Subject: Politics

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

Flemington [*New Jersey*] July 4th 1849

Dear Ralph

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

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

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

resources of the country & after a while a civilized man might feel half at home there. Do you take any interest in foreign politics? I rejoice with the Hungarians & the Romans & hate the French for their foolish interference at Rome, with their cowardly folly in sticking to the wrong after they have found themselves out to be decidedly so, but that cursed false honour of the human race which drives men deeper & deeper in the wrong for the sake of others praises or blame is a prominent point in French character. Hope that it will not be long before the whole of Europe will bid adieu to kings & Emperors, and they be counted only as things that were.

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

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

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

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

We recieved a letter from Mary about the first of Sept which had been three or four weeks on the way, which was the first time we had heard from her since April. She then wrote from

Boston and said she would send us a paper and let us know where to direct a letter. I am glad she is to remain with you another winter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Susan B Grant. [*Susan Boyd Grant*]

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

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

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

Sat. morning Nov. 3 (continued from 4th page.) Since writing a little on the last page of this sheet, I have got some red ink and concluded to add something further. One thing I wish to say

is, that our Post Master never takes the wrapper off from newspapers when they are marked paid on the outside, thus "Paid 1 ½"
If therefore you wish to write to write a little in a newspaper, if you will pay the postage there is I think no danger of its being discovered. Our Post Master is one of the best natured men in the world and strictly honest, not withstanding his zeal as a Van Buren man.

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

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

Your affe [*affectionate*] son E P Grant

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[*Transcription: original not in collection*]
[*Addressed*] Caroline Grant
Forsyth [*Georgia*], Nov. 22, 1833

My dear Parents,

Some time has elapsed since I have addressed a letter directly to you, though I believe I have written to some member of the family as often as once in six weeks. I have received no letter from Conn. [*Connecticut*] since I last wrote to brother Phelps. My health has been uninterruptedly good, & it is a time of general health in this region of country – I received a letter from Elizabeth & Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] three weeks since. E. [*Elizabeth*] says "Mother has not written me for a long, long time, & I sometimes almost think she has forgotten me." I have been gone so long, I fear it will be so with me, & that you will hardly know me. No. I do not think so, you think enough about me, & I am afraid you are sometimes too anxious. I know I cannot keep my self from danger, & that if left to myself I should run into sin, but I still feel that if I do my part, I shall be upheld. I have many friends here, indeed all of the people are kind, but still I do not exactly like to stay here. I wish you to remember me at a throne of grace. I do not know where I shall spend the coming year. I have been in a state of suspense which you know is unpleasant. I do not suffer myself to be anxious. A merciful Providence has thus far caused my cup to overflow with blessing, & I can trust for the future. My school closes in three weeks, the 13th of Dec. The trustees of this school called on me to know my plans & wishes for the coming year. I thought it would not be best for me to remain here, & I told I intended returning to the north in the spring, but that I should like to occupied in school till that time. Some families are anxious I should stay next year. About four weeks since I received a letter from Liberty Co. with an invitation to assist in an academy there. My business there would be mostly teaching the management devolving on the gentleman & lady, who have the charge of the school. They offered a salary of $400. Board from 100 to 150 dollars. Liberty [*Georgia*] is about 40 miles from Savannah. Dr. Law, the physician of this place was raised there. I consulted him about the healthiness of the place, he thinks it very healthy on sand hills, where the academy is situated, & he thinks it would not be hazardous to health to go there in the winter season, & stay a year. They want my services Jan. 1. In my reply, I stated to them that I did not feel at liberty to engage till I had consulted my friends &c. Last Tues. I received another communication from them wishing me to give them a decided answer to their proposal – stated my labors would not be great – that they were surrounded by a religious community that Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] had many acquaintances there who would give me a kind reception & be interesting friends &c. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] had previously written me that Miss Eaton wished me to cooperate with her next year in her school in Philadelphia, & that she had rather I would be with her than in almost any other situation. I had not heard from her. I answered it in the negative. Mr. Lumpkin says, if I stay in Geo. [*Georgia*] he thinks I can do better than that as to compensation. I have a note against Mr. Parsons of $100 due Jan. 1. The law of that state will

not allow me to collect it under a years & I may never get it. Mrs. P. [*Parsons*] resides in Lib. Co.[*Liberty County*] & I think I should be more likely to get it to spend a year there than otherwise. I have sometime feared I should make some engagement which I, & my friends might in after time <would> regret. I feel willing to go where I can be most useful. If I am not engages in teaching school long I shall study geometry & algebra. Write to me what you wish me to do, I wish to do something to remunerate Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] for what she has done for me.

They have engaged a music teacher here for next year – Gov. [*Governor*] Lumpkin is reelected to the grief of the nullifiers. The legislature is now assembled at Milledgeville [*Georgia*]. The majority of the <Union> members are Union or Submission men.

I suppose thanksgiving time is coming soon, perhaps it is even now, if not you have many things to do. I presume I should like very much to be with you. I have looked over some papers to find when it was to be, but have not been able to ascertain.

Were the meteors which were seen in this state on the morning of the 13th of this month seen in New Eng. [*New England*]? Did you see them? The night was clear, calm & cool. An unusual number of them were seen in early part of the night. About two o'clock they began to appear in every direction. Mr. & Mrs. Lumpkin rose about three, & most of the negroes. They were much frightened. About five a servant called me, & told me to look out at the window. I did, & saw the meteors falling in every direction. I was reminded of a snow storm. Some of them emitted light resembling lightening. I went into Mrs. L's [*Lumpkin*] room & found them almost dead with fright. Many of them thought the day of judgment had really come. The barn helper & negroes were crying. Lord, have mercy upon me. I told them I had read such things, that they <had heard> were not stars, & that I did not feel afraid. It seems to <to> comfort them a good deal, Tom, a negro, said this was a warning to the sinners here. Some say now, the wise may explain as they please, they shall still believe they were stars. The appearance was very beautiful, most of them moved in an oblique direction, though some over head moved horizontally. One in the east, particularly brilliant, moved ten or twelve degrees leaving a line of light which continued for a minute or two. I thought from ten to twenty five might be seen in every direction at a time. The family & others say there were a hundred, some say thousands at the same moment. The[y] grew fainter & fainter till the light of day drowned them entirely.

Sat. morn. Nov. 23. The weather is cool [*a piece of the page is missing*]...that at night & morning good fires are comfortable. At noon & during the afternoon they are not necessary. There has been but little rain, this month the weather is altogether milder than in New Eng. [*England*] during this month. I perceive by the public papers you have had snow. – Christmas is a noted day in this region. It is the time for removing, settling accounts, & for amusement. The negroes, have that week mostly to themselves. The whites would call those masters cruel, that would keep their slaves at labor during that time. The slaves are proud of having rich & respectable masters & mistresses, also of fine carriages & horses, & houses. I am sure in their present condition, it would not do to set them free. They are exceedingly superstitious & ignorant.

Ms. Goddard expects one of her sisters on to spend the winter with her. I received a letter from her a few days since.

I have just learned that the meteors were seen in Charleston & Savannah, & should think from the descriptions more splendid than here. The mail closes soon. That you may have wisdom to discharge all your duties, enjoy the presence of God, & be wholly devoted to this service, is the desire & prayer of your daughter, Mary. [*Mary Grant*]

Love to my brothers & sisters, cousins, neighbors & all. Write soon after receiving this, very soon. Direct to Forsyth [*Georgia*]. Abigail should write me all about school, Sab. [*Sabbath*] School, etc. Farewell

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

Canton [*Ohio*] 1st Nov 1840

Dear Parents,

I have been thinking for some time that I ought to write you once more, though no particular good or ill fortune has befallen me to give any special interest to my letter. We have all enjoyed uninterrupted good health since mother left us, though I ought to qualify this a little, and say that my own health has not been perfectly good for about two months past. I suppose my complaint to be dyspepsia, brought on by too close confinement to the duties of the office while Mr. Griswold was making stump speeches for the Whigs. I am better now, and have never been so bad as to give up business even for a day.

Our little girl, Elizabeth [*Mary Elizabeth Burton Shurtleff*], is the very picture of health. For activity either of body or mind I have seldom seen her equal at her years. She will outrun all her play-mates with the utmost ease, although some of them are twice as old. She knows all her letters, large and small, though she has not fully learned to distinguish between the small 'b' and 'd'. We think too, that she behaves remarkably well.

Daniel returned here from Penfield about a week since, and is one of the applicants for a common-school in this town of Canton [*Ohio*]. The town (borough) constitutes a single district, and the practice is to have four different schools in it during the winter. The Board of Directors of the District (corresponding to your District Committee, but consisting of three instead of one) meet to-morrow evening to determine whom they will employ.

