice. Forget not amid all the perplexities with which your path is surrounded, that God sees through them all, and if you commit your way to him he will prepare it for you. “Trust then in the Lord with all thy heart; & lean not to thine own understanding.” (Prov. 3:5)

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

I hope Daniel will have his Daguereotype taken before he goes to Ca. [*California*]
Abby – [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

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

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

Indian Territory [*postmark Highbuck*] June 3 1849

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I love to write to you, and I have run on before the teams to save a moment to set down upon the grass and hold the paper on my knee and do so. I am determined to have a letter ready to send from Ft. Laramie [*Wyoming*], & I will try to have a long one. Perhaps I shall meet some

return teams and send one to be <*mailed*> mailed at St. Joseph [*Missouri*] or some other place but you must not make much calculation to hear from <*you*> me.

We left St. Joseph one week tomorrow and have traveled some 80 miles, the first day we traveled 4 The second crossed the Mo. river [*Missouri River*] 4 miles from Town and traveled about 5 miles the 3d 20 miles or more the fourth 25m. etc.

Our company consists of 9 wagons 33 yoke of oxen [7?] yoke of cows and I don't know how many persons but 30 or upwards including some 7 or more of the female part of creation. We crossed the river with four wagons in company and the rest have by their request joined us. Just overtaken 17 wagons in camp they be by today it being Sunday and have been detained by sickness in their camp<*ed*>.

We have seen 14 new graves by the road side since we left St. J. [*St. Joseph*] all I believe died with <*col*> cholera and all came up the river This is but a small mortality in comparison with the report we heard from what we were told was reliable information viz, that in the first <*14*> 140 miles there was 300 (and (upwards) new graves. This was told by a citizen of St. J. [*St. Joseph*] who started for Cal. [*California*] and returned, after he had gone that distance beyond the river. A Justice of the peace in St. J. [*St. Joseph*] told us that he was his neighbor, and his word was truth.

He reported also that hundreds were sick, and deaths were of almost hourly occurrence, but we have heard that his report was a great lie.

Since writing the foregoing we have passed one more grave and 2 wagons have joined our company.

June 13 We are now at fort Kearney [*Nebraska*] on the Platt river [*Platte River*] from 250 to 300 miles from St. J. [*St. Joseph*], have passed 20 graves since writing before making 35 in the whole distance a small mortality for the great number of people that have passed.

Our company has been again increased by 4 wagons and since diminished <*by*> to the same No. [*number*] that crossed the Mo. River [*Missouri River*] together, They could not keep up so we came on and left them. We are all in good health and good spirits have not seen a dozen Indians yet but expect to every day, passed a place Monday morn. where a camp of 500 had just left, about 40 soldiers from the fort were in pursuit of them to recover some cattle that there had been lost by emigrants. They returned last eve. but saw nothing of any Indians They did not try to find them for they followed them but one [1/2?] day at the rate of about 2 miles an hour and then left them.

Another Tribe the Shians [*Cheyenne*] were on this road about 6 miles from us <*last*> night before last but they had gone up the river [*Platte River*] before we came along. We shall probably fall in with them on our route. This is the Pawnee country here the Shians [*Cheyenne*] belong on the other side. before long we shall cross to the North side then I suppose we shall be in the Shian [*Cheyenne*] nation.

We keep watch at night live as well as any body can wish to and enjoy ourselves as well as anyone can who is travelling.

Last night there was a thunder shower and the wind blew a hurricane which rather disturbed [us?] but not bad. Such storms are common on this <*side*> great prairie we had just such an one last Monday morn. before day light. Had no watch out last night brought up our cattle and picketed them i.e. drove some stakes in the ground and tied them <*to them*>.

The road has been very good since we left St. J. [*St. Joseph*], on continued prairie the whole distance, unbroken except by an occasional <*the*> stream, lined with a very narrow strip of timber. How much farther it extends I know not. Grand Island in the Plat [*Platte River*] against us is covered with timber, all the wood we get here is from the Island.

Expect to leave here tomorrow. Mr. Cone and his company are before us. he promised to wait for us but is pushing on with all speed. let him go

The mail from Ft. Laramie passes here next week as I am told, I determined to mail this here hope to get another written to send from Ft. L. Letters may miscarry from this wilderness, dont be disappointed if you dont hear from me again, I want to write to Abby but can't now. Give my respects to all friends

Your affectionate husband
Daniel

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

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

Indian Ter. [*Territory*] 480 miles fr. St. J. [*St. Joseph*]

June 24 [*1849*]

