Subject: Religion

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

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*] June 2, 1843

My dear Parents, Sister & Brothers,

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

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

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

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

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

It was not very convenient for me to write much on the boat, so I just noted down a little now & then on a slip of paper which I will transcribe after writing a little before we left Albany — We just drove up to Mr. Butlers & talked a few moments with Jennette she said Ann Phelps was going to Chicago soon 90 miles from us — called at the school house & <*just*> said "Good Bye" to Desiah — as we passed along a little below Mr. Sam Gaylords Daniel sung Bounding Billows

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* boat weights 30 tons

exclusive of the passengers about 52 tons for which the Capt. has to pay about $86 totl. It is considered a light load — In West Troy is an arsenal — are several buildings — do not think they

are quite as handsome as those in Springfield — between 3 & 4 P.M. passed Cohose falls — thought of [M?] Calo. Butler & the little mineral on the shelf — the falls are no great sight — though very pretty —

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ache — but we staied 3 hours or more & had we known we should might have gone — we learned before we got to Buffalo not to place much, if any dependence on what the Capt. said —

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

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

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

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

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

There are several plum trees near our house — a great many strawberry blossoms, & wild flowers — I enjoy them much believe there is most every thing to be bought in Milwaukie — such as dried applies. peaches &c — believe lard is here 5 or 6 cts. lb. [tallow?] twice that — wheat [flour?] $4 or 5 barrel — Muscovado sugar 8 cts — molasses 62 gale — butter 12 1/2 usually & 25 the last winter no shakes have been seen this spring but expect they will be plenty — musquetos are thick better get that broad cloth from Miss Dowd Want to know how much that

brown broad cloth was worth in N. also how much strained pails cost. Levi's folks want one of ours very much — there is about 9 2/3 yds. of that black cotton cloth All that we had broken was largest looking glass, wh. was broken very fine, one tumbler, one light, <*tea*> cup. one quart bowl, one white deep plate, one blue pie plate, & our blue edged pie plate can mend most of them with little trouble — Dont feel bad about me — think I shall feel well enough if you do

Very aff. [*affectionately*] Caroline

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

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 —<*I*> 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
Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Folio post.

[*Post stamp:* Prairieville, Wis. [*Wisconsin*] Feb 25 1844]

Dear Parents,

I have just returned from the office with the sad news of sister M's [*Mary Burr Hill*] sickness. I wonder we have not heard it before. Fear much the next we get will be more melancholy, but we wish to hear <*all*> particulars.

I hardly know what to write, but think as I have neither time nor room to say much I will confine myself mostly to some particulars which C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has noticed. You wish to hear

more about our land & I will make you as well acquainted as I can with the limited time and room which I have. It is as you know 3/4 of a mile long from east to west, & 1/4 wide, containing as nearly as I can guess about as much marsh or wet prairie as dry land, the wet, pretty wet, and the dry, very dry. Many people think the marsh will be the most valuable land in a few years & I think there is some reason for such a supposition but our upland is not as good as I wish it was, it being white sand or gravel, that is, considerable of it. There is however from 20 to 30 acres good land and perhaps a little more, but that is but little for such a farm. The object I wish to accomplish is to sell 40 or 80 acres here and buy forty on sec. 11, the E. line of which is <*a*> due S. line from the W. end of this farm. the S.W. corner of this 1/2 mile worth of the N.E. corner of that. Besides preserving all the advantages of this, it has a good many in addition some of which C [*Caroline*] has mentioned. The tract contains 80 acres, 40 of which Joel owns. We cannot sell this at present for money, but presume we can in a few months. have two opportunities in view not room to tell about them. If we buy where we wish to at the price C [*Caroline*] named we <*have*> must decide soon, for others stand ready to take it as quick as it is to be had. It is land under a mortgage & not likely to be payed & the mortgagee has made the mortgager an offer for it in lieu of foreclosing & he says as we have one half of it he will let us have the other half for what he pays. The land I bought for J [*Joel Grant*] sold for $8 per acre last spring J [*Joel*] paid but little more than half that & suppose that I can get the rest for $4 If you can furnish the money, we can use the avails of this land if we should sell part of it, to build a house, if not we must let the opportunity go. I feel that if such an arrangement could be made our condition and prospects will be much improved, at least, I believe I shall be contented. wish father would advise as much as he can in all my affairs

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

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

Your affectionate son,

Dan'l [*Daniel*] Grant

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

My love to all our relatives & friends,

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

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

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[*Addressed to*:] Master Ralph Ebeneser Burr [*Ralph E. Burr*]

Norfolk

Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Mr. I. Mills.