Mr. & Mrs. Whiting and Mr. & Mrs. Griswold are all well — indeed, I know of no person in the place who is sick, except Mr. Harley's little boy, whom mother may remember. He has had a bowel complaint for two months or more, and now is believed to be afflicted with worms — the two together make the poor fellow quite sick, perhaps dangerously so.

Daniel found a letter here when he last came from sister Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*]: the letter arrived about a week before his return. It bore date June 10, 1840, at which time she and Mr. Burgess were well. We have not heard from Mr. Burton or any of his family since mother's visit there. — Col. W. Griswold has made a tour into Indiana and Michigan this fall, I scarcely know with what object — he returned about two weeks since and I have not seen him since his return, but understand that he and his family are well. Daniel staid at Mr. Frederic Brown's a week ago last night; they were then as well as usual.

We receive occasionally a newspaper from home, though I think less frequently than formerly. It is quite likely that some of them miscarry. For a considerable time past I have sent to Colebrook [*Connecticut*] the Ohio Repository published at this place — I think I have sent every number. I directed them to John until lately — the two or three last I have directed to father, not knowing but John might be at New Haven [*Connecticut*]. I presume it makes no difference to whom they are directed.

The elections for this State [*Ohio*] are now over for this year, and such a tremendous political struggle I presume was never witnessed before in this country or elsewhere. The excitement has been intense and absorbing — the vote polled immense — and the victory of the Whigs decisive. I say decisive however without knowing anything of consequence about the Presidential Election which took place Oct 30 — no doubt however is entertained by either party as to the result. The Whig majority at the election of Oct 13 was about 16,500; though you will hear it from 18,000 to 20,000. At the late election the Whigs, in this and four adjacent counties (all we have heard from) have gained 960. If they gain in the whole state at the same rat[*i*]o, Harrison's majority will fall but little short of 30,000. We do not look however with any confidence for more than 25,000. The Whigs are rejoicing at the brightness of their prospects, and the Locos are apparently frightened. I am glad the elections are over; indeed I think both parties rejoice that they are now able to enjoy a season of political repose.

Susan wishes to be remembered, and little Libby sends love to Grandpa, Grandma and her Uncles and Aunts in Colebrook & Clifton [*Connecticut*]

Yours as ever E.P. Grant [*Elizabeth Phelps Grant*]

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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

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

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

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

The outside wall is built very strong and in some instances the only opening it has is the entrance the <*light*> windows all opening inside towards the court, which is an open space paved with marble brick or stone according to the wealth or taste of the proprietor. In the middle is a cistern so fixed as to receive all the water which falls upon the roof, and as this means is universally resorted to procure water for use it is a matter of much importance. The roofs essentially differ from any I have ever seen. They are nearly flat and like all the floors of the house are built of brick supported by wooden sleepers and plank.
The top of the house being then made safe by the height of the outer and inner walls becomes a very pleasant place for the gambols of children, the dances of <*the*> light hearted youth, and the thoughtful walks of soberage or youthful gravity. In this country the advantage derived from them is inconceivable. The seasons do not vary here as they do in Colebrook [*Connecticut*]; the winters are not cold the summers are not intensely hot, consequently there are but few days in the year in which a promenade on the roof will not be agreeable. By this means every parent can afford to his children a play ground without the necessity of sending them into the street. <*for amusement*>. If there are any windows opening into the street they are defended by strong iron gratings thus rendering entrance against the will occupier impossible, without the use of battering rams or some like instrument.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother Joel Grant

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

U. S. Ship Potomac
Rio de Janeiro
June 28, 1841

Dear Brother,

Within the last two weeks I have received from you and Mother two letters the one dated March 13 and the other April 10. They make five letters that I have received from home since I came here and I can assure you they seemed to make the distance between me and home, shorter by at least 4000 miles. Your letters have all arrived safely and I had no idea that communication between this country and ours was so frequent and safe as I find it.

We had heard of the death of President Harrison, a few days before your letter arrived and I think we have every reason to regard it as an almost irreparible national calamity. From all that General Harrison has shown of his character since he appeared as a candidate for the Presidency, and from all that the warm discussions of a political contest have bought to light respecting his life and principles, I had flattered myself that we once more had a man at the head of government who united the wisdom patriotism and honesty of Washington and I cannot doubt that the people were beginning to regard him in the same way. It is possible that the government may be administered by Tyler on much the same principles but Tyler can never obtain the confidence of the people like Harrison

You write that you have attended the school at Norfolk [*Connecticut*] a short time. Of this I am very glad and from your description of the teacher I cannot but regret that you did not attend it longer. It was however too late for me to give advice and now I can only urge you to pay the strictest attention to the instructions you may receive at college

Upon more mature thought I have also concluded that the course you have adopt of entering Freshman is wise. There is much [to be] learned, and next to my desire to see [you a] good, useful and happy man is my desire [.....*page is cut*] you a learned one. You will I trust never [be] one of those who study merely to recite your lessons, nor one who is satisfied because you know as much as three quarters of your companions. It would not be surprising if you should

find some of your classmates much more advanced than yourself, but let not that discourage you. If you will properly apply yourself, I will warrant you will ere eighteen months have passed outstrip many of them. Let me caution you against <*bout*> thinking your studies hard. This is a complaint you seldom hear from good students, you should rather rejoice that your studies afford you so good an opportunity to try your powers. Above all never let your aversion to a hard lesson prevent your using your utmost efforts to conquer it.

Be not hasty in forming acquaintances. You will find that those who please you at first will in the end be most disagreeable in many cases. In a few weeks however you will be<come> able to judge with considerable certainty, and till that time is past you had better not attempt to make acquaintances. You will not seek (and if you should seek probably will not obtain) a room in college the first year.

I trust you have some correct ideas of the importance of selecting good associates. In your case you should be careful not to associate with any one who uses profane language or who spends any of his time in dissipation, or who neglect <*their*> his studies to indulge in light and trifling conversation, or in light reading. Many more things of this kind I might say, but at present let me finish with <*my*> the earnest injunction to read a portion of the Bible every day, and to pay the strictest attention to the sermons of Prof. Fitch of which I would earnestly advise you to take notes from the beginning of your College course. Do not make them too long <*but*> for fear that you become tired of the undertaking. You would do well to get a blank book and set down the text and heads of discourse always, and whenever you feel disposed such of his remarks as you choose, but never neglect the heads of discourse.

I suppose there will be no difficulty in obtaining the money you need as I think either Mr. Battel or Father will furnish you on my account. I think my credit for $200 or $300 ought to be good by this time.

The coronation of the emperor has been put off till 18th of July and it is very probable that we may leave here before that time a circumstance I shall very much regret. The Emperor is still popular and the preparations for the coronation are going on upon a very extensive scale.

Give my love to cousin Maria Pettibone Margaret Nettleton, cousin Elizabeth P. and to all in any way connected with them. Also tell cousin Wm. [*William*] I am verily guilty in not having written to him and will try to write to him soon. I wish you would let me know where James Cowles is; I have sent two letters to him and have received no answer. I can write no more for I expect the master-at-arms to come every minute to extinguish my light which I am not permitted to burn after <*nine*> ten o'clock and the vessel sails to-morrow, by which I wish to send this.

Your affectionate brother

Joel Grant.

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[*Daniel Grant to Joel Grant*]

Sept. 27th 1852

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

I have been down again since writing the sheet that accompanies this & am not yet able to work at mining, but am better than I have been for two months. Marcus is well & works all the

time for me If we get nothing from the river <*clame*> claim it will be hard for me to pay him but I think there is a good chance.

<*Bartons Bar Sept 26*>

<*Dear Brother*>

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] Brother,

D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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

Piketon Ohio Sept 24, 1842

Dear Brother,

As I have now been rather more than a fortnight from home, I presume you feel anxious to hear from me. Cousin Wm. [*William*] and I arrived at Conneaunt, about eight miles from Kingsville, Saturday morning Sept. 10, from which place we were carried by Mr. Hall, one of Williams' friends, to Kingsville. We called at Niagara falls, where we spent nine hours in viewing the wonders of the place which are truly astonishing, but nothing worth worrying to see. At Kingsville I visited Uncle Calvin's family, [Aurin?] Wakefield's, Nathan Wakefield's, Harvey Nettleton's, Alpha Nettleton's, Roger Nettleton's, Cousin Milton's, Cousin Barnard's and a Mr. Newton's who married a daughter of Roger Nettleton, but whose wife is now dead. I staid at Kingsville till Wednesday morning Sept, 14, when in William's company I started for Vienna, where Mr. Chamberlain who married Mary Ann Cowles lives. On our way we passed through Hartford, where Esquire Beebee and his son Dr. Beebee live, and with them we passed the night very pleasantly. Thursday morning we went to Vienna where cousin Mw. staid till after dinner, and I till the next morning. William, who brought me in his father's waggon, came partly to bring me, partly to see <*Mar*> Mrs. Chamberlain and partly to visit some relations who live in a neighboring town. He returned the next day, and will probably reach home before you receive this.