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I entirely forgot to send a lock of my hair to you. I am very sorry. I will put a little, in this sheet, but I fear it will never reach you. I found I could send from Ft. <*Lara*> Kearney [*Ft. Kearney, Nebraska*], and I left my last letter there. I expect to leave this at Ft. <*Kea*?> Laramie [*Ft. Laramie, Wyoming*], and I suppose it is uncertain when it will leave there We have met no return teams for a week, if we should I will send it on. I did not know there was a Ft. on the road between Ft. Laramie & St. J. [*St. Joseph*], when I left St. J. [*St. Joseph*] There are many things that I want to write but I cannot, I tried to write by running on before the team and gaining a little time in that way, but I found it difficult and I suppose it is rather dangerous now in this Indian Territory, though we have seen no<*ne*> Indians or next to none since we started, yet we have seen their traces and leavings frequently. Night before last we camped near the graves of two Indians, or what was so. They were wrapped in buffalo robes, & other skins, and raised about 6 feet from the earth, supported by poles. Their poneys were tied to the poles that supported the bodies, and there remained till they starved. The tainted carcases were there partly destroyed by the wolves. One of the graves had been destroyed and the body torn in pieces, probably by wolves provisions and tin pans and other utensils were scattered around.

We are getting along finely, but it is not so with all, and may not be with us all the way, through. We passed a grave a few days since, that gave us the only information we have received from Mr. Cone and his party, since we left the river [*Platte River?*]. It was inscribed, Mr. Conover Waukesha Wis. [*Wisconsin*] Aged 27, died June 14. The same day we saw some who saw G. [H?] Cornwalls grave, he died the 10 inst.

It will be hard news for Mrs. Conover but I suppose not very hard for Mrs. Cornwall. Mr. Dillon one of our mess says she told him Dillon she never should live with him again unless he returned rich. It was Mrs. C's [*Cornwall*] sister who told him so.

If Cornwall knew that, I doubt whether he would ever return if he had lived, I know I would not in like circumstances.

There are so many things to write I cannot tell which will most interest you, but I will try to give a description of our party.

First then I will take our own wagon, you know already that there are 5 of us, viz. myself, Elliot, Woodworth, Dillon, (these you know) and Wm. A. Olin, a brother of Hannah Olin, and cousin of G. [H?]. Olin, a poor man about 34 years old, he has been sick a great deal and had a good deal of sickness in his family since he came to Wis. [*Wisconsin*], has a wife and three children. Next I will take the wagon that stands by ours, 4 men, one 55 years old, another 40 or upwards, another 34, another about 28, all very accommodating & clever, but very profane.

Then there are 2 wagons of Seymors, from Kaskaskia Ill. [*Illinois*] 2 brothers they are taking 6 men with them. One of them <*makes*> call<*e*>s it home in Unionville Ct. [*Connecticut*] has a wife and 2 children there, been engaged in making clocks, has been selling clocks and doing other business in Ill. [*Illinois*] for 2 years, and started for Cal. [*California*] about the same time he had intended to go to Ct. [*Connecticut*] <*T...*> Both the Seymores appear to be fine men,

There are 2 wagons <*laden*?> loaded with eight persons, one man has his wife, don't know but she is a very nice woman but don't like her appearance very well, have never spoken to her. The rest are <*very*> decent I believe, one man I should think between 50 & 60 years of age very clever.

Two wagons belonging to Stevens I have sp[oken] of them before in a former letter, 7 in number the father 3 daughters <*very*> fine girls, 2 sons (one of the sons owns the teams) and one man with them. Two Dutch wagons an old man and his wife and a young man and his wife, and I dont know how many children. Ten wagons besides a buggy that Mr. Seymore has to ride

in himself. I have given a hasty sketch of our party hope it will do. should like as much time to write every day but that is out of the question, cannot write again before I get to the Mormon settlement [*Fort Bridger?*] and probably not there, I don't think I can write again till I get to Cal. [*California*] Promised to write to Dr. [Slye?] from ft. Laramie will add a few words at Ft. Laramie. Remember me Dear wife before God

Respects to all
Your aff husband Daniel [*Daniel Grant*]

July 3 Just crossed the Larammie River all well – good luck so far. The most of the danger is yet to come, a very barren country here. The Rocky Mts. in sight; cannot get time to <*wright*> write. do not expect hear again. Farewell.

Your affectionate Husband
D. Grant. [*Daniel Grant*]

[Thursday] morning Pa got this yesterday Heare all well, Pa is gone to meeting & Ma is going. Kiss [Eddie] for me half an hour & send Abby home. We came home friday night

Ralph E. Burr

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

California, Oct. 20 1849.

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I have an opportunity to send a letter to Sacramento City and I embrace the opportunity to inform you that I have arrived in California Gold Mines, in Safety with out any <...> event occurring worth recording, though I intend to give a brief simple history of my journey, at some future time.

I feel badly though, as I do not know whither I am writing to the living or not, but I hope for the best of course.