Prairieville, Wis. Ter. [*Wisconsin Territory*] May 4, 1844.

My dear brother Ralph,

A thousand thanks to you for your good letter on that folio sheet & to pay for it you shall have a letter by yourself — I hope you will write every time you can & write every thing you can think of about the people, — tell who have died, who moved away &c., it will help Ma a great deal — am glad you go to the Academy now dont let there be many better scholars than you, does Warren board at his uncle Fosters? Give my love to him & tell him I want he should be a minister—

I think you have improved considerable in your hand writing. Do you grow fast? Do you try to restrain angry feelings when you feel them rising? I hope you do. you will be glad when you are older if you do. I want to caution you again about using a gun. now dear Ralph dont you think you know so much about a gun that there is no need of your being careful. many persons that have used a gun much more than you have met with sad accidents — deer skip & bound here though I have chanced to see but two live ones although I suppose they have many times passed very near our house — I believe I wrote you last fall that I had neither seen nor heard of wolves about here, but since then I have heard that in some parts of the Ter. [*Territory*] there are a good many & about five or six miles from here are some — there are but very few just about here — we dont know that we have heard them — there are two kind of wolves, the large grey wolves & those that are called prairie wolves the last are smaller than the others & less ferocious — expect there are some wild cats about — I last winter saw the skin of one stuffed that a man in our neighborhood killed — There are wild "prairie hens" about here, have been told that they look just like a common speckled hen. we sometimes hear the cocks crow in the morning. the round does not much resemble that of domestic cocks but is a coarse, cooing sound — believe the flesh of these hens is as good as any — they sometimes fill their crops with wheat, dont know that they do any other harm.

We send you & Erastus & Marcus a book which I hope you will own in partnership. I would commence it & read in course it is very amusing, & want you to tell me if you do not think the author gives a pretty good description of your school boy days —

I dont know but you are so good at school that there is no need of my telling you to be a "good boy" I hope you are, how does your head stand it?

May 7. Tues. I wrote the foregoing last Sat. eve. about as fast as I could. During the day I wrote a letter to Mother Grant, & yesterday I wrote a little to Aunt Susan S. Brown & Abigail Cowles. I intend to devote to day & to morrow in writing to "our folks."

There have been from 15 to 20 deaths about us with the scarlet fever. Several children & youth have died

Yesterday a little girl of our minister died — she was three or fours years old. believe all the other children of the family are sick — Joseph who is 13. Ashur 11 — Sarah 5 or 6 & a babe — but they are very good children, have given their hearts to their Savior & endeavor to spend their youthful days to please him. Will you not do thus my dear little brother, then when sickness & death come you will not fear. Christ will be with you — Jesus loves you now — then fly to his arms — & dear brother Erastus too — I want he should take this as written to him & also the whole letter — I will try to write him a little — I have seen a good many flowers up <*in*> with in a short distance from our house — We hear Whip-poor-wills almost every summer evening — they have been singing for two or three weeks — owls hoot evening & morning — partridge's drum day & night. have not seen any wood chucks about — your little dog does bravely — I can think how you look playing with your kittens — I am afraid that your furious animal that knocked Erastus down will yet kill one or both of you. or some others — do be careful. I suppose Ethan & Levi & Russell look & act pretty much as they used to — Our ministers boys help their mother a great deal — wash dishes &c —

Your aff. [*affectionate*] sister
Caroline Grant —

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[*Addressed to:*] Mr Ralph E Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut.

All Well

[*Written across address:*] Mr Sheppard please send this up and charge the trouble to Wm [*William*] Hill

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Nov 4th 1849

Dear Ralph

This letter may come unexpectedly to you for I have just thought of writing it and not from any sudden movement of the spirit but because I have received an order to night for ten thousand more lead pots to be delivered in as short a time as possible. Now we shall require more help than we have engaged at present and if you have made up your mind to come to New Jersey this winter and could set out immediately and would be willing to work one month before going to school we would be willing to give you 20 dollars for your service exclusive of board. There are several reasons for my wishing you to come & one is that my Father is almost over done with hard work and I should like to releive him in some way. Do not wish to persuade you to come against your Friends wishes or interests and if they are not perfectly willing at home for you to come why do not come on our acc/ [*account*] but write to us immediately that we may know what to do; Have not done a single hours work out on the farm since my first letter to Mary when she was at home We hired all our corn cut & are hireing men to husk it besides the hands that we have in the shop