From Vienna Mr. Chamberlain carried me to Warren, the county Seat of Trumbull Co., from whence I hoped to be able to find my way somewhere by means of a stage, as a vehicle of that kind visits Vienna only, once a week. We arrived at Vienna Friday forenoon, and I found that no stages were to leave in any direction which I wished to go before Monday morning. However as that day there was a Whig "Mass meeting" at Warren, at which "[Tom?] Corwin" the Governor of Ohio was to mount the stump, I concluded to be as patient as possible and make the most of my forced stay. I managed to occupy the time during the day pretty well, and at night I left word with the collector of the canal to send for me if any boat should come along, going to Akron. Accordingly about one o'clock I was called up, and took passage on a [line?] boat (on that canal they have no others) which, whatever other good qualities it might have, -- deserved no commendation for its speed. The Captain said he had about 55 tons of wheat on board and for all that load he had but two horses. However we moved along at a snails pace and about 6 o'clock Sunday morning I arrived at Akron which is about 45 miles from Warren. Here I spent the

Sabbath very pleasantly with the family of Sidney Bass, and on Monday started for Canton. I found brother Phelps had gone to Court and therefore concluded to come here, as soon as on my return, I left Canton Tuesday morning and visited Wyllys Griswold, and at three o'clock in the afternoon took the packet, and about one o'clock Thursday night reached Waverly from whence I came here on foot yesterday.

Brother Phelps and family are well. They have a daughter three weeks old who is healthy, and Susan is so smart as to sit up a great part of the day. She is very cheerful and is doing well. Dr. Whiting with Mrs. Whiting and his brother Julius made a visit there the evening I arrived. They are all well.

Mr. Burton's family are also well Sister's eyes are better, though far from sound, and her children, Mary and Philander are doing well. Philander walks as well as any one, and talks very well also. Sister says they find a farm more agreeable than their former mode of life, although rather more laborious.

I found Mr. Bass' family well. Mrs. Bass appears to be a very amiable, pleasant woman, and all the family are cheerful and happy. They have only one child which is but a few months old. A sister of Mrs. Bass was in the family when I was there.

I suppose you are anxious to know how I get along in looking up a place To this I can at present only answer that I have not yet satisfied myself. I have seen places, however which I think are better suited to you both in price and quality than any that I know of at the east, but before buying them I have concluded to go to Wisconsin. There is plenty of good land in Ohio, but the fact that it is held at a price rather above its value cannot be denied. This is not, however, more the case here than at the east, but all things considered I believe it best for you to go to Wisconsin. All accounts agree in representing it as a delightful country which is at least as healthy as New England. On board the packet I met an individual who <*has*> is a surgeon in U.S. Army, and who has been stationed in various parts of Wisconsin and Iowa, and has travelled in all parts of them. From his [description?] I judge the prairies of Wisconsin to be something like the pampas of the Rio de la Plata in their fertility and dry healthy air. Mr. Burton tells me that he has seen some persons from there who complain in the same manner Eastern people do of the damp chilly nights of Ohio. By the way these nights are horrid. I no longer wonder that people are sick with agues, or that constitutions are undermined by the great changes which take place between noon and midnight. It is without exception the worst climate I ever saw if the few days I have been here are a fair specimen.

It is no great undertaking to go to Wisconsin not so much as to go to Piketon, or at most, very little more. From Buffalo the passage is from four to six days, cabin passage $16 deck passage $10 to Chicago which is 70 miles beyond Milwaukee. But if I do not find better places there than here, I shall return to Ohio, or Indiana or Illinois.

I shall start day after tomorrow (Monday) on my return <*from whenc*> to Brother Phelps, from whence I shall go to cousin Harvey Grants and endeavor to call on Wm. Swift, and then to Cleveland from whence I shall start for Wisconsin I will write again from Cleveland.

Your affectionate brother
Joel Grant.

If you would like to write me any thing, I presume you can do it by directing to Cleveland. I do not think I shall leave there before Monday Oct. 10, and if you can mail a letter by Oct. 3 I shall doubtless receive it.

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[*Annotation, "part of a letter to Caroline Burr Grant from Daniel Grant undated"]*

[*in pencil*] city property is stagnant every where owing to you tampering with the currency The Republicans are making very bad work. I am afraid that a change to a Democratic administration will be necessary to save our country. If you buy property of John you can have no idea what it will bring a year or five years hence yet to try to save John I am willing you should buy some but you must look out and buy it very low. Low is not sufficient. It must be very low. Real estate in cities is not worth to sell I suppose half as much as two or three years ago.

City property here is worse than a stand still. Property I bought 10 years ago is not worth what I paid for it then and I bought it low.

If it cost us no more to attend to the Wis. [*Wisconsin*] land than it would if Mary had no share in it that is no reason why she should not pay her share and if she is to have any <*ex*> equal share in it as a matter of course she must pay her share of expenses but it cost us more to pay the taxes than it would if she had paid her proportion. You estimate the taxes and cost of selling $100, when I think $500, will not pay it. I can't now tell how much it was but I made two or more trips to Wis. on that business at an expense of more than $100, a trip. I can't say how much but I distinctly remember that I paid for a ticket from N. York [*New York*] to Milwaukee [*Wisconsin*] $52, and some cents wh. [*which*] would make the fare alone for two trips about $225, and one tax in particular I paid was $83, and some cts [*cents*], and that was not as large as the last tax for I paid about $25, between $25, and $30, I think besides about $60, you paid. I don't remember how many years we paid taxes after Mary sold but think they would amount to nearly $300, if not more. You can easily see that you are paying Mary a good deal more than you got when she does not need near as much as you do. I know she has been kind very kind to us and I am willing she should have pay for it yes very glad — but to give her so many hundred dollars is wrong. If Wm. [*William*] is improvident he has a good situation and earns a good deal & has a good deal left yet. At any rate she is much better off than you are.

It may be years before I am ready to go east Can't tell. Intend to wind up here soon as I can but it is going to take some time
Love to the friends

Ever Thine
D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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

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

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

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

Joel.

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

Dear Brother & Sister It is indeed a long time since I have written off anything & I am glad to have an opportunity to finish this letter. Though you have not heard direct from me yet I presume you have a t least heard through other members of the family that I have been well & you of course know that as [...] as I am well I must <*of course*> be very busy. I will not however undertake to offer any excuse for having neglected to write you, or to plead want of time for such duties. Though my time is indeed pretty full occupied, I have enough for such purpose as these. The only reason why I have not written this long time is that when I have thought of it I felt that I <*ed*> could not fill a whole sheet with any thing that would be interesting & when I have had opportunities to fill part of a sheet, I have had just at those times some very pressing duty to perform, as a very hard lesson to learn or a dispute to prepose I will endeavor to do better in future, I am not [...] ever acknowledging hereby that you have placed me under any obligation by having written to me out I know how such things go & if one neglects [...] because others do nothing will be done. I have since I last wrote been very well usually. I do not however always take sufficient exercise & by this means I sometimes suffer some from a sort of nervous weakness – nothing serious though. I have not yet since the commencement of my College [*Yale University*] course been absent from a single recitation or asked to be excused from a single lesson. So you see that I must have had pretty good health. The hardest of our course is not past, & I hope to reap the benefit of the severe study of the few past years in increased mental vigor & power. You both know I doubt not that the life of the faithful student is a hard one – one of toil & weariness & often of anxiety & suffering. Though I have not suffered all the evils to which close study has brought some of my acquaintances, yet I can not but feel that this <*if*> has sorrows which other pursuits know nothing of. Even now I feel that I have not improved my time as I might have done, but I have not withstanding confined myself closely to my books most of the time I cannot say that I have not succeeded in my endeavors to my satisfaction I have even exceeded my hopes. I aimed at nothing more in the shape of college honors than an Oration, doubting even whether I should succeed in reaching that; but I have that & I am assured by my tutor that three higher appointments than orations had been given I should have had one of them. But as the difference between myself & some one or two was not such as others, to warrant a distinction of that kind now only had first appointments were given for the Junior Exhibition. You may readily believe that I am encouraged by this to apply myself pretty closely to my studies, I do not mean however, to be swayed by ambition or elations beyond what is right and proper. I have here spoken plainly as you see & that too of myself, but I know that in the present instances such plainness is allowable, & I cannot believe that you will charge me with ostentation in thinking thus to a brother & a sister. Our Junior Exhibition comes in two weeks from next Tuesday – a time to which many of us are looking forward with much interests and some dread. I will send you at the time what account the papers give – I feel as though I can almost through College & soon to go out into the wide world. Some times I rejoice to see it so near that more usually feel that I should not be ready to grapple with its stern realities.