I do not know yet what my prospects are, but I am going to try my luck, on monday with, a man by the name of Young from Sheboygan, Wis. [*Wisconsin*] a nice man as near as I can learn, with whom I expect to work for a week or two and perhaps longer.

My time never more occupied than it has been <*for*> since I arrived <,> three days since. I have been prospecting <*s...t*> all the time, and you must write for me, for I cannot write to all. I fear I shall not be able to get your letters from San Francisco at all, but I shall make a great effort for it.

You must direct to Sacramento City California, and then I do not know as I shall be able to get them, pay no postage on letters sent to Cal. [*California*]

Prices are very high in the mines, flour is worth $25, per 100 lbs. in a small place near here called Weaverville, pork $80, beans $1.50 per lb., potatoes $1, per. lb. onions $1.50 lb. molasses $1, per qt. sugar poor quality 3.74 [\?] cts per. lb. etc.

Sacramento City is a new place grown up this summer of about 8000 inhabitants, the stopping place of the Steamboats from Panama. The inhabitants live mostly in tents or cloth houses.

The chances in the mines are as good as I expected, the most of the miners are able to get enough to keep them from starving, some make money. and some get nothing of consequence.

My Dear wife I want to be with you very much, but we must be from each other a long time yet, perhaps death may take us but the Lord will do <...> right.

Remember me to all friends, particular the children. Your affectionate husband, Daniel [*Daniel Grant*]

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

[*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*]

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

[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

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

[*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>

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

[*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*]

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

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

Oneida Bar opposite Bartons Bar [*California*]

Sept. 6 – 52

Dear Wife,

I have taken my pen to commence a letter to you, but my hand trembles so that it is difficult to write. You will not wonder, that my <*near*> nerves are affected, when I tell you that I have just begun to get my strength, after a relapse of my former sickness, of which I made mention in my last, and of the sweeping pestilence, that threatens to depopulated our bars, viz. the cholera.

Nigh before last, (saturday night) six men died with Cholera on the other side of the river, & yesterday five more were added to the number, last night & to day has swelled the number but I know not how much, <*two*> two of our neighbors breathed their last on this side the river last night, & another is at this moment almost gone.

Great numbers have fled, I say great numbers, I mean proportionably, the whole population on both sides the river, I presume <*will*> would not exceed 200, when the disease broke out. Now there are not enough, to take care of the sick, <*or*> and bury the dead.

We hope the plague is stayed. The only question now is are there any new cases? we don't stop to count the dead.

Not a case has been cured.

It is now six o clock, about three hours since I wrote the foregoing. I fell better than I did then, my hand is a little more steady.

There are no new cases of Cholera that I hear of. Not a man that feels well, & about half the men on both sides of the river are quite unwell. All that have shown symptoms of the dread disease have slept their last sleep.

I hope we may all rest tonight.

Oh! that I may never witness another such a scene.

To go from house to house & prepare bodies for the grave, some of which had been lain for six or eight hours, was almost too much for me in my weak state, but I have been thus far sustained.

Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] is with me, which is a great comfort. He has been here one week

Tuesday morn. nine oclock. No new cases that I have heard of.

There has been some change in the weather which is favorable. How delicious a little rain would be, yet rain enough to raise the streams would do an immense amount of damage to miners.

There has been no warmer weather this summer than there is every summer, but if I have not strangely forgotten there has been a great deal more of it.

Almost every day for nearly three months, the thermometer has been more than 100 above zero. The highest I have known is 115 in the shade. It sometimes is 120 and more, but this season the weath- has been more uniform than usual.

It has been very unhealthy as far as I know. Nearly the whole population in the low country, either have been or are sick.

Half past six. Two new cases of chol,- are reported but not severe. Oneida & Barton's Bar [*California*] look very desolate. The sick & ailing are generally getting better.

Business which was entirely suspended has been commenced by a very few men today. It must be sometime before the number of men that have left will be replaced. I fear it will be a great hindrance to our getting in to the river. Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] has been to work to-day.

Wednesday morn. The cases of cholera reported yesterday were slight, & I have heard this morn, that they are convalescent.

Everything is quiet now, the stillness of the tomb appears in this usually bustling place.

The air is more bracing than it has been formerly. I have no doubt that many of us owe our lives, to the change in the weather.

I heard this morning that there has been some rain in the mountains, which confirms my opinion of the cause, of the change in the atmosphere.

I have not heard from Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] since he was here, & wrote a letter to Erastus.

Letters from home are becoming almost as scarce as showers, in this now parched country.

After you receive this you may direct all your letters to Parks Bar, Yuba Co. besure to write Yuba Co. Cal,

I think all is not right at Marysvill P.O. [*Post Office*] Let Marcu's' [*Marcus Grant*] letters be sent to the same place. It may not be long before we shall give other directions, but until we do direct as above.

