Subject: Pregnancy & Childbirth

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

Prairieville, W.[*Wisconsin*] Aug. 1. 1843

I will endeavor to write this letter more legibly that I did the last —

And first to my dear little Ralph. [*Ralph E. Burr*]

So you like to go a fishing yet as well as ever. I have thought that perhaps when you were a very good boy, & helped nicely & did not make a cry face in the whole forenoon that Ma & Mary said you might go & get some fish & Sis Mary would cook them for your supper — I hope you will keep away from the deep water, bearing in mind that you are not yet a full grown man & probably have not the judgment of one.

Wonder if you find plenty of chipmunks to shoot. There are here little animals very much resembling chipmunks, called gophers, when I see them I always think of you — When you come to visit us, had better bring your gun — I dont think you would find wolves, for I have neither seen or heard of any — but there are deer around — Daniel saw one the other day about the size of a little colt, & it looks some like one — If you should come this year, do not think you need fear snakes much for I heard but very little said about them, have not seen one of any description to D [*Daniel*]. only one — Last year they were here around considerable — When you went on a shooting expedition you might take a basket & gather of the fruit about here, as you could find, strawberries, raspberries, red & black, whortleberries, blackberries, gooseberries, high bush cranberries, grapes, plums, crab apples, choke cherries, black cherries, hasle nuts & walnuts, or you might gather herbs & roots, wild balk with purple instead of red florets, wild summer savory, mint, pennyroyal, thoroughwort, mayweed, tansy sweet flag, leeks & cattail — And I am sure you would not leave unpicked some of the lovely flowers you would — thousands of wild rose bushes bearing sweet scented, single red roses, red, yellow, white & pink ladies slipper, painted cup, wild sunflower beside a few scores of which I know not the name

But should you go into the woods in a warm day you would probably encounter several of musquitoes & gnats, <*but*> perhaps you would only feel the bite, & then think no more of it, as Daniel does, but should they poison you as they do me, & cause smarting, & itching & blotching, then salt & water or salt & vinegar is very good to put on.

Almost every thing wild grows much more luxuriant here than on old farms in New England, pennyroyal & sweet flag are not nearly as pleasant as what you gather but have a strong rank taste. It is said that crab apples grow to considerable size, are hard & sour, but still quite eatable, if one can get no better —

Should like to know if your <... *some*> prettiest kitten catches mice. We were quite troubled with mice & brought up Levi's [*Levi Grant*] cat with six small kittens to clear them away — we put them in the chamber & the first night I awoke hearing the cries of a kitten & after a while rose, lighted a candle & found it on the kitchen floor with the cat by its side — It had fallen through a knot hole in the chamber floor seemed to be bruised & had a stiff leg — I had a great mind to cut its little head right off with the hatchet or if D. [*Daniel*] had some percussion caps for his pistol, dont know but I should have shot it — but I finally lay down again, & the next day it seemed better & after a while got well

Now my dear brother if you can think yourself of some thing to write to me & do it without troubling Ma & Mary I should love to have you.

Very affectionately your sister,
Caroline Grant

Prairiesville [*Wisconsin*], Aug. 25, 1843

My dear Mother [*Pamela Benton Burr*],

Is often very often in my thoughts & sometimes the tears run down my cheeks as I think of her in her feebleness, oppressed with care & anxiety, or as I think that perhaps now is suffering by that disease with which she has at times been long afflicted O my dear mother, I want to ask your forgiveness that I have not always waited upon you with all the cheerfulness & patience becoming an affectionate dutiful, christian daughter. I know I labored to alleviate your distress, & should love <*to*> again to have the privilege, but then I think all would be of no avail without the blessing of Heaven, & with it all will be well — I am comforted by thinking that Mary is home, I hope that you will give your self as little solicitude about us as possible. I do not feel that we are peculiarly fit subjects for it, we are blessed with health, a sufficient supply of food & drink are among a Christian people with a devoted pastor, are in a Ter [*Territory*]. where with the Divine blessing we hope in a little time to be able to obtain everything desirable for our taste & I was a going to say comfort but we now have things for our comfort — There <*are many more*> is much more to enjoy here than I supposed, & it seems much more like N. England

As for myself I have a kind husband whom I dearly love who is constantly striving to promote my happiness — I am not obliged to labor hard but have considerable leisure — I have not read very much — hardly know why — some of the warm days I feel languid & as if I didn't want to do any thing or sit up — then I lie down & sleep an hour or two & it is considerable work to keep my dresses & stockings & D's [*Daniel*] clothes in repair — & I do a little of this, & a little of that [*text too faded to read*] don't really sit idle much — & read all the Miss. Heralds [The Missionary Herald, *monthly publication of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] & most of the newspapers & some in the Bible & in my cook books & a little moral. [...] pick fruit & write letters & read Mary's compositions.

Whenever I feel as if I wished for any thing go eat a bit of cheese or dried beef or raisin or black berry pie or stewed dried apples I remember what Ma said go right off & get it — & I believe it is a good way — Cas. E. Pinne put up dried blackberries for several pies — that bit of cheese that I brought is not gone. I do not often care for it & when it is gone I know where I can let a little stocking yarn go for some first rate — a year ago cheese was sold in Milwaukie for 18 cts pound — dont know the price now

Last Fri. Aug. 11 we received a sheet of foolscap well filled from mother Grant [*Elizabeth Phelps Grant*] — said was at our house not long before, sat to the table with you all & drank pure cold water — 'twas a good letter — we also rec'd one from John — were glad of it — said he spent an hour very pleasantly about two weeks previous with Martha Woodward — she <*was re*> & her beau Mr. Cummings were riding about & visiting their friends with the hope that it might be a benefit to her health which is not good —