You will doubtless hear of the results of the election here before this reaches you. We are glad to find Conn. [*Connecticut*] again true to herself. Both branches of legislature are Whig & are to choose the [...] & a senator to [...reps?] – Joel has written you I suppose this latest news from Martha. Her case is a very critical one, yet we hope for her recovery – there is considerable religious interest in the Mt Holyoke Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] this Winter & Spring. there is also here in College [*Yale University*] a hearing prospect. For a few days past matters have taken a new turn, & all seem more or less awake to the subject. We are hoping for a powerful revival ere the close of this term. Some hopeful conversions have already occurred. The interest is daily increasing. Elder Knapp has been here thru of four weeks & preached every afternoon & evening in the Baptist Church. He left however last Monday, but not without having left a deep impression on many a hearts – We have not heard directly from home for many weeks. We hear that they have considerable snow there still. There is more here now & the grass is beginning to appear in some places. I do not look forward to the vacation with the interest I should if Martha were well. We expect to get her home as soon as the weather & roads will

allow. Cousin Desiah is intending to go to Mt. Holyoke Sem [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] next year – I hope you will not neglect me, & not write to me at all. I want to hear from you both so badly [knows?] but that I shall come out & live with you some day & I want to know about that part of the world. But more especially I want you to write to me as brother & Sister & you need no assurance that as such I shall ever sorrows & joys as fast as I can, I now sympathize with you in the trials to which I know you must be subjected, but hope they well soon most of them pass away. Now dear Sister Caroline you know that you can write letters more easily than David can & of course you have rather more leisure for such business will you not therefore take it upon you if he cannot write & even if he can, to write a part or whole of a letter as the case may be before long? I will promise you an answer. you affectionate brother John.

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

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[*from Austinburg, Ohio, 186-?*]

Dear brother Daniel,

As I am sending home, I enclose a few lines to you. Abbie is pretty well generally, tho' [*though*] she has complained of a lame ancle lately & some head aches. She is better to day. How your family is scattered. No two in a place. And with other news we see in the paper you sent, that you have disposed of the property you bought in Winsted [*Connecticut*]. Have you done it advantageously? & will you now be able to redeem the $600. note you mentioned? Please tell me all about it. I wish to know more of your prosperity & of your adversity. I <*do*> would not buy property if you have to run in debt for it, the yearly interest is such an eating mother [barnowl?] – you stay at father's & help father & [brotheren?]. Better be in no business than a [sinking] business. May there not be an opening where you can labor for a salary, or for regular wages, if you wait awhile?

We hear nothing fr. [*from*] bro. [*brother*] Josh for a long time. Bro. [*brother*] John wrote the last he knew of him, he was in Chicago on government business. We are quite anxious to know more of his plans.

What a gloomy prospect our country now presents. O. that we may all so return, with weeping, mourning, & supplication, to our God, that he may have mercy & restore peace to our once happy but guilty land.

Henry Bowles spent nearly two weeks in Austinburg [*Ohio*], recently. He held a number of meetings here. He does seem to be one of the holiest men I ever knew. He took tea with us, & called several times[.] Aunt Olive & Mr Marshall's family were well as usual when I last heard.

Dear brother, I hope we shall learn how to pray in this day of our sore visitation as we have never done before. What else can we do. "He that knows how to pray has the secret of safety in prosperity & support in adversity." If we preserve this world it proves a fleeting show, but if we "set our affections on things above," if we "lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven" we shall soon experience the glad fruition of all our hopes.

Please write soon & freely. It is dark, I fear you cannot read this

Your aff..te [*affectionate*] sister Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

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[*Addressed to]* Mrs. Caroline Grant

January, 9, 1850. No. 3.

My dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I did not have an opportunity to send a letter by the last mail, therefore did not write. Now I have

an opportunity to send by private conveyance, to the Miss. River [*Mississippi River*], and as I get no information from home, I fear, my letters will not reach you. I have written twice only, this is the third time. I improve every chance to send for letters, but have received none. Who of my friends may be alive, or who dead I know not, what sorrows or joys await them I know not, but as I can do them no good, I try to bear up under my privations, as well as I can, Hoping all are well, and all enjoying themselves and one another.

I cannot tell what my prospects are in Cal. [*California*] but think, they are some what flattering. I have refused to take $200, and my board, a month, for driving an ox team next summer, I have good reason to believe I can make that & perhaps four time as much mining.

I was too late in the mines last fall, to get a start before the winter set in, but I have been able to get enough to pay my expenses, which have been almost $350, I fear some times, that I shall not make as much mining as in some other way, but the chance is so much in favor of making more, that I am not willing to accept of such an offer as $200 a month. [My] information is more extensive than when I last wrote, and I think that the majority of the emigrants are not sorry that they are here, <and> instead of one in ten as I stated in my seco<o>nd letter, but nearly all that were comfortably situated at home, wish they had stayed there, and many that thought they were not well off at home, have learned here that they were.

With the knowledge I have now I think hard of advising Ralph [*Ralph E. Grant*] & Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] to come here, to spend a few months next summer if they should be so disposed, but I dont know as it would be best. If they were christians, as I am here; I would advise them to come, but a <yong> young man ought to have not only a fixed, but a christian character to withstand all the temptations that are set before him in this country. Many a fine young man is ruined here. If they should come, by all means take the rout by the Isthmus or through Mexico via, Vera Cruz. The Mexican rout I am not acquainted with.

Now I think of it, I want you to save newspapers, containing Cal. [*California*] news, so that I can see them on my return, also inform me who is Governor of Cal. [*California*] when you write, and such other news as you think I would like to hear. We know not what is going on except in our own neighborhood.

Write often, I shall get some letters some time, I have no doubt. I will say again direct to Sacramento <river> City pay no postage. If R. [*Ralph E. Grant*] & M. [*Marcus Grant*] one or both would come and find me, I think they with the characters they have already formed, and my assistance, <they> would not run much risk of getting in to bad company, but It might be impossible to find me, for a long time, I am now near Hangtown, but I do not <know who> suppose any one could find me in a month if they should try, I shall write again, thogh, so you will get it before time to start, and by that time I shall probably know where my summer location will be, I want them to start so as to get to Sacramento City about the first of Aug. and not stay at Sac City at all, but push for the mines, or hire out the first opportunity, to drive team or any employment they may find, at such wages as they think best, but it is not likely that wages will be less, than $200, per month, for the summer, they were from $300, to $400 last sumer. If I can get $250, from the man that offered me $200, I shall drive team, because he is a man that I know will pay. I ask him $300. When I commenced this letter, I did not thin[k] of saying any <thyn> thing about anyone coming out here, but as I have said so much I will finish this sheet with the subject.

You can learn more about the steamers from N. Y. [*New York*] to San F. [*San Francisco, California*] than I can, therefore I leave that with you. I suppose the passage takes a month and a little more, then if the boat leaves N. Y. [*New York*] the first of July, take the July boat, they will be soon enough in Cal [*California*], then for the climate, and to take advantage of the best months for mining which are the fall months, and sometimes Dec. Bring no fine clothes with you, or white shirts, but <penty> plenty of flannel shirts.

They can find employment cutting hay in the <y> vicinity of Sacramento or San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*]. Hay is worth in Sacramento, 16 cts. per lb. by small quantities, and will be next summer from $100, to $150 or $200 per ton.

The thought has come into my mind that you (thoughtful soul) will be sending out some things to me because prices are so high, but dont do it, it might save me some thing & might not. Daniel.

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

West Avon [*Connecticut*]. Friday. June 27. '6-0.

Dear Sister Caroline,

I have not written you as I thought to do when I last saw you, partly, because I have been too busy with company, and domestic affairs, and partly because John said he told you about the railroad arrangements at N. York [*New York*], much better than I could write them. I had thought you might have gone to Mary's, but a letter from Mary Akin last eve, spoke of the perfectness of your's and Eddy's daguereotype from which I infer you are still in Norfolk [*Connecticut*].

When shall we have the pleasure of a visit from you? I hope before long. Do write very soon and tell me such of your plans as I shall be interested to know; if consistent, please tell me also, that ere a week or two you will be here. I hope your mother's health is so good this summer that she will not be inconvenienced by your leaving, though, of course she will be lonely without you. I always find it a great deal of work to get ready for a visit away, and I presume your experience is similar, especially as you will take E.

We received a letter from Marcus [*Marcus Grant*] last night -- the first we have had. He was well, and had been so. Was then at Panama. June 7. but was to leave for San Francisco [*California*] in a day or two. He had written to Daniel [*Daniel Grant*] to Sacremento City (I think). & hoped to meet him ere long. We never felt very anxious about him, as we have not heard a word before, but was greatly relieved by the letter and its tone. He wrote cheerfully. We shall send a letter to him by the next steamer. We feel anxious to hear again from Daniel, and I know our anxieties are nothing compared with yours. May that God in whom he and we trust not disappoint our hearts, but cause that we may hear of his <u>wel</u>fare, and yet be permitted again to see him and take sweet counsel with him.