Our prospects are discouraging again this year. They were some what flattering before this plague broke out. A few days may improve appearances, but at all events there is, & will be a [delay?].

Do write often.

Your affectionate husband

Daniel Grant

P. S. Thursday morn. Sept. 9. one of the cases of cholera reported yesterday as convalescent has proven fatal, the other is still better.

Another case reported last night has proven fatal, & still another has been attacked this morning.

Sept. 27 My Dear Wife

I wrote the above for the last mail but as we were so unsettled at that time & as the letter would have a tendency to create unnecessary fears I did not send it.

There have been several cases of cholera the opposite side of this river since writing before but it has not been very prevalent in this neighbor At [Bevre's] Bar a mile above here for some days past it has been severe but is growing less At Marysville & some other places it is pretty bad but does not cause the fears it did at first.

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

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

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

[*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

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

Hamilton [*California*] Sep 24, 1854

My Dear Friends

I cannot on the present occasion write to you as I wish, for various reasons, but partly for want of time.

You can bring every means of consolation before yourselves, that it is in my power to bring before you, relating to the melancholy accident, that has led us to mourn. Long before this reaches you, you will learn the sad inteligence, but how long after the occurrence before you can know. You may even now be writing for the next mail, to one who is in his grave. I have received a letter from him & written one to him, since he died. How I often tremble when I write home with the thought that time enough has passed since I have heard, for more than one of those to whom I am writing to be laid in the toom. Last Tuesday just as the sun was setting I took from the office a letter with the sup<*p*>erscription in an unknown hand. I did not open it till I reached home when

I learned of what seems to us the untimely death of brother Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*]. It is hard for us to at all times reconcile ourselves to the ways of Providence. How can we see any wisdom in taking away a promising young man from us. Here is a mystery.

Dear Mother,

Do you feel that you cannot reconcile yourself to the calamity that has befallen you or do you take a beter view of the case & think it is as the Lord would have it that your children have been spared to you for a long time & now the Lord wants your youngest perhaps to make him more happy & perhaps for more weighty reasons. We can often reason better for others than for ourselves for our feelings often get the better of our reasoning faculties & lead us astray.

Try not to let it be so in your case I would be very glad to comfort you in this trial but you can do it better yourself.

Dear Father [*Ebenezer Burr*]

How is it with you? Do you feel that a pillar is gone that was one of your principal supports? It is even so but it was found to be a support that was necessary to be removed or was not needed in the place where it stood.

It seems to me that it will be hard for you to reconcile yourself to the removal but you will succeed.

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

What shall I say to you Our brother is gone a journey from which he will not return We shall go to him we know not how soon but we shall never see his smiling face again on earth.

How I want to be with you now. Rs. [*Ralph E. Burr*] letter showed that he felt cheerfull when he wrote it. He spoke of going home I mentioned to him that M. [*Marcus Grant*] thought of going home in the fall. He says “So Marcus is going home lucky hombra (umbra) “lets all go, what do you say to it.”

Mr. Pendleton did not mention any remarks of his during his last hours, perhaps he did not make any. I have anticipated great pleasure in the hope of meeting him this fall but it was not to be.

Mr. Pendleton wrote that he would settle the business & send the money <*to*> home. perhaps that is the best way

Sept. 25 I fell asleep last night writing & was obliged to go to bed before I had done

The letter must go in a few minutes & I must close.

We have good health,

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Grant

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

[*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

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

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

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

Lockport Ill. [*Illinois*] Aug. 31, 1857.

Dear Sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I am not in a writing mood this morn, but perhaps shall feel more like it if I try to use a pen. At any rate the hour between this and dinner ought not to be useless, & I never can sew Mond. A.M.

My husband [*Joel Grant*] arrived in the noon omnibus last Tues. I need not say he was heartily welcomed. The five weeks had seemed as many months to me, though in the meantime I

had with Johny made a trip to Detroit [*Michigan*], & spent a week with a dear friend there. Mr. Grant enjoyed his trip very much and each visit; he has not yet had time to tell me all the particulars of each one, but does so from time to time as opportunity occurs. The freedom from care, change of air & scene &c, &c, have produced a great change in Mr. Grants health. He went away thin and feeble from the effect of that dreadful typhoid fever, but now is so fleshy & apparently so much stronger, that every one remarks it. It is such a privilege to get away from cares for awhile and rest.

I value very much those things you sent, the paper is always useful, and the socks not less so. One pair fits Mr. G. [*Joel Grant*] the others are just right for John. (he wore them to meeting yesterday) I do most of my woolen knitting, but never get time to knit cotton in any way, and the bought socks last so short a time.

I wish I had something that will do you as much good as they will my husband & Jon. John read with interest his book – he remembers Abby & Eddie.