We have about 650 Bushels of corn in the crib and have a goodeal more to husk — The weather is still quite pleasant the last two days have been indian summer quite warm and pleasant. Our new rooms are walled up, roof not on yet, Mason built the new oven to day. I myself am pretty tired of constant work at the same thing but will have to get used to it I see — We have 400 bushels of lime ready slacked that wants spreading and a good many odd jobs, in fact at present I see no end of work — are building a new corn crib 25 1/2 feet long 8 feet posts and 4 feet wide at bottom, set up on posts 2 feet above groung to keep out the rats, Thus " [*drawing of barn of stilts*] I find it takes a good eal of thinking & considerable moving about to see that things are done rightly on the farm also to carpenters & masons and do my nearly two days work in the shop Had 3 two horse loads of Yankee pumpkins in the corn from the seed that I brought from your house last winter; all together we had 8 two horse loads and I have had the pleasure of chopping up 1 1/2 bushels noon & eve for two oxen that I am fattening for the good of mankind, for a month past, Should you come on now you would still see a little of the country and be able to judge a little of the manner in which farming is done up in this unenlightened community. I take a bite of maple sugar almost every night and seldom forget here's to old Ralph or something like it, Often think of you all and would like to see you all very much, I love the wild and uncultivated spots of Connecticuts back bone and some of the places that I saw in that squirrel hunt are still present to memory, Mary says tell her mother that she made a mistake in sending for the yarn and that <u>my</u> mother wants two pounds of grey yarn and only one of white instead of the other way as Mrs Mary B Hill had it, she sat it down from memory and had confusion in her brain as all young housekeepers <u>have</u> and <u>ought</u> to have for dear knows they have enough to think of and <u>too</u> <u>enough</u> to do, Aunt H B Hill is spending the evening with us and she and Mary are chatting of many things at my elbow, but I do not pay much attention to what is going on.

Well you say here's a pretty budget of trouble and work of what is done, doing, and to be done, you can judge by this what occupies my mind I cannot think of many things beside work at present.

Now dear fellow if the things in this letter suit you and yours and you can come soon say first of next week or even the last you would be of considerable service and I will keep my promise made in the first part of this letter, Remember me kindly to Erastus & family your Father & Mother Carrie and all the rest & also to Maria Phelps when you see her,

The Presbyterian Minister left here (that is resigned of charge this week) and there is now an opening [*for*] a good minister that will put up with 500 or 600 dollars for a salary. Good night Dear Ralph
hoping to see you soon I am as ever
Your Brother
Wm Hill [*William Hill*]

I will just add — that William is almost tired out too — & I should be extremely happy if it would not be too much against your interest to permit Ralph to come Most affectionately
Mary [*Mary Burr Grant*]
William has written this with the speed of a steam engine & is <*waiting*> in a hurry to be off before the mail closes.

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Norfolk. [*Connecticut*] Jan 19th 1850.

Friend Ralph —

I must apologise for not writing you before. For since the receipt of your letter I have hardly had a moments leisure in the Day Time, And I do not like to write by Candle light, as it always affects my eyes. I was very glad to hear from you, and of your enjoying yourself as well, as I think you must from the manner you express yourself. I dont wonder you are contented with your lot & for what I know your Comparison is proper. So for news I think Norfolk [*Connecticut*] uncommonly Dull this Winter. I know of nothing unusual or that would interest you in the least.

Since the middle of December we have had excellent Sleighing just Snow enough and what is uncommon for N. [*Norfolk*, *Connecticut*] it has thus far lain quiet. We had a January thaw which lasted One Day, and the next night plenty of snow to repair it.
You inquire <*after*> about the Sabbath School here, or rather our class. I have not attended there two months. Esquire Peck was taken sick about that time ago, so sick that he was obliged to go home every Saturday. and return Monday a little better but worse at the end of the week. They Say he is soon to be Married, I Suppose he will be if his Health mends, And then 'may be we shall commence again.