I hope Mother's heart may feel less sad for hearing so good news from Marcus. I know it must be hard for a mother's heart to have two loved one's so far away. The last letter from your dear husband was not calculated to soothe fears, but to excite more, though I do not think it as discouraging as it first appeared to me.

"Shall we receive good at the hand of the Lord and shall we not receive evil" was the first thought that came into my mind as I read it. The other letter had been fraught with good news, and it was not <u>strange</u> that he should not be so continually prosperous. I have hopes that we shall soon hear good news from him. I would write more but the mail goes very soon. Let me hear from you soon, & see you as soon as is convenient for you. With much love from Mr. Grant and Jony, I am your aff. sister

Abby. C. Grant. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Remember us to your Father & Mother, and kiss sweet little Eddy for me.

[*Rest of sheet cut out.*]

[*Added in pencil:*] Written in 1860 (I think) by Mother Grant.

Dear Carrie I feel no disposition to write to day but as Marcus has written I will do a little at it I am not as well as common yesterday was a very cold day and these cold days do not agree with me at all I cough a good deal I have been just as usual since you left till yesterday and to day June is here with Fanny when she thinks next sabbath she shall go to Osborn Stillmans it is my opinion that they are poorly provided for at home but have heard nothing it is no privilege to me to have her here Fanny has been a very good girl and Jane has been very good also but I had rather have F than both I have no news to write as I think Marcus went to the spelling exhibitions but did not see Mrs Philips nor Mabil I have thought that I should go and see her if there should be a time that I could but the snow is gone we have had some real warm weather Marcus saw Daniel he was well

I rode two days when we had the warm weather time seems long to F and G she enquires often how long you have ban gone I think she has been very homesick I was very glad to hear from you glad to hear <*fro*> that you had been to the museum and that you had a peep at Mr Lincoln [*Abraham Lincoln*] I was in hopes you would see him he has lived to be in Inaugurated and may the Lord lead him and guide him in his arduous undertaking he seems to have many friends as well as bitter foes I hope there will be the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous that availeth much <*be*> offered in his behalf Fanny and I shall be glad when you get back you need not think that I am sick nothing more than is common with me may you and your friends have a joyful visit that will be thought of with pleasure while life lasts is the desire of your aff mother

EG

Dear Edward

I was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you are wishing to improve in your writing I should have been glad to had a letter from you but can wait till another time I hope you and Sammie will improve this an opportunity the best way you can perhaps you will never have another such did you ever think that the boy is father to the man did you and Sammie ever think that if you are obedient children truthful and studious striving to win the favor of jesus who alone can give you everlasting life that when you come to be men you will be such men as the world needs and such men as you wuld like to be I hope you will think on these things and may your lives be long and useful may you fear God and keep his commandments which is the whole duty of man may you and Sammie remember your Creator in the days of your youth is the desire of your aff grandmother

love to uncle and Aunt Hill and the little girls

PS I do not think that Maria is married there was a report that she was to be married such a time but I have made some inquiry and no one has heard that she was married it is my opinion that she is not E Grant
to Carrie

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

Bolton. Nov 17, 64 Thurs. evening

My Dear Carrie,

I received your truly welcome letter this evening & <*as*> I am all alone in the house tonight & have been since yesterday morning. Husband is away on business & Mary & her husband have gone, to Waltham & Boston on a visit. He was obliged to go down to be ministered out by service & so stays and makes a visit. He arrived home the 8th in time to vote. Bolton only gave 18 Democratic votes I guess a less number than ever before, We had speakers from Boston to address us in a short time before Election & our minister preached a political sermon. The Sunday before Election our country has done well to put in Mr. Lincoln one more I think our country would have been ruined to change the administration at this time I hope now the rebellion will be put down before long but what a sacrifice of life & money has already been made & how much more will be necessary is to us unknown I am so glad you are going to spend the winter with Mary. Why can't you when you get ready to go just come here & see us first? It is so much easier to go when you get all packed up & ready than it is to begin & pack up a new every time besides if you don't come this winter I don't think you will ever come. If you get more settled down in the [Petrolium?] region I give up all hope of ever seeing you again. I did not see you half enough. If you will come I will devote myself Entirely to you & let everything else go as much as possible. Now is the time, bring Minie with you & then she will have made her visit in Bolton & Abbie can come visit her mother. I must tell you here, that Mr. Wallis saw a beautiful situation sold in Hollis N. Hampshire which I was out there on my visit & came pretty near buying it. He wrote to me to come home & see it but I didn't get the letter but after I got home we went to see it. It was a nice house with 19 rooms it & a room that used to be a store & could easily again be fitted up for one. And another small house I believe with 7 rooms & a shoe makers shop & five or six acres of land & a nice new barn nicely done off. Every thing was in excellent repair all painted white barn & all the buildings, it had been owned by a wealthy man from Boston who made it his

summer residence & kept Everything in perfect order & it used to go into the List for $5000, & it was sold for $2000, & Mr. Wallis was there & saw it sold. It was a great bargain, the man that owned it was dead. It was offered him Mr. Wallis when we went to look at it for $2200, but he did not decide to take it, & now the man won't sell it. Mr. Wallis is off now to look at the place he has pretty much made up his mind to get out of this farming for he perfectly hates it, although it used to be his great ambition to have a farm. I rather think that he will <*will*> now get off from this farm, he will not work on it, so if ever you come, now is the time, perhaps. I can't tell how things will turn, he is spending a great deal of time in going about & looking for some other business, I have no desire to go onto any other farm for I had as [...] be here, on a farm as any where Else I dont think farming is profitable for us, however I think we have made a living since we have been here & I often wonder where the [...] comes from. I hate to let go of this farm but I dont know but I shall think best to, all things considered you said nothing of your arrangement, for the portion I suppose you had not time to say what you would want to if you said any thing. I have not heard from Mary Hill yet & have sent in vain to the office for a letter from one of you but I know neither of you know have to spend the time to write I did hope she would conclude to come on here this fall but I know she must have been tired & she felt more like going home & get rested & take a fresh start some other time. I could not make out fro your letter how long she staid with you, nor whether Daniel staid & voted but no matter. Lincoln is in again & all is well. Mary & husband have concluded that it will not be convenient for them to visit you & others that way this year. It is necessary for him to go right into business, his father & brother in law are ready & waiting to take right hold with him & it would not be best for him to delay them ad simply for a visit which he may make some other time & need the relaxation more. I had a very pleasant visit at New Haven I did not see David & Emelin. They all make it pleasant for me to be there. I went to church Sunday & one evening & thought it was so pleasant to live in that city & I couldnt help wishing that I could live there too & I came home & said I wish I could live in N. Haven, Have you ever been there? Mr. Baldwin said he was sorry he had not moved into the city 25 years ago. Cornelia said their new house was all paid for & she & family seemed quite happy in it although she had not got quite regulated in it. I went to see Fredrick's wife & she seemed calm & contented, could just see how she could get through another year & keep her cow & Gratia her daughter seemed contended there & did not care to go to New Haven to stay more than three days when she might have staid two or three weeks if she had wished. But she would rather be at home with her Mother & work on hoop skirts at which she could make about $10 pr month & board herself if she could have enough work, & her mother & Emeline could earn about the same each, but they could not have work enough & Emeline has got to find something else to do this winter. Marion said she should rather be at home with her mother than to live at David's or Cornelia's its so much more quiet there at home, & really it does some good to be quiet for a little while. I have enjoyed these two days alone very much all alone in this great house for two nights & three days probably. I staid two night & two days in Hadbyme & it seemed to me they were the gladest to see me there than any where else I went, they begged me to stay longer & said all they could say to induce me to stay longer & I wanted to stay longer there & to all the other places & I just feel that I want to make that visit over again & just go to some place & stay till I fairly get through with that family & then go to another place but I suppose I shall never got that [round?] again. Only think one person, Mr. Crissey that I saw there has already passed away & which I was there visiting a young man here in health when I left was taken down with typhoid fever & was buried before my return.

Friday evening Mr. Wallis has returned & no place bought yet so we shall remain here awhile longer it seems, Mary & husband did not come home this Evening. Advise come if you can & write as often as you can I can not write half I want to say & it seems I want to see you all the more for having seen you so short a time, it seems as though I did not say any thing I wanted to when there.

I dont know when I shall have another such an opportunity for writing only think what a rest. I think they will all be home by 7 oclock this evening. I have spent every minute of the time I could in looking over letters & accounts & writing this letter & one to Warren Barton in answer to one he wrote me since my return. I did not stop to eat a mouthful yesterday for breakfast till after 7 oclock in the evening I have had no dinner to day because I am so absorbed in writings & looking over things I dont feel hunger. It is now near 5 oclock give my respect to Deacon Grant &

wife & Marcus I hope you will get off soon as possible to Flemings I am glad you let Edward go there I guess light is beginning to dawn into your understanding.