John is very large of his age, but not at all precocious. “Slow & sure” is part of his nature. He is a good boy, obedient & kind. Poor Willy is having very hard fits today: he suffers none after the convulsions (then during them by prostration & feebleness _ _

He is very sweet tempered as you would know if you could see his face. It is a blessing that he has no distortion of feature, the only change in his so beautiful face being a lack of brightness in the eyes, and that is not more than is observable in many children, who have their senses. From what he says and [sings?], and acts, you would say there is no lack of intellect, but it is deeply shrouded by disease. The trial is great but it might be infinitely greater in a thousand ways. And I do feel that God does not subject us to it in vain. He knows just what we need, and will send no more.

So it seems we have a new sister! I am glad, and hope she will be happy in her new sphere. Mr. Grant [*Joel Grant*] likes her and Susan [*Susan Boyd Grant*] writes that they all love her very much. I want to see her, but shall not soon. It is fitting that John should have a young heart to cheer his, so sorrowed by suffering, and prospects of gloom. She may not realize more of care or anxiety, than any of us whose cares are different. They have my best wishes for happiness and prosperity.

I have just received a copy of Mary [Hubbells?] memoirs.

You must excuse every thing incoherent in this. I have had to get dinner, wait on Willy & entertain three callers but I should not have more time if I waited and am really anxious to send this by the P.M. mail.

I shall always be glad to hear from you, I often think of you all and imagine you living up to North[. . .] but not as particularly as if I had seen you keeping house there. If you ever change yours for a western home, & are [. . .] here I hope you will make us a visit. I want to see brother Daniel & you and the children all together, & feel that I know you as a family. Remember me aff’ly [*affectionately*] to them all. Mr. Grant & John send love. Accept also the love of your aff [*affectionate*] sister

Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Love to any friends who man not have forgotten me in Norfolk [*Connecticut*].

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lockport, Ill. March 25, 1859.
Dear Sister C [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

that would have to go first and when I had got it partly written she found out that this had got to go first so I had to stop I am writing up in Aunt Mary room by the register.

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] daughter,

Abbie E Grant [*Abigail E. Grant B*]

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

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

Flemington N.J. [*New Jersey*]
July 27, 81

My dear sister,

I think we will take the encyclopedia as first offered & make no change.

I dont understand about the mails. Did you not always have a daily mail to Clayton? & does the N York mail pass your house & does the stage hand it out to you?

No doubt those cashmere dresses will be nice for some one. Perhaps the whole suit of which that sack is a part will be nice for you sometime. Last winter the sacks here were worn quite close fitting.

There does not now seem to be any time to talk with the girls about the dresses (have not shown them that part of the letter) & you need not send any with the flannel which you may send by mail. Send nothing else now. Am glad if you can have the Brocha. I don't see what you can say to Daniel more than you have said -- Say what you will to him -- & he must be his own judge after all. If he can get cured at Eureka Springs I would advise him to stay & be cured.

I forgot to say in the other letter that I think the cans are washed & scalded at the factory. I would ascertain & not do them yourself if unnecessary. Am glad the work is easier & that you hire. I forgot also to say that aunt Jane gave Abbie $5.00 for her marriage gift. You need not send what she said of visit in New Haven. She told me something of it on Postal & Cornelia wrote about it too. Only the Van Syckels are here just now -- We expect one or two others soon. We are getting along very well. Mary improves & Carrie too I think & Alletta remains about the same. Warren thinks she seems better than 3 years ago.

Two or three weeks ago we recd, a postal from cos. W. Benton who was at Georgetown that if convenient for us he would like to stop & see us a few days -- Should leave his family there. So he came & staid one week -- & left to day for Bordentown to join his wife & daughter whom he expected to also arrive there to day.

We hope & rather expect them all to call here on their way North. Cousin Mary's "Aunt Pierson" lives in Bordentown & <*she had*> cousin Mary had arranged to stay there a few weeks -- but Warren fears it may be too malarious.

Warren is so changed that I would not have known him. About middle of May (I think) he went out to Michagan to his brother John to learn about Western investments. He intended to go much farther West -- but found that he could not be sure of escaping Malaria -- so he staid two weeks with John & then came to Georgetown there to await his wife & daughter who went on

after the close of Maries school at Saratoga. I think he was at Georgetown 6 weeks <*before*> in advance of his family.

Fanny Brayley was a little mistaken in regard to the subject of cos. Waren's curiosity. John had written to Warren telling all about Western investments, securities &c. which was what Warren was anxious to know & had made inquiries about -- & he was curious to know if John had heard of that desire & how. But Warren found that John was entirely ignorant of W.'s wishes & had only happened to write the letter at that time.