The talented portion of community here, have revived their Lyceum, and the School Boys their Club. By the way Mr Rice has a full school this winter All he can well tend to. Quite a number of boys from other towns and one or two whom Rice looks Black at. You have been to school to him and know what I mean. I think your teacher must be behind the times, as it regards Wednesday exercises, though I think with you his dispensing with them is much to his credit Augustus Pettibone, does not attend school this Winter, His Father is going, or has gone, South and he can not be spared. it is just as well for him, he will learn more I presume. He was out here to keep Thanksgiving, and staid a day or two with me. He would not miss being here if he had to come on foot. I presume Uncle Bradley misses his presence as much as any one or two. As for myself I do not go to school this Winter, but farm it night and morning and stay at Doctors between. I take it pretty easy there as it regards them and read six hours in the day on the average.

Huggins is at home most of the time, and a good pleasant fellow he is <*most of the time*>, Now and then he gets miffed at me, which is all right enough I suppose he has reason to be, but a great share of the time he is what he ought to be. ready to assist me when I need. He is a cold blooded fellow, and keeps the office so hot that I roast with my coat off — I have the advantage of him though, I make him keep the fire, and he is on the trot after wood all the time. I dont know as he will stay another year but I am sure I hope he will. We have had such fine winter weather that People have gone on with their building to good advantage Lawrence's folks have part of their Hoe Works running and the Ryans have got their Factory mostly out of the woods and have a number of hands hewing They have fairly filled up the village with their timber and wood. I believe Uncle Pendleton has got his works in operation as Levi went along a short time ago with a Bundle of Leather about large enough for him to sit on. Harlow Roys commenced raising his new works yesterday they raised two tiers and have eleven more to raise. He will

have one of the largest works in the Country. when completed. He does great things or none. From reading over your letter I see you mention Dancing as common as if I were you and could without neglecting my studies I should learn, When they talked of starting a school here, I thought I would attend, but as for going down to Crowells, five miles once a week for that purpose, it wont pay. they muster up ten couple however who go out at night and come home to Breakfast. I believe in Dancing but not in running the thing into the ground. If they would get home in the proper time the good folks of this town would not oppose it as they do,

You must excuse the good looks of this letter, Ralph for I have had to jump up and leave it a dozen times, Write me as often as you can, and what you please, anything that interests you will me, and I would like to know if you ever expect to come back and live in old Norfolk [*Connecticut*], my mind is made up in regard to that I would like to know yours
Halsey is well and attending school, and wishes to be remembered to you (I guess) I have not seen him Nor does he know of my writing, Your Friends are all well (that I know anything about understand me), and hoping to (see you soon and hear from you sooner) as the Paddy wrote

I remain

Your Friend

J. H. P. Stevens.

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs Caroline Burr,
Norfolk,
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

My dear Caroline,

Often, very often do thoughts of the past come over me, and with these, come images of the loved ones of other days, —

And surely then, the friends of the last year, claim a place in my memory — Yes, I often think of you, and of others that I loved, and the remembrance is like a pleasing dream. But those days are past, and we can only remember their scenes. — And where are you this winter? — and what are you doing? If I may be so inquisitive. Do you ever wish you were back to Holyoke [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] with your sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]? She looks so much like you, that I almost think you are here, once in a while. Mary will tell you about all the changes here, and about all the improvements upon the old system of things. I felt like a stranger when I first came back, and thought I never could love the new building as well as I did the old one, And indeed I used to say in the secrecy of my heart, when I looked about on the multitude of strange faces, that I never should love them, as well as I did those with whom I use to mingle last year — But I am <*going*> beginning to love new things, and new faces for they have now become familiar.

But you will ask of our religious state — I can say that we trust the spirit of God has been among us, altho' there has not been that general effusion which there was last year, We have had a day of fasting and prayer — It was a solemn day, as you well know that they always are here, — it was a day when I trust Christians humbled themselves before God, and sinners were converted. There were a number of interesting conversions on that day. — [Miss?] Abby Brown was one. When your thoughts turn back to Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], do you ever think of our little praying circle on Saturday eve? Then think of me. I had a letter from Catherine Blair a little time ago. She was well and happy — she is teaching a select school in Hyde Park N.Y. [*New York*] — You probably heard of the death of Anna Maria Clarke — Truly, every day brings with it sad evidence of death's doings. —"—"—"—"

Now my dear Cara Burr, you are well acquainted with the press of business here, at the close of a Sem [*Semester*], and therefore I shall offer no excuse for this hastily written note, for our friends must accept hurried letters, or none from Holyoke's busy daughters.