We also at the same time rec'd [*received*] a paper from you & the letter send by Mr. Woodbridge & it was mailed at Milwaukie, have not seen any thing of Mr. W. or any of the Canaan people — You enquire what I did with those tins that were borrowed to bake cake in — I cannot tell — I think I clearly remember that Bill[al?] took only three, & I believe she brought that number — possibly I might have sent to Mr. Pendleton more than we borrowed of her — & her woman not have known — but I intended to make no mistake — Aunt Norton has only the one & I dont know as there was any other sent her — You also say you wonder what I took one of Mary's good corsets for — when I read it I did not believe I had one — but I looked & found it if I put it in 'twas by mistake — Mrs. Levi Grant expects to start for Ohio this week Sat. Aug. 9. & I will send it along by her for her Father Grant to take to you if he goes — I wish I had some dried plums to send but they are not ripe till Sept. I did not injure any of my clothing coming on more than one would rather fall — The Crocha shawl is in a good condition & I have thought some of sending it for M. but I do not think I can well get along without it — there are many here that dress genteely & with taste & I think this is no better [than I?]

My dress is very good for the place — I have nothing but that I am glad I have — have seen no prettier hat than my white one — the roads are so filled with black dust that I cannot avoid getting it more soiled than if at home — but I am careful — wear a handkerchief over it —

I wear my buskin calfskin high shoes when I walk at all, almost always change to go to Levi's The socks are just beginning to wear through a little so as to need underlays D. [*Daniel*] says he can mend them — in the house I wear those calfskin [run?] rounds — the heels all stand erect yet —

& I have not [burnt?] them —

I feel as if I should on no account suffer that large silver spoon to be made over —</> intend to mind the suggestions in the letter so far as I can, but you know that I cannot exactly with regard to the spoons as we lost some — I wear no night dress & a plain coarse cap mostly — Should like the sheep skins — do not need the iron hook much as we use the holder & two crane hooks that D. [*Daniel*] brought. — presume we shall sometime be glad of the churn but have not needed it this summer — we nearly fill a six quart pan at a milking usually, set it in the cellar, & skim it in a 2 qt. pan, when it is nearly full of [cream?] I stir it with a spoon or paddle & have <*from*> generally about 1 1/2 lbs butter — have made this summer about 16 lbs. have put down three or 4 lbs for winter — & hope to more.

Shall like the beer keg —

We did not find the pendulum belonging to the clock — D. [*Daniel*] also left a box of percussion caps for his pistol & a map of all <*the different*> missionary stations — he has two or three light vests here that need new button covers there are no pieces suitable — perhaps you or mother Grant could find some — do not put yourselves to much trouble — think perhaps you might send these articles by Mr. Harvey Grant & Lucinda Levi's wife can bring them in the Spring —

Of our neighbors you enquire — Levi's people live down north east 1/4 of a mile — Mr. Hubbard the next nearest neighbor — lives 3/4 mile east — they are not religious people neither should I think them blessed with a great share of knowledge, nor a capacity for receiving it, but seem to be very clever, well disposed, & accommodating neighbors — very near them lives Tim Mayor & his wife, young Irish people — believe they are very <*pretty*> clever & accommodating —

North west from here not farther than a mile lives Mr. Eggleston's people English suspect they are not in good

Mr. E. rather [is?] a mean man — near them lives old Mr. Brown & his wife — Mrs. Brown is a smart, intelligent cheerful old lady — are Baptists — have a son an Anti Slavery <*lecturer*> & moral reform lecturer His wife delivered a lecture on slavery to a crowded audience the other evening when she had concluded sung a song — we did not hear & not far from them lives Mr. Crocker — another Baptist family, believe Mrs. C [*Crocker*]. is called an intelligent lady they have a fine garden filled with vegetables & flowers We have no garden as we thought it necessary to go immediately to clearing — I miss it more than I supposed I should — but we have had sent in some lettuce, a few beets, squash, string beans new potatoes & green tomatoes — the tomatoes are pretty good fried & make very good pies —

Fri. Eve 10 o'clock. I intended to write Ma every little incident that occurred daily for several days in succession, but I thought I must write what I have I will endeavor to sometime Good night dear mother My health is good as it was last year — am not sick any only sometimes

very aff — Carry — [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

don't feel much like work — Daniel wants me to give his love to all our people — he has intended to write in some of the letters but found no time —

I want to tell my dear Father that I many times look at that little lock of hair that I cut from his head with a great deal of satisfaction — I do look at all the others too, but there is a peculiar emotion on seeing that, because there are silvery hairs there — I fancy that the next time I see my father I will find about the same number of black ones that I now do of grey —

Believe we have not heard since we last wrote whether our boxes are in Milwaukie — Levi is going there to morrow & says he will search —

By all that we enquire & hear abou[t?] stocking yarn don't think that we can do any better with it than you & perhaps not as well — Give our love to Father Grants people — we wrote to Joel about a week since & directed to Millbrook —

If Mr. Harvey Grant has left for Conn. Before Mrs. Levi reaches there, or if he does not go shall ask her to mail this in Ohio

D. [*Daniel*] is now cutting grass on our marsh south of the house 1/4 mile should think — has quite a stack a little distance from the house

My dear brother Erastus,

Before <*I*> leaving we took Ralph's height but I have forgotten it will you please see that it is taken again & sent — if you have grown any would like to know it — <*You may*>

The time that the kitten fell D. [*Daniel*] had gone to Tenessee to [Ruluf?] & Frederic Grants for some potatoes they have been worth 50 cents [*writing very faded*] [a bushel about?] […] [very fair?] at that — the prospect of an abundant crop this year is very unfavorable it has been so extremely dry — we have had but about two bushels potatoes — wheat bread, & biscuit with milk & butter griddles & hasty pudding & milk of which last D. [*Daniel*] is a very fond — He has eat since he came to Wis [*Wisconsin*]. About as much as you do — says he never eat so much before