John is worth about $30,000. He did well at farming which he has now given up & makes money by shrewd investments. John has one son by the first wife & two daughters by the present wife. Son & eldest daughter married. Neither the Son nor son in law is good at getting along. Bertha the daughter at home is 18 or 19 I think & has more taste for painting than for literature. Warren advises "Erastus & Carrie" not to invest in Western Securities through those agents in Norfolk & Winsted especially at those high rates -- says you will lose -- though he says you are safer to have small bonds than large. Says he will not invest without examining securities himself -- But every body cant do that. W. says he expects to find it very hard to get 6 pr. cent in good securities here at the East. Will probably have to take 5% & perhaps 4%. Thinks perhaps he will go West again this winter & invest. The low interest curtails his income too much. He says that although the lawful interest here is 6% yet there

[*Written across third page:*] is so much money to let that it can often be borrowed at 5 pct. by giving good security. He says there never was a better time to borrow money.

Love to Uncle Ed. &c.
Your aff, sister
M.B. Hill

[*Written across first page:*] Cap. Warren says that ten years ago uncle Collar told him that he had $7000.00 (seven thousand dollars) at interest. He cannot be poor.

Your aff sister
M.B. Hill

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

Bolton, Aug. 25, Thurs, 81
Dear Carrie -- I was very glad indeed to get a letter from you & was thinking of writing you fearing that your much work & many cares would prevent you from writing for some time. I was glad to hear that you were getting along so nicely & that Mr Collar was getting along so well with his farm work I have thought of you both very often this summer of the loneliness, How you must miss sister! no one to go to consult as you have been accustomed to do, & so many things to constantly remind you of her. She is on my mind a great deal & it seems hard to realise that I am to have no more letters from her but it is a great consolation to me to feel that she was so willing to go, and that she could speak of it so calmly. I am greatly impressed with the shortness of life. a few years at most left for me. I dont know why I should want to live but I have a great clinging to life. I have felt since I got home this summer that my end might not be far off I have felt great languor. It has been a great effort for me to do my work & would want to lie down in the day time I had no sickness, but I am feeling better now especially as the weather is some cooler I hope you are well over your billious attack. almost every one is subject to some poor days I suppose Jennie has not been to New Haven as you said nothing of it I have not heard from there since I left neither have I written but I have a letter begun
I was very glad to know that Caroline Mead had written Mr Collar & to hear something of her Electa has not written me at least I have not received any letter from her I should like to hear of her & her circumstances as I was more acquainted with her than with Caroline whom I never saw but once I think
I must forget to tell you that I said to Mary when I was in Flemington that I had given you some green veiling & I thought you intended to color it & send some to them Oh she said green is just in fashion so perhaps you will not take the trouble to color it I should like to tell you a good deal more about my pleasant visit there <*but*> to New Haven but I cant now Do give my love to them

when you write I intended to <*to*> have written before now but I could not very well & I knew they would be very busy & perhaps would not think of it.

Give my love to Samantha & the boys I am glad she gets up to see you occasionally It must be very lonesome to you to have no women in the house to speak to I know how it is for when I was in Topsfield I had no on to speak to but men & could seldom get out to speak to a woman rember me to Mr Collar & Jennie & write when ever you can. We are all well here. O I will tell you that black dress of sisters that I brought for Mary we find very tender indeed & Mary thinks she cannot possibly get a dress out of it for her It was not so full a dress as some of them were She feels quite disappointed but she will get along without it but she depended on that. Our children have been berrying some & between them they have got over $20. but I guess not $25, & they have used & carried what they cared for They got from five to 10 cts a qt

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

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

Flemington, N.J. [*New Jersey*]
Feb 7, 1882

My dear sister,

I hope that Uncle is again on the mend. It is hard to endure so much weakness & suffering -- But I believe that he endures patiently knowing it to be his Heavenly Father's will.

How pleasant for him that his sister can be so much there.

How is Jane? This Malarial Fever cannot be a very pleasant acquaintance. He is so <u>loath</u> to leave & so ready always to return.

I feel sorry that Lucy gains so slowly -- but how thankful should we be that the baby is healthy!

We think there would be no impropriety in saying that you do not care to have Caroline an appendage to this baby's name -- that you would rather it should be reserved for the next -- Though of course you would be willing for them to do as they please about naming the next for you.

I <u>did</u> receive Jan. No. *Miss. Herald* [*Missionary Herald*] from Boston. How good of you to send it. I enjoy it & saw Mary reading quite a while in it on Sundays. The Feb. No. has also come.

You will see that coz. Mary wished this letter sent to you -- but I do not wish you to <u>burn</u> it as she said -- but return it to <u>me</u> sometime. You will see her address at the head of her letter.

I think the Ther. has not been below zero this winter -- if so it was only for a day.