If you donot come on here you may take that green dress & shoes to Flemington with you if you can I may be as likely to get it from there as any where & if you need such a dress & can wear it you may have it & the shoes too. It is not worth while to sent them by Express I need them very much & must make me another dress which is quite an undertaking for me. The woman that fitted that is dead & I fear I shall not get another such comfortable fit. I looked in the close press three times to make sure that I had got every thing I suppose something must have been hung over it perhaps. If you [need?] the dress have it & welcome I guess I Have enough of the same to make me another I care more for the making than any thing else. Many dont help me sew much now. I am so very glad you are going to Fleming this winter. You will come & see me if you can wont you Dont mind the little Expense of traveling here. You know your husband & children would not if they wanted to go any where If he does well there you would not mind that little will be but a drop in the bucket

Aff. your aunt.
L.J.W.

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

Mr. A.O. Pinney
Apr. '69. Sends Pay't Wagon

MillBrook Tuesday Morng Apl. 20./69

Cousin Caroline

We have many thanks to give for your kind letter which came direct – of the enclosed draft Marcus furnishes Twelve Doll. in pay't of indebtedness –

The remainder ($20) is for the wagons, which has been transferred to the Pinney farm – Should it appear that this is not enough, more will be added when you come to Colebrook – But this may be better than at Auction in Winsted – The Axles are iron and appear strong – as does the box also – tire and rims of wheels somewhat worn – and a little behind the times as you know -

Items of news are not plenty or of special interest – The papers will have given you the result of our State Election if in that you felt an interest – Democracy has come out second best to say the least –

But in our little town of Colebrook it was otherwise – Here money and whiskey prevailed by a very small majority –

The Sugar Season did not commence till the first of the month (April) and has just closed, with rather an abundant yield. Wish you and your Jersey friends could have been here to test the quality while warm from the boilers – our folks have made 450 lbs. while Martin & Susan say they have made 800.

The spring season as you know has been cold and late – Snow has been visible in all directions – and is not all gone yet though wasting somewhat rapidly of late in the few warm days.

We find our new partners in business very pleasant as yet – think we shall like them – at any rate we <u>mean</u> to if possible

Elizabeth <u>promises</u> to write you ere long – I hope she will – But if she fails to you will not be disappointed, since as you know she does not wield the pen of a ready writer – or is slow to fulfill promises – Please remember us kindly to Mr & Mrs Hill and family – not forgetting that for yourself good wishes are ever in store at this end of the line – Respectfully

A.O. Pinney

Please acknowledge the rec't of this

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant

Care of Mr. Hill Esq.
Flemington N.J.

Cambridge Ill. Feb. 22, 1872.

Dear Sister,

I am much obliged for your letters of Jan. 3. and Feb. 13, with their inclosures Was glad to see Daniel's letter of Jan. 29 (herewith returned) which so fully discloses his view of his present condition. I know nothing respecting the prospect that Congress may legalize the occupation of the Indian Territory or any part of it; but cannot think it is likely to do so. Am sorry that Daniel will adhere to a plan that at best has so doubtful a basis; but as he has good health there, and may do something as profitable as he would elsewhere, it is not best to try to disturb him. Of course no one of the friends or family should feel bound to follow him. Of course also it is wildness itself for D. to suppose that Mr. Hill will go there.

I think it possible that D. may yet be glad to take any place offered him. Of course the contest cannot now be long. A man 54 years old cannot long carry on a life such as he follows. The matter must end. We can only commit his case (as we do our own) to him who knows our frame and remembers we are dust.

I have been very busy this winter. We held meetings every evening for about five weeks. The results were not very marked; and yet cheering. I was nearly used up. Of course I had no time to write or answer letters as I wished.

The S.W. corner of my land is (I believe) exactly two miles from the nearest point in Plymouth. Two and a half miles will probably be the proper statement of distance.

Your aff. brother

Joel Grant

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

[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Flemington
Hunterdon Co.
N. Jersey

Arkansas City June 4 1872

My Dear Wife

It is but few days since I wrote but will write again as yours of May 12 is. rec'd, I am not in connection with any books or papers that give any missionary intelligence and know nothing of the doings in that line except what I can learn without the aid of printing and conducted by government, principally as I understand by the secretary of the interior and wh. is well explained by some lines wh. I read in a news paper recently. The first verse I wrote in my last but will reproduce it. The first verse should be read simply as it is and taken without comment. It expresses the simple truth.

I want to be an Indian
An Arapahoe or Ute
I'm tired of being a white man
An unprotected brute
I want to be an Indian
A ward of the Government
Its the bigist thing in America
Except the President.

The second verse shows how well the business is conducted and there are white men who would like to be Indians for the reasons here given

I want to be an Indian
A warior of the plains
I want to wield a tomahawk
And scoop out people's brains
I want to build a camp fire

On a human beings breast
And watch his writhing agony
With a noble savage zest

The third, fourth and fifth verses may be read same as second. Of course no honest white man wants to be an Indian for these reasons.

3

I want to be an Indian
With tall commanding form
And a lousy U.S. blanket
To protect one from the storm
I want to be an Indian
And learn the scalping art
And then dear Vincent Colyer
Will come and take my part

4

I want to be an Indian
And beg and lie and steal
With that placid sense of safety
A white man never feels
I want to be assured too
That in the worst event
Im a pet of Vincent Colyer
And a ward of Government

5

I want to be an Indian
An Apache or Cheyenne
I want to bid defiance
To the comon laws of man
When I do a bit of arson
Murder tragedy or rape
I want to know I have a friend
At Washington -- Red Tape

6

I want to be an Indian
And have an agent too
One who's honest like the rest
And pure and good and true
So when I do my devilment
He may be there to tell
Vincent Colyer all about it
And Horace G. as well

This sixth verse is a reflection on the agents Who without exception are dishonest. The seventh verse needs no comment.

But alas! I'm not an Indian
And my name is only Bent
So I till the soil by honest toil
And sware I'm content
But still I think an Indian
A ward of Government
Is the bigest thing in America
Except the President

These verses exactly explain the policy of Government toward the Indians and this <*poll*> policy is applawded and sustaned by almost the whole east. They say it is wrong to crowd upon the Indian. Give him the Country to roam over it is his. Let him alone they say. <*have it.*> If this had been the policy in years gone by where would be our country now Why did the Almighty sweep a tribe out of existence by a pestilence just in time to make room for our forefathers on the shores

of Mass? and why have the Indians been continually killed off and driven back ever since until</> the white man has nearly the whole country under control and the Indian nearly become extinct. It will be argued that our policy should be more humane as the race becomes less and of course more easily controled

Well let us admit that this is so is it a reason why <*that*> they should be protected in crime? Is it a reason why they should be huddled together in this Territory <*wh*> with the plea that they are to be civilized when they choose to remain on their present reservations where they will be surrounded by whites and <*of*> by civilizing influences?

Most if not all the Indians (all as far as I know) wish if they are to be removed from their present reservations <*choose*> to go farther west but for some reason I cannot understand Gov over rules them in that and we hear the cry there is no west for them. But there is yet a west where there is room where they choose to go and where they can be civilized quicker and easier than to be huddled in this Ter. where most of them will never come if they can possibly avoid it. And better still to let most of them remain where they are. The whole area of the U.S. & Ter. is said to be 3,010,000 sq. miles equivelent to 1928,400,000 acres The population is estimated at 40,000,000 This <*480*> gives 48 acres and a small fraction to each inhabitant of the country; Now why claim for the Indian 200 or 300 acres where there is so little for him and claim that a white child or a married woman shall not have any land. The Indian will not cultivate 10 acres in 1000 while if women and children could have it I have no doubt that in a very short time 300 acres in 1000 would be cultivated. The Indian must have a large amount of land and then fed at government expense and many whites forbidden to get a living at their own expense. What folly. But "so mote it be"

This poem rather waked me up to the Indian policy but I donot expect to bother myself about it. I could not effect anything if I should.

I am going to try yet to get my claim and as I have the Indian policy to fight I am naturally rather sensitive on that point. While waiting to get a foot hold there I propose to take another claim in the state of Kan. not a very good one but the best I know of that is vacant. It has some timber and a fine small stream of durable water. Perhaps I will only enter 40 acres but will see about that. The price is $2, per acre, I am staying now with a family whose claim joins mine. They have been married little more than a year have a babe. I don't like the little squaller not but what it is pretty but you know I never could bear babies.

The nuptial knot was tied by my own delicate hands while acting as justice of the peace. Tom as I call him will I think fill the place I was anxious for Ed. to fill that is in a measure. Of course he cannot fill the place of a dutiful son. I know nothing of Edward. You inquire about ague. I know of two cases only in this vicinity. They had it last fall and still have it some There is very little of it here

[*written across first page*] Am sorry for your ill health. guess you will have to come here for a cure.