People that come here & settle on uncultivated <*new*> land are obliged to labor very hard to out & burn bushes & gather together & burn old logs dig a few stones & "break up" after the land is once broken then one can get [al?] with less hard labor then in N. E. [*New England*]

My [dear?] brother I think of you often this summer & [in?] my prayers too — O I have wept again & again to think that I did not pray & labor & agonize more for you last winter when It seemed as if you had almost entered the kingdom of Heaven but O it is not now too late — the Savior says "come go to a meeting all you can, wont you" & try to be good every day — be assured you have my most sincere love & regard — very affectionately your [sis]ter Caroline

I want to know how your back is also your lungs —

To my <u>dear</u> sister Mary what can I say — My heart is full — You have my sincere sympathy a[s?] I think of you this summer laboring hard &c I suspect I don't grieve as you do not because I love you less but because I have an aff. [*affectionate*] sympathizing heart here that <u>lightens my heart</u>

You are remembered at the throne of grace —

<u>O dont</u> grieve for me so — I trust we will yet spend part of our remaining days together —

We want to hear from home often

[*written in pencil, upside down on bottom of page*]

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], Sept. 18.

My dear Mrs. Grant,

We received this last Saturday by Mr. Harvey Grant — Think perhaps that some portions will interest you Would like to read the letter which you last received from D. [*Daniel*] & C. [*Caroline*] & shall be much obliged if you will send it us the first opportunity should John not come with it you will notice that Caroline would like some pieces like D's [*Daniel*] light vests — You may know what they are — We do not. Shall probably send something by Mr. Grant

Yours &c.
Mary Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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[*Addressed to*]

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

Waukesha [*Wisconsin*], Nov. 3, '48.

My dear Parents, Sister, & Brother,

I intended to commence a letter before my confinement & had Daniel finish it & send it on soon after, but that took place the first day of Oct. & my letter was then untouched but we <u>did</u> intend you should hear before this will reach you, but time passes before we know it. D.'s [*Daniel*] time & mind have been variously & busily occupied, & I have been negligent I will admit.

We have a little son, a pretty child, plump & apparently healthy – he has thus far slept a great deal, but likes to be tended when awake. — his father has given to me the selection of his name & I am at quite a loss what to decide upon. Would like to name him after all of our friends, but our Parents & Grandparents gave to <u>most</u> of their sons names that sound rather graceless to my ear, have thought of the several names of our brothers with the letter E. for a middle name wh. [*which*] is an initial of the name of our Father, two of our brothers & other relatives but wh. [*which*] of the brothers names shd. [*should*] we take! I think John sounds the best. — I have always fancied the name of Edward, & have thought of the name Edward Burr or Ralph Edward.

what say you to all this? — I got along very well indeed after confinement & at the time too had slight pains 16 hours or more but not [some?] more than 1 or 2 hours had some fever two or three days took a little cold I suppose the second week, but have had no trouble with caked breasts or sore nipples. I now feel quite well & strong – had good help – was with us between three & four weeks, & Daniel has since, as usual, been very kind & good to assist me. He has for several weeks past had some trouble with a weak & sour stomach – has & is taking some medicine — two or three weeks ago he sprained his left wrist & has not been able to use it much since — he has seemed to endure labor better this summer than for two years before & has earned a good many dollars. he is not yet decided what to do this winter, thinks <*te*?> of teaching school if he can.

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] is healthy – is generally a very good & obedient little girl – as you always wish to know what she says & I often think when she makes remarks that I will recollect them & tell you, but <*all have*> none come to mind now except these – when her Pa was putting out pea brush last summer she said Papa was planting trees – we last summer asked her who made the stars. she says why they come right out from the sky. once as the clouds were passing over the <*sk*> moon she says, "Mama see the moon run." She uses such words as she hears us, as perhaps, probably, commenced, indeed &c. — We rec'd [*received*] the barrel about the middle of Oct. the things are all valuable & highly useful & we feel very grateful for them – the dried fruit we highly prize – have used the currants in the little <*dipper*> cup. Abby said they were very nice & we agree with her. Want Sister Nancy to receive as many thanks for those she sent as there are number of currants. the hankerchiefs & gloves I think a great deal of. there were two pair of india rubber,: one pr. [*pair*] had fur around them, were they yours or Martha's. I am glad of them — & all the other things too — You need not worry to get me any more stockings. Nov. 4. I did not get time to finish this to send by to days mail am sorry – baby is in my lap, Abby is playing around the room & Daniel has gone to preparatory lecture. this forenoon I made six pumpkin pies & by the way we have a very good supply of pumpkins – have also an abundance of cabbage, beets, turnips & onions & a few beans shall probably be obliged to buy some potatoes before Spring have some corn & expect to have enough soon for our winter's use — I have six gallons of cucumbers salted — the fore part of July got 5 hens – one died in about two weeks they have found their own living & laid 18 dozen eggs, but I suppose this winter will tell a different story – have 8 doz [*dozen*] in salt, sold 2 dozen Last summer we bought some berries – dried 6 or 8 quarts of blackberries – some while I think of say that I will have quite a curiosity to know what kind of dried fruit that is that was in a small bag in the large bag of apples – it has the appearance of sweet apples dried 2 & chopped 1. — From the first of Oct. last year to the same time this year we used about 50 lbs. sugar & 7 or 8 gallons molasses. so you see we had quite a supply, though we should have used more if it had been convenient to have always just as much as we would like.