A great deal of snow fell last Saturday. It piled in drifts & much shoveling was necessary all around the house.

Sophie came Sat. Jan 28 (week before last) & staid until last Thurs. She & the girls were invited to aunt Kates Tuesday P.M. William & I were invited to Mr. P.J. Nevins' Before noon it commenced snowing & the storm increased so in fury that Mr. Anderson sent for the girls in sleigh -- So did Mr. Nevins send for William & self Dr. Mott Mr. Bullock Mr. Connet with their wives were there & we had a very pleasant evening -- we all came home as we went.

Sophie made & sent Aletta for Birthday present a suit of underclothes -- night gown chemise & drawers -- The muslin trimming & making would have cost <u>us</u> seven dollars at least.

Dont know when Aletta will be married -- possibly in the early summer -- perhaps not till fall.

This is the second week of a two week's vacation in school on account of scarlet fever -- So Mary & Carrie are at work on Aletta's underclothes & Mary Dunn is to help 2 days & they hope to get the most difficult part & quite a share of them -- done. Aunt Helly has made 2 pr. drawers -- but they do not offer to do any more -- though they know it would be a help of course.

There is no Spring vacation & will be none until school closes -- the last of June. There never is but one vacation (in this school, beside the long one) & that is "Holiday week" Mary judges from the way the Aunties talk that they think that she & Aletta might sew after they come from school & office -- but they cannot -- Mary has to look over lessons for next day & they are

too tired to do very much & she told them so. I feel sorry for you to have so large a family & so much care.

You write when you are very sleepy. I can tell by the way your pen made zig zag marks when you dozed.

Love to uncle & all friends

Your aff sister

Mary B. Hill

Will write two W. Burton about Uncle Collar -- Had though of doing so before. Their address is Catskill Greene Co. New York Box 282. If coz Mary's letter will make the postage 9 cts. it is to be left till another time soon or after hearing from you again.

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

Bolton March 28, 87 (Mond Eveng.

My Dear Niece -- Thank you for yours & the other letters. You said I need not answer immediately. I delayed. I think I told you I anticipated coloring. I am happy to be able to tell you I have accomplished the delectable job quite successfully although not quite to my mind but as well as I could expect with no knowledge of the science. I have colored considerable in my life but always felt as I do now that I dont know much about it but I have always succeeded so that I rather have the articles after I had colored them than before. This time I colored Thibet or something that looked like it, all wool, a light brown for Sue a dress. It had a faded look, now it looks fresh. I also colored an all wool dress that <*that*> Sue had worn & soiled so that it was of no use as it was, [alittle?] darker brown for Mollie I dont think any one would suspect they had been colored. I colored some dresses that were soiled & faded, Enough to make me two morning dresses & a few other little things, I feel glad that I have got that disagreeable work done. I hope I shall not find it necessary to color again for a good while if Ever. Mary hopes so too. <...> She did the pressing & helped what I would let her but I would not let her put her hands in. She was invited up to Miss Osborns to tea the first day I commenced coloring. I did not undertake to do it all in one day I got all through with Sue's & Mollie's the first day that I colored for myself was part cotton & gave me more trouble but I got all through & I cleared up the third day. I took it so moderately that I did not get over tired & am well rested now. I had my common housework to do in the mean time. Tomorrow I expect to wash It stormed so today I concluded to wait for a plesanter day. Mary usually washed rain or shine. I dont know as I told you that I was braiding matts I have made one good sized one & have another about half done, If you never braided one you dont know anything about the labor of it. I dont know how to do it very well & dont have the best materials but is such as I have been saving up for some time & when I get a matt done it looks very well. I made two last & am making two this Spring

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

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

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

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

With much love

S J Wallis [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*]

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

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

Boston Apl 23, 85 Thurs. PM.

Dear Carrie,

Your letter containing the check lay in the office from Sat. night till Tues. morning after the Express had gone <*So I wrote to*> I usually get them in proper time which is next day after being mailed from your place or rather evening but this time it happened not to be handed out. So I wrote immediately to the Charles Town Bank asking if the business could be done by writing & told them I had the check & would send it if I knew it would be right. I also asked if it was necessary for some one to go with it. If I should write underneath the order you gave me Pay to Mrs. Mary Glayrus L.J. Wattis & the answer was I could mail it and by endorsing on the back pay to the order of Ano. Thom Treasurer of the C. Bank & he would send me the Bank book by mail or I could send the Order by my daughter endorsing it. I told him of the delay of the letter in the P. Office & asked if I sent it the 23 if it would not go on in trust as though it were there the day before. His answer was it would not. I will send you the letter. I don't know now whether this Book would be made out in my name or yours. I had supposed that when the first deposit was made the person must be there to sign their name to some article &c but after words could make any additions.