Give my love to Wm. & Mary and the children. Write occasionally
It appears from your statement that you have written a letter I have not rec'd
As Ever Thine
D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

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Ark. City, March 13, 1875.

My Dear Wife

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

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

I am it is true in pinched circumstances but am in so much better fit than some of my neighbors that I sometimes think I am pretty well off. I have had plenty of flour (through your help) and have had as much pork as I wished to use and coffee tho I have been rather stingy of coffee. Some of my neighbors have lived part of the time on bread alone only changing it

occasionally for boiled wheat. I am more comfortably dressed than some of them so I think I am pretty well off. A great deal of food has been contributed from the east and sent to Kan. but K. is a great state and there are a great many people to feed. On reason why this country has received so little is because false reports have been made from here. In the first place our county Commissioners reported last fall that Cowley Co. was self sustaining then the merchants in hopes to sell more goods have given out the same idea and the newspapers and land speculators have done the same in hopes to induce emigration etc. The general Gov. has taken hold at last but I fear it also will be nearly a failure from its magnitude. </ />

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

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

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

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

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

Entirely Thine
D. Grant

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

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

Oct. 24th 1876

My dear Mother,

We are having a long spell of dark rainy weather the sun almost shone out once this afternoon but is completely darkened again now. Carrie and I have been watching for the rain to cease so that we can go to the dentists and have one of her teeth extracted, the new teeth that are coming in are so very large that I fear she is going to have a real deal of trouble with them. She is pretty well and is getting on very well with her reading. Harold is better than he was the first of the term.

Almon [*Almon Burr*] is very busy now getting out a catalogue, is pretty well except that he is very tired. I hope that it will be finished this week. Almon hasn't much idea that he can get money here for Uncle Erastus, people don't let money at <*6* > six percent to go so far away, but he will see what he can do when Mr. Page comes home.

I received a very pleasant letter from Mary Shurtleff the other day, she thinks that her health is improving somewhat says that Laura is well. grows tall very rapidly but does not increase in weight. the baby is quite healthy and happy, has dark eyes and hair and they think of calling her Mary Grant. says that she enjoys<*d*> this baby more than she did Laura because she does not have so many "needless anxieties" concerning her. Speaks of cousin Will as being at Michigan University getting field practice in Surveying. Says that Phill has been nominated for county clerk and will undoubtedly be elected, which will necessitate a removal to [Montesenna?] the county seat. She fears the affect upon her mother as removals seem to be disastrous to her. She also tells of the death of one of President Fairchild's daughters, Alice the darkest-haired one.

Father Burrs people are all about as usual I judge from their letters. Alia is teaching in the [Divine?] School in Oberlin.

I am very sorry to hear that Jennie and her husband have been turned out. Were they able to save their furniture and goods? I hope that their loss will not be very great, and that they will be sufficiently prospered in the future to make up for it all.

It is not raining now and I must stop and go down town with Carrie. ----

We are home again, did not have it taken out, dentists now do not advise it, they say wait till the child is older the taking out of one tooth only makes it worse for the next. the gum shrinks much more than if the tooth is not removed.

I have been reading Dr. Hills "True Order of Studie" which treats of the proper teaching of young children, it is an uncommonly sensible book. I hope that you are all well. With much love to you all.

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

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

Tells what she does – what her work is at Oberlin – also tells about Mr.Emory's

Oberlin, Ohio
May 16th, 90

Dear Aunty,

Possibly you have given up all hope of hearing from this quarter of the States. It has taken me so long to get at it.

I have been careless, intending every day to write, & then letting my feelings or some trifling matter interfere Never feel quite so energetic at this time of year.

First let me answer one or two questions of long standing Mr. Emory was in good condition financially had not lost any money that I know of His disease was disintegration of the spinal column & that affected his brain & he <u>thought</u> he was growing poor. He did commit suicide which was a trial to his children What he was worth I do not know Father probably could tell approximately He was wealthy. Mr. Emorys mind had been somewhat affected for six months before his death but Cousin Annie did not seem to have apprehended what finally came Some of the others had feared it I believe

Mr Emorys Father & Grandfather & one Uncle died in a similar way.

This winter Mary Studeford has been very much depressed & the last I heard had been taken to a private Asylum in New Jersey out far from Philadelphia. In spite of their wealth their heritage is a sad one. Cousin Annie & Will are more like Cousin Nancy Their home has been rented to a Dr. from Philadelphia Father looks after their rents & what other business there is & receives fifty dollars per year for doing it Not much but it helps

The plaid flannel sent to L. would be perfectly suitable for a dress for one of the children. Your cape can be suitably worn to Church if you need it, also to call on your neighbour but of course one would not make state calls in it but with you state calls are seldom made. As far as I can think now, whenever you need it you can wear it

We have no President yet & it looks as though we might wait another year The right man does appear & it would be much better to wait than to make a mistake & call the wrong man

There has been some talk of J. G W. Cowles of Cleveland son of Professor Cowles of commentary fame But I think the feeling now is that his would not be the best appointment.

Now as to what I am doing, I enter in books made for the purpose a record of what each student is doing in each study he is pursuing. I do this for <u>all students</u> in <u>College, Preparatory Deprtm't ,</u> & those in <u>Classical Course</u> in <u>Theological Seminary</u>. I send to all College Students once a year a card showing what studies they have ahead of their class, & in what studies they are behind. I prepare the names for the Catalogue. I am Secretary of two standing Committees that of Entrance to College & "Committee on Substitution" To this last Committee come all the requests to make up work, to have one study count for another, I give out all certificates for private Examinations. I give out certificates to all boys who enter for Field Day showing that they have the required grade in their studies.

I make out copies of Students marks for them to use in obtaining schools Besides this there are little matters coming up all the time that naturally belong to this office

I mean to make myself so useful that they will not want to do without me.

I am not expected to do more than I can & I am careful. I am treated with great kindness & consideration, and am coming through the year's work in good condition tho' of course begin to feel that it will soon be vacation time My title is "Ass't Registrar"

I am sorry to say that I do not have so much faith in "Microcosm" [Ext..?] as you and Uncle Daniel have. Doubtless it is owing to my natural depravity. I think any individual who has discovered such a blessing to mankind is more sharp than benevolent when he requires four dollars from poor suffering humanity for the revealing this same wonderful discovery

However I may be mistaken so you must not mind my foolishness Time may give me better sense

I see Mrs Shurtleff quite often Feel welcome there whenever I can go in. Their house stands in same yard with Talcott Hall I do not know Mrs Nichols I have no

How is Uncle Erastus Ralph & Julie & Mary Sage & her husband Give them kindly greetings when you see them

Father has the selling out fever again & we do not know what is best to do May the Lord give us light to do the right thing

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[*Addressed to*:] Daniel Grant Esq.
New Marlborough
Mass.

Oberlin. O. [*Ohio*] Sep. 26th '88.

Dear Uncle and Aunt,

You will be interested to know of Theodore's nomination to Congress from the 21st district, last Saturday. I send you a Cleveland paper containing a notice of it. I am mailing to Uncle Marcus another, containing a sketch, not altogether accurate, of his life. I had only the one copy of either paper, but if you think it worthwhile, you and Uncle M. can exchange, as I have suggested to him.

Our daughter Laura is passing through the ordeal which Edward has been called to endure. She is having <u>typhoid fever</u>. The fever has now run its course, the end of the third week having been reached on Sabbath, but her condition is still extremely critical, as she is <u>very</u> <u>weak</u>, and has no relish for nourishment. We fear also a recurrence of the bowel trouble, which has been kept in check by injections of laudanum, but is liable, I suppose, to wear her out, before it is cured. Since the fever left her, she has been more wandering in mind than before, and to me the most pitiful feature of the case is her utter lack of understanding her condition. Do pray for us, that we may be prepared for what is before us.

We have used every human agency for her recovery. Dr. Allen has been in constant attendance, and had the counsel of Dr. Noble for a week, when the fever was highest. We have had five and six calls a day, sometimes, and uniformly four. Dr. Allen thinks she is better now, but is anxious she should show less nervousness and wandering of mind.

May and Mr. Shurtleff have both been ill with bowel trouble, but are better. In fact the house is a good deal of a hospital, and we are doing nothing, thinking of nothing, but the care of the sick, Please tell Abbie when you write, of our condition. I am owing her for a good letter, and she ought to know what hinders my writing, since I came home.

A daughter of Libbie Grant Hurford has just been married to a Mr. Nichols of this place, and the bridal pair are expected at the home of the bridegroom's parents about this time.

Excuse want of care in writing. I am sitting up into the "wee small hours", with Laura, while the nurse gets some rest.

I was sorry to hear that Edward had had a relapse. Give my love to him and family, and tell him that I know now, better than when I saw him, what <u>typhoid</u> <u>fever</u> <u>means</u>!