Nov. 5 Sab. [*Sabbath*] P. M. – babe is 5 weeks old this P. M. – feel that we have got reason for thankfulness that I am so well & smart as well as for other mercies that we are constantly receiving — There has been considerable sickness here this fall but not much that has proved fatal — in the summer the<*re*> summer complaint prevailed considerably among children & there were several deaths — I learn by your last letter (wh. [*which*] we rec'd five days after my confinement) & also from Abigail [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] that there are cases of dysentery around you & some of them fatal — think of you a great deal – dread to hear from there, but still I wish to — we cannot too much feel the importance of being at any time prepared to die — O that we all might make that our chief concern — heard a few days since of the severe sickness of Mother Grant [*Elizabeth Phelps Grant*] – feel anxious about her – hope she may be spared to us yet — I did intend to write this time to Erastus & Nancy but am so anxious to have this letter on its way to you that I will not this time — do believe I shall before long, hope they will receive my love & many thanks for the beautiful currants — kiss the baby for me & Abby — love to all relatives & friends — Mrs. Pendleton

Abigail says she hopes Mary will spend some time with them this winter. I should be glad if you could but dont suppose you can. O dear.

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

Mrs. Root returned two or three weeks since with her children & Mother — her Father expects to come in the Spring. I intend to go there while the plastering is being done & drying.

Nov. 6, Dear Sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]

I am ver<*r*>y sorry I cannot pay you what I owe you now I know you ought to have it I shall make every effort to get it soon as possible think without doubt I shall be able to pay part in the spring if not the whole It appears to me I had not better make out a mortgage at present for it will be considerable expense and the probability is that you will get your pay in the spring and you are safe any how whether I live or not. But if I find that I am not likely to pay I will have the security attended to or if you really think it best I will attend to it at any time

Your affectionate brother D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut

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

Dear all of you

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

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

Affectionately your daughter & sister
Mary B. Hill

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

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

My dear mother & sister

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours affectionately

Mary B Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

William Hill

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Prairieville [*Wisconsin*], <*Aug*> Sept. 23, – [*in pencil*:] 1845

Dear Sister [*Mary Burr Hill*]

<*Y*> I did not intend that so many weeks should pass away – before you rec'd [*received*] a few lines from me, but our little babe makes such an ado if most of one's time is not devoted to her little self that I find it difficult to get time for other than household duties – She is now in my arms & has just been casting up her bright eyes & laughing me in the face – we can hardly determine their color for they seem to be neither blue black or grey – we expect however they will be black – her hair is dark, her mouth pretty, her forehead good & she is getting quite white – she has been called a puny little thing – had a very ill turn about two weeks ago but since her recovery from it has appeared better & grown more than before

My health is good – my back is not as strong as before my sickness otherwise I have felt well ever since – have had a good appetite all the time

At the time of her birth expect I got along remarkably well – it was not nearly so bad as I anticipated – did not suffer more than I have many times before have since been afflicted some with sore nipples for a time they were quite bad I thought, but suppose they were not nearly as aggravating as many are. I kept them moist with whiskey loaf sugar & borax – think that prevented them from getting very bad – heard that the oil of hickory nuts was good – as we could find none of them procured some English walnuts & extracted the oil (by heating the tongs & compressing the meat between them) applied it – either that or the former application was quite healing, or the time had come for them to get well. *

*The oil extracted from Butternut meat is also very healing

I have been a little troubled with caked breasts. I will mention some remedies & when you know any one similarly afflicted you can communicate the information. A brown paper greased laid upon the breast & a flat iron <*as*> warm as warm as can be borne rubbed upon it until the cake is softened, that was efficacious in my case – Cabbage leaves wilted & spread with lard or butter & applied are good.

A poultice made of hot brandy or whiskey, (brandy preferable) & Indian meal is said to have done wonders – Also a poultice of blue flag root, the root simmered in milk, the root is poisonous so that caution is necessary to prevent the child from getting poisoned – some use scorched [tow?] & camphor, but camphor dries the milk . Sweating the breast is said to be good this can be done by covering it over with a small wooden bowl wh. [*which*] has been immersed in boiling water – and last a piece of new calico applied for sometime is said to be good by those who have tried it.

Daniel has been looking over my letter & says he thinks I have lost my faculty for letter writing, but you know Mary that I never had any to lose.

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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 will for the deed 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 very small. Sugar is 15 cents a pound in consequence

of the Ohio being so low. Flour is $8, a barrel. Times are hard, but I am blessed with an excellent appetite and relish plain food.

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

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

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

Susan B Grant. [*Susan Boyd Grant*]

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

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

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

Sat. morning Nov. 3 (continued from 4th page.) Since writing a little on the last page of this sheet, I have got some red ink and concluded to add something further. One thing I wish to say is, that our Post Master never takes the wrapper off from newspapers when they are marked <u>paid</u> on the outside, thus "<u>Paid 1 ½</u>"

If therefore you wish to write to write a little in a newspaper, if you will pay the postage there is I think no danger of its being discovered. Our Post Master is one of the best natured men in the world and strictly honest, not withstanding his zeal as a Van Buren man.

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

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

Your affe [*affectionate*] son E P Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

[*Stamped on upper left corner of address leaf*] WILKINS
PA
[*Written in stamped area*] May 19th

East Liberty [*Pennsylvania*] May 17: 1839

Dear Mother,

We received yours of the 5th inst. yesterday. In regard to visiting New England we must be guided, as we ought in everything else, by the indications of providence. Should an eligible opening for a location be presented it would seem duty to embrace it. But should nothing of this kind take place within six, or eight weeks we will if health continues come and see you. The only question in my mind is in regard to duty. Inclination very strongly tends to New England. I have then another dear mother besides yourself whom I have not seen for 16 years and whom I wish to see before she dies, besides brother and a sister. No doubt, however, that our desire to see our friends, like any other natural desire, cannot always consistently with duty be indulged, and needs to be moderated, or restrained according to the circumstances in which providence may place us. We shall I think know in 2 or 3 weeks whether it will be consistent for us to visit you this season and if anything should occur to prevent we will let you know. In the mean time we must endeavor to have our minds prepared for whatever event may be appointed for us.