The Franklin Bank is the only Bank in Boston I think that deposits commence drawing interest after the third Wed in April until July. If deposits are made by the first day of May, they will draw interest from that time. Dividend days first day of August & February at four percent. It nearly $4,000 000 on deposit & is considered a <u>sound</u> Bank. There are only two Banks in Boston that those are the Charles Town which has over $2 500 000 on deposit & the Eliot which has over 1,600 000 on deposit, The Provident has over 25,000 000 & Pays but 3 percent. The Suffolk has nearly 18,000 000 & pays 3 ½ per cent. Thre are 168 Savings Banks in Mass & only 20 pay 5 percent the highest they are allowed to pay by law. The amount of Deposits in the [S. Ben] Mass is $262. 720. 147. I see by the Commissioners report on Savings Bank that the Springfield Institution for Savings has over eight million on deposit & pays 2 per cent semiannually was incorporated in 1827, dividends declared in Jan. & July. It does not mention what days.

I write you about the Springfield Insti for Savings thinking you might prefer to have me endorse the check back to you & you send it to the Spring. & have the Book made out to you direct. Now there is time for you to write & tell what I shall do under the circumstances. We will be sure & send to the office morning & evening.

We have money in the Banks in Boston I have mentioned $ consider them safe. Now if you still wish to have the check sent to the Charles town S.B. & have it go on interest the third Weds in July I will either send it by mail or Mary will go in with it & will give you the four dollars for the loss of interest for the three months. If you wish to have it deposited in the Franklin in just one week from today we will get it there if possible. The Banks that pay the best interest are

considered the safest, generally Franklin pays 4 percent. It was quite unexpected to receive a check to be deposited in a Bank. Now I will give the reasons for net getting it in due time. It was delayed in the office so long that we should have to start the next morning as we were not sure that it could be done by writing. I wrote by return mail hoping that one day would make no difference. I was not feeling very well & it seemed to me that I could not go to Boston that particular Wednesday. Amory's father's and mother's Golden Wedding occurred. Mr. W. & myself were invited & all other family & they staid till after 11 Oclock at night. I did not feel like going up there, I felt great langor & lay on the bed a good deal. Mr. W. concluded not to go & so happened that particular night our evng mail was left in Boston. So if the Treasurer had written that we could make the deposit on the 23 instead of the 22 could not have got the letter in time to send it in the morning as the evng mail was left behind & did not arrive till too late to go or send. I am sorry things worked round so. Now I think there will be time for you to write & say what is best to be done. You will recollect that that the last day for depositing in the Franklin B is the first day of May. Now after all I have written invest your money as you think best ,

SJW

[*added sheet*]

I meant to have got this in the afternoon mail but failed. Perhaps I can have time to give you some reasons for my lack of confidence in Western investments from our experience. Edwin came on from the West in the summer of .39 with the purpose of collecting up what was due him in Milford & vicinity & intended to go West the next spring but he found it very slow work to collect & could not & did not collect any considerable. He was not well but was able to attend to business till about two weeks of his death. He left out in Illinois or Indiana with a man he used to be acquainted with & in whom he had confidence $200.0. & over I think I do not now remember just the amount & took the note of two men in partnership doing a large business & living in good style & left $30.0. or more with another in business & in good standing. Mr. W. went on from Mass. To collect it. Sheets & Grover were worth nothing. They were doing business but had no property of their own. He could not get one cent nor even a nights lodging or meal of victuals. I think he made out to get $100. of the $300. Edwin lent $500 & took a mortgage on some property New York State which a Lawyer professing to know all about assured him was perfectly good. We could not get one cent of it.

He lent $2000 or more to a very clever industrious man who had a rich partner & had a right to give a partnership note & beside a well off father & father-in-law. He died but I think he settled up with his partner making provision to have that note paid. That partner went to scheming how he could get out of paying. It was quite expensive to us but he got somebody to go & testify wrongly & he managed around so that he got out of paying of f & that man united with the church at the same time I did. Mr. W. left some [demand] with a man we considered perfectly honest to collect as he had opportunity as he was in a store & would be in the way of seeing people & he was to have the use of the money without interest for doing it. Mr. Went clear up from Maryland to settle up what he could & to get what was collected. That man had money collected but would not pay it over to him without a bonus. I don't remember how much . He was Deacon of the Church to which I belonged. I know you will say it was not on real estate security, but to have real estate securities collected costs & it has to pass through various hands who don't work for nothing. I don't suppose I have given everything exact.

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

Bittersweet Sept 21/'85

Dear Sister

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

grows freely from seed, as we have two or 3 that have come up under the trees where the birds have carried the seeds.

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

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

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

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

Has been remarkably cool all summer for a […]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What then, do not know.

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

Affectionately,

William Hill

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

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