Your affectionate niece
Mary B. Shurtleff.

[*written across first page in pencil*] Wednesday morn.

The Doctor pronounces Laura's symptoms favorable, and she is more nearly rational.

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

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

Dear Aunty,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are all longing for pleasant days Have had a cold spring so far
I am feeling better than I did several weeks ago but want to feel stronger yet
We are well along with sewing that could be done Early
Do you know that you never said whether the little shirts would do for Carrie Grant or not
Give love from us all to Edward and Lucy and the little girls I think the baby's name a pretty one
I must stop now and retire Glad you see Mary Sage now and then
Was Glad to read Abby's letters Am so sorry to know that Carrie Burr is not strong Poor girl There are trouble enough for those who are well
Hope she may outgrow some of her trouble Really got to it and wrote Abbey last week
---------- Monday Noon
A severe storm of hail and snow Hinders some with cleaning but we are making progress
Before we know that C & L. were going to leave we had ordered new shades for parlor & sitting room They are "Windsor sage" in color, perfectly [plain?] holland with fringe across the bottom We had saved [skim?] milk money to pay for them The old ones after twelve years use are exceedingly shabby Hope you will feel able to write soon and report progress in preparations for Hadley Have we written that Charly Anderson has a little daughter Katherine Henrietta
Aunty and Lizzie are going to Vineland soon to make a visit would like to write to Julia Burr to congratulate them on birth of boy but cannot now. Have a plan in my mind for a table cover for your parlor table Hope to get at it some day
With much love to Uncle Daniel and yourself

Affectionately
Minnie

Give my kind regards to Mrs [...] if she remembers me & is still in New M.
Will send a picture of Will by [Abbie's?] request in a few days

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Bittersweet Sept 21/'85

Dear Sister
For fear of forgetting about Honeysuckle I have sat down right after dinner to say that you can possibly raise them from cuttings but the best & easiest way is to lay down a shoot and cover it lightly with dirt pegging it down with a stick – so that it will stay in place. Ours takes root itself whenever a shoot runs on the ground and we can find one or more rooted most any time. It also grows freely from seed, as we have two or 3 that have come up under the trees where the birds have carried the seeds.
Wish you could have had some of the nice Bartlett pears that we had hard time to give away and eat up. Had 1 ¾ Bushels off of our own trees and John [Cafones?] gave us nearly ½ Bu. They ripened so rapidly that we could not use them all & so gave some away -- & canned all we wanted. All gone now – Some [seakels?] that are good now. We have had some beautiful weather lately and Oh what dust the peach wagons make. The dust fly thickly every afternoon.
I have been pretty [well?] most all summer, was a little out of sorts while Mrs. was away, but not so but that could attend to P.O. had to be there more hours because Carrie could not send out afternoon mail. Chalmers helps [D?] some early mornings and in the evening. We have lost of extra mail in peach time, both letters and circulars –
We expect Mrs. Blair back this afternoon, how long she will stay do not know. Mrs. Brown & Emma are still with us
We had help by the day considerable while Mrs. was away – and got along quite comfortably most of the time. Mrs. Brown seems fond of Sophie and would watch her on the lawn often for Abbie. She is a dear little child very fond of flowers and out door life. We let her run out as much as we can in fine weather.
Has been remarkably cool all summer for a […]
Our fair (Agricultural) comes of this week but I fear it will not be large as it is so dusty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What then, do not know.

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

Affectionately,

William Hill

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

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[*envelope addressed to*]

Mrs. Caroline Grant
New Marlboro
Berkshire Co.
Mass.

Bolton, Jan 5 '86

My Dear Niece, -- As Bessie has written you I will also write and thank you for the very pretty card you sent husband & myself. I intend to send you some Womans Journals before long. I lend them to Mrs. Reed & the Baptist Minister & he don't return them as I have him liberty to pass them to any one he thought would read them.

I think this year I will have them returned me & I will send some to you if you would like them and perhaps you can get [so … thon?] to read them & get interested in the subject. There is not much enthusiasm on the subject but our two ministers & their families are in favor of Woman Suffrage as are many other<*s*> intelligent people of both sexes. We had a very interesting lecture in the Hall by a woman that very coldest night of the season thus far. I don't blame you for not having that address read at your sociable as the cause is not popular in that section & the address would not have been appreciated by the many I presume. What I want is that women should have a better chance in the world & if suffrage will better her condition I am in favor of it. I

cannot see why she should not have a voice in the making the laws she is obliged to obey as well as man.

How are the Flemington friends now Have they lost the Post Office?
It is quite late in the night & I must stop writing.
Affectionately,

S. J. W.

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Bolton Dec 22 .86

My Dear Niece,

I received yours dated 16th Ins. The next morning after it was mailed. I was very glad to hear from you once more. I had wondered what was the reason you did not write. I feared you might be sick but am glad to know you are able to write & you & husband are in tolerable health. Mary & Bessie were in Boston all last week & did not get home till this week Monday night. There was a Woman Suffrage Bazaar gotten up to raise funds for the cause & to arouse more interest on the subject &c. & there were addresses & speaking & it was quite an interesting occasion & they are glad they went although came home pretty tired especially Mary but she is getting rested. They had some errands, & shopping to do & the stores were crowded (just before Christmas you know).

It was difficult to get to the counters & had to wait a long time for the parcels & the change. They got materials for each of the girls a dress & Bessie a hat & various other things. The Bazaar was open from Monday evng […] Sat evng inclusive. I have seen it stated they netted about $5000. which was doing very well. Sue & Mollie kept house while their mother was gone <*b …*> but their father & grandma were about & lent a helping hand. They attended school all the time. Sue plays the organ in the High School & she also plays the organ for the Unitarian Church Sundays and she goes to Clinton once a week to take lessons on the Piano. She learns quite easily & is praised. I presume she will go only once more this winter as that will end the quarter.

Amory Bessie Sue & Mollie are down to the Hall this evening. The Baptist Society give an entertainment to get funds for something I don't know just what. I am glad you could get around & visit your friends & I am very glad to hear of them through you. I thank you for sending the letter from Minnie. I am sorry for them

It cost $4 for you & husband to make your weeks visit. It cost Mary Bessie to go & return from Boston $2.20<*4.12*> the fare is only 55 cents now. They of course had to pay for board besides. They had a good visit with Sam. He likes them. We expect he will come home to spend Christmas & return Mon. morning. Mr. Wallis has not wholly recovered from his lameness & does not labor at all & I doubt if he ever will be able to do much more . He's better than he was a month or two ago. He keeps pretty […]. If he even goes to the Post Office it makes him worse. He is pretty comfortably sick if he keeps still. I don't know what is the matter with him. He calls it rheumatism. It is different from any I ever knew about. I guess it is nothing very alarming. He is very careful of himself & is comfortable & has a good appetite but does not eat as much as he might for fear it might not be good for him. He takes Hood's Sarsaparilla & thinks it is going to purify the blood & cure him. I presume it is as good & harmless as anything he could take. I am unusually well so far this winter. I feel very much better in winter weather. The air is so invigorating to me. Mary's family are well. In getting out the mittens a month or more ago I found three pairs that our children had outgrown, two pairs I had mended very much but I did not know but they might come right for Edwards children to wear some time so I did them up & when I went to the office I found it would cost but two cents to send them but I concluded I would wait till I got a letter from you & when I answered it I would send them.

I think Mary & children are going to send you some Christmas cards but they are so busy I don't know as they will get them ready in time but I guess they will. They are to go up to "Grand Pa Haynes'" Christmas. It is nearly 12oclock [mid]night & I must stop writing. I see I have written crookedly. I have written hurredly & cannot see the lines. Write again as soon as you can. I shall be glad to see the book you speak of sending. Thurs. P.M. Bessie […] invited by a friend she

met at the Bazaar to go out to Watertown & spend the night with and she went. Had a pleasant time. From there she went to Waltham & spent the day & had a pleasant visit. I furnished the means of this expedition. I want them to have some of the good of my savings while I live & as they need it. They hired a room near Sam's boarding house for $2.00 a week, & took their meals part of the time at Sam's boarding place & some times at restaurants & got along comfortably. They also patronized the Bazaar tables which were very nice. Now Mary & the children & meself intend to send you some cards to go out tomorrow morning & Bessie sends some poetry which Sam gave them <*it*> the covers had become soiled in the store where he is & it was cast aside & Sam saved it. Bessie took off the soiled covers & put on a new cover & painted the ferns & flowers on it but while she was painting it accidentally got laid down on a wet blue brush & made a daub on it but nevertheless as the poetry was so good she decides to send it with the blemish. It probably wan not less than .50 cents when fresh. Now please don't take the trouble to send us any thing for Christmas or New Years. We would rather you would save yourself the trouble.

Mary & Bessie send a great deal of love. No one else knows of my writing.

With love,

S. J. Wallis

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