Your affectionate Son
Wm. [*William*] Burton

Dear Mother,

I have not time to say much. Little M. E. [*Mary Elizabeth Burton Shurtleff]* is less troublesome than when I wrote you, before. M. is nursing her. She says she thinks we must put her in the letter and send her on that our friends may see what a pretty baby she is. M. & L. would write but their father wishes to put the letter in the office, as he goes to school.

M. E. [*Mary Elizabeth*] is almost 5 months old. Her eyes are still a little untrue, but I hope she will outgrow it

I received a letter from brother [P.?] and another from brother J. since within a few days. I am glad to hear from you all, but wish <*more*?> still more to see you. Little E. Grant is better. Sister Susan expects to start for Ct [*Connecticut*] about the first of June.

I expect Martha & Marcus are so much grown that I should hardly know them, but I want to see you all, much.

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

Love to all.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*], March 11

Dear Brother & Sister,

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

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

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

I intended to write more, but have not time. The remedy for sore nipple is camphor gum & sweet oil, the latter will dissolve the oil. Camphor gum simmered in cream is an unfailing remedy for piles – Please to write fully to us very soon direct to West Avon Ct. We want to know all about every thing, for you well know we are interested in all that interests you. With much love to all I am your aff [*affectionate*] sister

Abby – [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

A kiss for dear little Abby –

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

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

Dear Brother

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

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

It has been a matter of surprise to me that you have given me no information concerning my business affairs. You have [*been*] appointed my confidential agent with all the formalities of law, and besides this I wrote you a very urgent letter last December, a letter which I expected nothing but bodily inability would prevent your answering. On the first of last April a $50 annuity was to come into your hands, to be forwarded to me, or to be satisfactorily accounted for. You had bought a team with my funds, and at my risk; and common justice should have led you to report to me the result, or by some means signify to me a just cause why you did not. A report (I know not that it is to me, though it comes on the authority of a letter to Mrs. Burr) has reached me that you have sold them. With this I do not find fault, but why do I hear nothing either of the sale or its proceeds from you? As to the $50 annuity I admit that it may never have come into your hands, but if not why am I not informed, both of the fact and the [the?] reasons of it? I must confess these things give me great anxiety, the more so as I am in immediate and pressing want of money, and shall be yet more and more so for some time to come. The propriety of the matter does not rest upon this, however, for it is the undoubted duty of agents to inform their employers

of the state of the affairs entrusted to them, and faithfully to deliver over all property that comes to them in a shape to be thus delivered.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant

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

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

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

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

I believe you think the letter I promised you when I sent the goods I have been so long about to send has been very tardy in its movements indeed it has been very different from what I intended it will be of no use to enumerate the many obstacles that have come in my way but after all last monday a week to day I went with the barrel well stocked with good to the Depot and I there found John Watson son of Jacob Watson who said he would see it started in the P M I have felt somewhat uneasy since that I did not see the Agent myself but he promised that he would be faithful and I thought he would so I left it with him to do the business and if he does the business as he promised I hope you will receive it ere long when I went with the barrel I carried your sister Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] she and Mr Burton have after so many years made us a visit and it was a great pleasure to me she looks oh altered a good deal since you saw her my son she and I went in our waggon and Mr B in the stage she enquired about you and your family thought she should write to you but she has her hands and her heart full Lavinia is married and Margaret has poor health her children she left well they returned the northern route and had it in contemplation to call on Phelps at Canton I will have mention that the barrel was directed to the care of Mc Clune & Williams Millwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Mr. Allen was buried last monday I wanted to attend the funeral but felt more that I wanted to go with Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] as far as I could he has been in a suffering condition for a long time I shall mix my letter up in such a way that you will think strange perhaps <*that I am more than usual light minded*> I want to say to you that I fear you will never get your pay for the improvements you make on your Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Wall people always say that improvements never fetch what they cost and people have such different views upon the subject that one man will want to undo all another does I would like to have you sell it and pay your debts if you should have a good opportunity I would like to know about your concerns as much as you think best I should, I went with E [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] to see your father B's [*Mr. Burr?*] family found them all well Mary [*Mary Burr?*] sent you <*her*> a number of articles she will probably write you what Joel sent & a pair of books John a pair of pantaloons and a suit up a pair that I suppose <*give*> was John's and some shirts and one of Marcus' bosoms and a collar he was absent he left Collinsville after his father told him that he disapproved of his grinding axes and engaged in a [coal?] job in New Hartford he came home and staid four days when I was at home [&?] was pretty well but said he worked hard I put up as many apples as I could with the other things I put mine into some cloth that I thought would make you a pair of pillow cases sweet into one and sour into the other but the mice ate one and you can do what you please with them we have no apples this year and last year they were very knotty friends all well your Uncle Luther lives and may a good while yet he may not be the first to die in our family there is a good deal of sickness and a good many deaths in Winter Phinny Root's wife is dangerously sick Abigail [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] is better and has been home and made a visit She does not nurse her babe at all I sent some new calico for [it &] a dress also two breadths of a dress that I thought might make her one but as I understand you may have more family make use of it as may be most for the comfort of your family two pair of morocco shoes of <*m*> Martha's one indiarubber Mary sent a pair of indiarubber I did not send the dress patterns but sent a dress almost new which Martha said she thought you might wear with very little alteration she thought by letting down the [ep?] [...] each of you a pair of mittens and [also] two of the sheepskin mittens Susan [*Susan Boyd J. Grant?*] made for your father she made a pair for Marcus and they suited your father better and so they have both worn them and these have [lain?] by they were too large you will need I guess to cut out a little more than the seam I guess Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] and sew them over but you can contrive that part I shall put a little into this letter and when you receive this write me soon and I shall want to hear from the barrel if you ever receive it I have not mentioned but a part of what it contains much love to dear Abby and from [your?] mother thank her for what she did to write her I was very tired when I commenced and I have written with my paper on a map lying in my lap and you and you will find it somewhat difficult to read may you enjoy the blessing of God and strive to live near to him don't neglect your bible and under all circumstances spread out your wants

before the Lord and store that tender mind that is commited to your care with that which is good not burden it be careful that her clothes are not tight [worm?] holes and all that there be no compression may the Lord be your guide & [grant?] help in time of trouble is the prayer of your aff [*affectionate*] Mother Grant

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

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

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

It is 7 o'clock in the morning. My baby taking his morning nap in the cradle, husband in the study, girl washing dishes in the back room & I have one hand on the cradle, the other [grasping?] the pen. We have a pleasant house & convenient, th'o [*though*] some of the rooms are too small. If I ever have sufficient strength shall like housekeeping very much. We had been here but six weeks when Johnny was home. & those were weeks of great care in arranging and getting things comfortably [settled?]. Billah was with me five weeks after the birth of my babe and could she have stayed five more. I might have been spared a great deal of suffering. But as I can not have room to write every thing will only say that thro' [*though*] the mercy of God I was spared, even after resting for some time [from] the [verge?] of the grave, and am now in tolerable health, tho' [*though*] far from being strong, am able to endure. Our boy's name is John Cowles, is near six months old, weight 21 lbs. is perfectly pleasant, seldom crying if not sick. He takes all his food from a bottle. I was obliged to wean him when two months old, on account of a sore mouth, which is not yet well. We have bought milk & butter all summer, but expect a cow today. Our expenses must greatly exceed our salary this year. There is no end to demands upon the purse in sickness, and little economy in the kitchen, when hired help manages. Our people have been very kind & thoughtful for us, thus adding greatly to our comfort.

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Care of Wm. Hill [*William Hill*] Esq.
Flemington
N. J. [*New Jersey*]

Newburyport [*Massachusetts*] Jan 11th 1851

Dear Daughter. We received your communications this morning was glad to hear from you and my dear absent Children. Joel and John had informed us, that letters had been received with comforting inteligence. It was like cold water to a thirsty soul, my mind had become exceedingly anxious about D. [*Daniel Grant*] & M [*Marcus Grant*], and in looking at my contemplated visit, I felt that I must leave home with a heavy heart. But monday P. M a letter was handed in containing information that gave me great relief. We are here at Newburyport [*Massachusetts*] in good health I have for a long time wanted to write to you <*to you*> but my body and mind have ben taxed to the utmost. My health has been good I have had but very little suffering. Abby has been uniformly well and happy. She has not complained of being unwell at all. She often speaks of you and her little brother in most affectionate manner. She will say I suppose they think they have not stayed long enough, but I think they have, I hope when they do come <*I hope*> they will stay five months and two years. One time some one gave her two walnuts I said to her grandma will crack them for you. Oh no I will keep them for Ma and little Eddy, so with many little things she will [say?] I will keep them for Ma and my little brother. When we first talked or when we first began to plan our business we thought of shutting up our house, and I proposed to Mrs Orville Pinney to take her into her family and she and her adopted daughter appeared very much pleased with the plan. Since that your Aunt N. and her daughters concluded they would come & keep our house, and they rather wished that Abby would stay them. So I them as they both wanted her they must divide the time. She might go and stay with Mrs Pinney a while and then she might come and stay with her Aunt. She appears pleased with her prospect. Mrs Pinney came after her and carried her home hours before I left home. I do not feel free from anxiety respecting her although I feel confident, that she will be taken just as good care of as she would if I was with her yet if she should be sick or any accident should befall her, I should wish to be with her, but I hope & <*hope*> I commit her to his care, who only can protect her. You speak of <*her*> your return. I hope it will be so that you can leave your sister in time to spend weeks with us before it will be necessary for you to commence your summer's work. I want <*have*> you to have a good long visit with your only sister, and do not wish to hasten your return, but I very much want a visit too before summer work comes on. I do not think of any news but what you will hear from the other sources except I had a letter from Susan [*Susan Boyd Grant*] she sent much love to you and expressed a pleasure in my having Abbie with me for company. She also stated that one of their neighbors were at Mr Barton's a little time previous, but did not see Elizabeth [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] she was near being confined so that in some measure accounts for not writing us in so long a time. I intended writing to her soon when you left, but I have not done it but hope to while here. Give Edward many kisses for grandma may the Lord bless you and keep you is the prayer of your affectionate Mother E G
[*Elizabeth Grant*]

My dear Neice,

I thank you for your note, received today. Will you dwell on the character of the only living & true God, seek daily to learn more & more of what he is, by studying his word, observing his providences, & receiving his spirit. Think what the Redeemer has done to save our race, & receive his testimony respecting what he desires to do for you. Believe what he says to you, as you would have your children believe what you say to them. In true love, y'rs [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Give my love to Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] and her husband hope she will be blessed John was at home a few days left the last day of Dec may God's blessings attend you my dear child

E G [*Elizabeth Grant*]

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[*Addressed to*:] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Oberlin.
Ohio.
[*Pre-printed:* Home for the Friendless,
911 Wabash Avenue,
Chicago,] Aug 10. 1870.

Dear Sister Caroline

Yours was duly rec'd. Am glad there was no occasion for the "accident tickets." Also glad you found Abby more comfortable. Have no doubt the very thought of your coming tended to make her feel less nervous & more as if she was going to get along well. It must have been pleasant for you to be there thru Commencement week -- & especially to hear Mr. Burr -- I hope you have good news from Daniel & Eddy.

We are getting on in the usual way. Miss Shean left last week Fri. Miss Hovey came the morning before, & takes her place. She releives me entirely at the children's meals. Miss Bowman left on the early A.M. train just after Miss H. came on Thurs. -- I have heard from her twice -- she leaves Middletown to-day for Ver [*Vermont*] -- says she wants to get back here, & "shall be in ample time for the meeting of the Am. B'd [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*]." She visited her sister Mat. who is well as can be expected --

Joel was here last week; also John got back from his northward trip Sat. A.M. two hours before time to join his father on his way to Cambridge -- thus both felt sorry not to see you here -- Had a letter from them this A.M. J. C. likes C. so much better than Bristol, he will stop here a day as he returns to Lake F.

Harriet Butler is visiting me with the rest of her friends in this city -- she is this P.M. at Mr. Gray's to tea -- Mrs. G. & Maria Phelps called to see her here yesterday -- Maria said she was sorry not to see you again. She did not think I cared to see her, because I never called on her &c &c -- She is blind as ever, & very fleshy --

Mrs. B. has just returned from tea -- had a nice time &c -- Geo & Maria bro't her home --

I know you will repine & may be put on crape (<u>white</u>) when I tell you that Augusta has gone to a home; went yesterday -- we miss her -- Agnes, Nellie, & Delia Grave are also gone -- Changes are so continual here -- we have received over 50 this month.

Kate does very well in the bath room -- she cleaned it all over again yesterday -- I have had the hooks for the hats & caps put down in the Bath room; it is more convenient -- also we have moved the old benches into the new School room & the other is painted ready for furnishing --

We have an awning over the front door giving a pleasant affect to the hall, & protecting from the morning sun, & evening dew. I hope for the fountains some day. Edward is in a shop down town, where gold leaf is pounded out: he likes it & is so much happier for having something to do.

Mr. Bell is faithful as ever, is now fixing up a play house for the children & getting the lumber in shape in the yard --

Miss Bowman's brother Henry's wife, sent 'special love to you -- Miss B. also.

My love to Mr. & Mrs. Shurtleff, to your children & to yourself, from y'r aff sister, Abby --

I hope Abby will not be discouraged, or too apprehensive -- She has a host of sympathizers who are ready to congratulate, at the earliest opportunity -- I shall be glad to hear from you any time & always --

[*written across first page*] None of us have been paid yet, as soon as we are, I will send yours on -- by P.O. order or by D'ft --

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Daniel Grant
Care Rev. A. W. Burr
Andover
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]

Flemington, N. J. [*New Jersey*]

Jan. 27 1884

My dear Sister,

Am glad you have a new cloak. Have no doubt that it is all right & that we should be perfectly satisfied with it here. Of course Abbie & Almon [*Abigail E. Grant Burr* & *Almon Burr*]

would not let you get anything, but what was right. Am glad to hear about Abbie & family. It was very good of her to write that nice letter to Mary.

Aletta is doing very well but does not sit up.

She suffered very much for nearly 24 hours before the birth of child. Mrs. West, the nurse has been with a great many women & never saw one suffer more unless it were Mrs. Spangenburg in this place. I only saw Alletta twice through the day, did not feel that I could endure it & it was not necessary. Chalmers, the nurse & the Dr. were sufficient. Perhaps Mary told you that the baby was born at 10¾ P. M. I believe Dr. Parish always keeps women in bed four weeks if he can. He tells Aletta that she must lie in bed four weeks. The baby is nearly two weeks old & I think she does not yet feel like sitting up.

The baby is not named. We hope it will have neither of the grandmother's names 'Emily" nor "Mary"

Do you intend sending money out to Mrs. Benedict? You might possibly find when too late that her title was not good or that some other mortgage came before yours or something else that you should have informed yourself about before sending money.

The baby takes long naps (sometimes sleeping four five & six hours at a time) but cries a good deal when awake.

I have written to Erastus, also to Aunt Jane & Mary Haynes together since the baby's birth & asked them all to visit us. I dont think the baby will look so pretty at three months old as her aunt Carrie did, & <I dont> nor do I think she will ever be so pretty. She has finally learned to suck very well & her mother has quite a flow of milk.

Love to all in the family

Your aff. sister

Mary B. Hill

Am glad Almon is having time & rest, also that your cough is better. Etta Hill has sent the baby a very pretty knit shawl <for> to wear when it goes out.

Aunt Jane

I send this thinking there may be something that M. did not say in her letter to you. I would like it returned – it is the last she wrote to me. C. G.

M. alludes to my sending money to Kansas. I sent D's letter for them to read but said nothing about the money. I had replied to them declining to loan it before I send the letter to them.

D. G.

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant

Oberlin, O.

Feb. 28th '84.

My Dear Aunt,

I am glad to learn, through uncle Marcus, that you are at Andover [*Massachusetts*]. I know a visit to Almon's [*Almon Burr*] family, while situated in that classic town, must be pleasant, both to them and yourself. I hope you have all been well this winter, and that baby has made such progress in strength and good looks, as he gave promise of doing when I last saw him. Laura had a pleasant letter from Carrie, some time since, from which we gathered that "all was well" with the family, up to that time. I hope that Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] received a letter from me, written soon after I reached home, the 1st of last Sep. – I addressed it to the care of Capt. Hathorne, through I was not sure but she had left there, before it would have arrived.

I talked with Abbie, last summer, about a life of Mrs. Banister, which was being prepared by a Miss Guilford of Cleveland. I now write to you, upon the same subject. The life was completed some weeks ago and Miss Guilford, at my earnest invitation, came here and read it to me. I was very greatly interested in it. As a literary work, it – seems to me superior to either of the lives of Mary Lyon. It is also complete, covering the whole 80 years, and giving extracts from correspondence and papers, which Aunt Banister had carefully preserved for such a use. If published just as I saw it, it would make a duodecimo volume of four hundred pages. But since then, Miss Gilford has sent it to Mrs. Cowles of Ipswich, in whose judgment, it should be

considerably abridged. My last word from Miss G. is that she will have it returned <to her> and undertake to shorten it. That will diminish, somewhat , the expense of publishing. But I doubt if 500 volumes (the least number which a publisher would care to undertake) with a good picture, could be gotten out much short of $500. Miss Guilford does not ask any reward for her large share of the enterprise. The Tract society will publish the book at actual cost, but will not take it, and depend upon the sale of it, to meet expenses. Somehow the money must be raised, or the book will never be a book, except in manuscript.

I dislike to have the matter dropped, after Miss Guilford has taken so much pains, partly on her account, but more because I think the book is a worthy memorial of an excellent woman, whose life and work ought not to be forgotten. Mrs. Cowles offers to give $100 toward the expense of publishing, besides something more to help furnish a good picture. I have taken it upon myself to find out what can be raised among the Grant relatives, and I think Mrs. Phillips will do as much among the Griswolds. I have corresponded with aunt Susan Grant, and she is willing to pledge, for herself and family $50. I think our family will do as much, though I fear Theodore and I will have the most of it to pay. Cousin John Grant will give $10. Mrs. Phillips is sure of $50 or more in Winsted. So we have $260 pledged out of say $500, which leaves a large sum yet to raise. It would seem as if there ought to be a good many among Mrs. Banister's friends who would be glad to purchase her life, and pay for it beforehand. Unfortunately I have no acquaintance with any of them. I have written to uncle Marcus, and hope he can do something among the Colebrook friends. I know you, Abbie and Edward, will all be interested, and will do what you can. The money will not be needed till after the manuscript has been sent to the printers, and they have made an estimate of the cost of publishing. There is time for correspondence and consultation among friends.

You may have heard something about an expectation that some money could be obtained from Mrs. Hale's estate, inasmuch as she made a verbal request that such was her wish. Miss Guilford, at one time, has strong hope of such help, but has now given it up. Mrs. Hale's estate went to a distant relative, who feels no interest in the life of Mrs. Banister.

May I hope to hear from you, sometime, when you have leisure to write upon the subject? Please remember Mr. Shurtleff and myself to all of Almon's family. The little girls would send love if they were at home. They both attend school, and are as well and happy as we could ask. We should all be glad to see our Aunt Caroline here in Oberlin. Is there not some hope of you visiting here, before long?

Affectionately your niece
M. B. Shurtleff.

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant

Office
3 – 11 – '84

Dear Aunty

I am afraid you do not get news of Mother as often as you would like but I know that you remember how busy we must be and you may always be sure no news is good news, Mother progresses from one stage of the sickness to another Her cough troubles quite a good deal just now. Her joints are not so stiff as during the exceeding cold weather of the past week

The end of back bone has been very tender but by help of air cushion hair cushion and a great deal of rubbing it is much better, no skin has been broken we have used, tablespoon of powdered alum in pt. of alchohol to toughen skin It is very grateful With help Mother walked half way round the bed this morning

The outlook is favorable if we only have pleasant weather During all the five weeks she has been in bed we have hardly had three entire clear days

So you see we have had great deal to contend with just at present

Emma Loweree is away so there is only Nora Parish beside the family We expect Emma back any day

Mrs West the nurse who was with Allie has been helping us with Mama this week and that is giving us all a rest

Mother likes her and she is able to rub a great deal more than we could get Min to do Allie grows all the time and Baby Sophie is better than she was at first about crying takes long naps of three or four hours.

March 15th – Dear Auntie

Min asked me to finish this letter this morning so as I have a few minutes before the mail comes, will try and do so. Min has taken cold and is not feeling very well so I came up to the office this morning. Mamma is a great deal better than when Min began this letter on Tuesday. Her cough is better and her feet and legs are not so much swollen. The baby is as cunning as can be. She laughs sometimes and looks so pleased and happy. Cousin Tom & Cousin Eliza & Sophie are so pleased with the baby's name. It seems as though they would never be done talking about it. I went up to Easton last Sat. and spent Sunday with Sadie & Jessie Pollock. You remember Sadie Pollock don't you? She is Mrs Bullock niece and use to live there. She and her sister are going to break up house keeping next week and they wanted me to come before they left their house. I knew it was the only chance I would have to go to Easton so as Mrs West was with us to help take care of Mamma I went up Saturday afternoon and came home Monday night Sadie wanted Min & me both to come but we could not both go of course, and Min was good, and let me go. I had a splendid time. I don't think I ever enjoyed a visit so much before. Easton is a very hilly place. It reminded me of Hallowell on that account

John Watson a senior in "LaFayette" College there, took Sadie and me all through Pardee Hall on Monday morning. John used to live here in Flemington and went to Mr. Leighs School at the same time I did so he was an old friend.

The view from the top of the Hall is beautiful. We could see all over Easton and Phillipsburgh over in New Jersey, and up and down the Delaware. It must be lovely there in the Summer.

Allie had a letter from Miss Bethel on Thursday and she says she is to be married in May and had been out that morning buying furniture which gave her inexpressible pleasure etc. Benton [.....?] is to be married on the twenty fifth of this month. Chalmers & Allie have an invitation of course.

Ella Ramsey and Ed. Allen are to be married in the Presbyterian Church next Wednesday at five o'clock. We all have invitations. I just heard the train so will have to stop. Please tell Carrie I was very much pleased to get her nice little letter and will answer it when I get the time.

Does "Puppy dog's tail" go wiggledly – waggledly as much as ever. I don't suppose he has forgotten how to talk yet. You must kiss dear little baby Arthur (I dont suppose you will object!) for me and his cousin Sophie and give my love to his Papa and Mamma and tell then that "Cudya" Thinks it is high time baby Arthur has his picture taken and sends us one. Auntie what is good for "hungry consumption" I have that or something else for I am hungry all the time. I can't get enough to eat. Perhaps Hally can <symphath> (I am worse than Sam am I not?) sympathize with in this respect. Well I can't write any more so goodbye. With a great deal of love to you all

Affectionately

Carrie.

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