Do write me a long note by Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*], — do not fail,

With love from,
Caroline E. Bois,

Tuesday Eve.

[*Added in another hand:*]
Caroline E. Boies Married 1848 to Geo. B. Ely Esq. of Trenton N.J. In 1852 removed to Jamesville Wis [*Wisconsin*] —

Caroline Grant

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[*Addressed to:*] Miss Caroline Burr.

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] March 20 [*1842?*]

My friend Caroline,

Your sister is going to have us today, and I cannot let such a good opportunity pass without writing a few lines, although my time is fully occupied. I must just tell you that you are not forgotten though you are absent. Often ones memory turn to the scenes of last year and particularly those in which you had a part. I love to think of our little circle for prayer, Was there not often a union of soul as we bowed together to pray to our Heavenly Father? And do we not now though separated still meet at the Throne of Grace? I hope we do and that we not only pray for ourselves and friend at such times, but for a world lying in wickedness. Do you not feel that we have much to do in this work and need to be active?

To be sure we are very sinful and our prayers are unworthy to receive answers of mercy yet the obligation still rests upon us and we should be willing to meet it.

I wish I could I see you now and know how you feel upon the subject of religion. I hope you enjoy the light of the Savior's countenance and are growing rapidly in grace. We may enjoy such blessings if we only seek [aright?] for them. I wish I could tell you that I am thus blessed, but I cannot, for I turn away from the path of duty too often and am too cold-hearted to be happy thus. Will you not pray for me that I may be useful in my situation here?

I should love to see you and converse as we used to upon this subject. — the bell has rung and I cannot write more, now

I shall wish to hear from you and your sister after she returns home. We are sorry to have her leave but hope her health may be better

In Haste

Your aff. [*affectionate*] friend

Susan Reed.

[*Added in another hand*:]
Now <*Rev*> Mrs. Rev. Wm. Howland[s] Missionary in India — taught several years at So. [*South*] Hadley in the Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]

C. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*] –

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

By Mary Burr}

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] March 20, 1840

Dear Caroline

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

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

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

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

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

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

Most affectionately yours

Abby Moore [*Abigail Moore Burgess*]

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

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[*Addressed to*:] Miss Caroline Burr. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Holyoke [*Massachusetts*]. Sabbath eve. Jan 23

My own dear Caroline

Sisters should hold intercourse with each other, should they not? This is my apology for writing: that I am a dweller at Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], and an assistant pupil, here, is my excuse for doing it on so small a scale — for time is wanting to me even to keep up an intercourse with the sisters who are clustered here.

But dear Carra. I could not let Mary go without at least a note to you, for I have many things to tell you. And first I must tell you my own delinquencies, and my sorrow because of them. I have been an unfaithful friend and sister to Mary dear, and perhaps she will tell you that weeks have passed away in which she has had no proof of my remembrance. Could she have seen my heart she would have known herself beloved and cared for — but I fear that now she thinks me indifferent. I will not attempt to exculpate myself — for Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] tells us the want of time is generally equivalent to a want of “character,” and this is my only plea.

I hope I shall not always live as I have done during these 16 weeks, for the have sometimes seemed to me the most unhappy of my life, from their very hurry.

I am sometimes ready to say this cannot be our own Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] — for so many are the changes in the building — that it is not an easy matter to trace out last year’s seems. But I have had no time to make myself unhappy on this score — [new?] yet

because so many beloved forms were absent, and now I am getting quite reconciled to new rooms and new faces.

Are you still an inhabitant of the school-room? the guardian spirit of the little group? Mary has told me you were so engaged in the early part of the winter. And I suppose you find much to [make?] you happy for the consciousness of being useful makes us so. I have often thought of you — and desired for you the smiles of your Heavenly Father's countenance.

We have had much here to humble us — and much to make us earnest and constant in prayer — but we have been slow to learn these sweet lessons. Sometimes it has seemed that Christians would never arouse from their slumbers — and that the year would pass and leave us unblessed with the outpouring of the Spirit. Yet God has not left himself without witness — for sometimes we have felt his presence and some have had their eyes opened — and are rejoicing that now they see.

I should dearly love to show you my black-eyed timid Addy, who sits here at the table by my side, and to have a nice long visit with you, in our pleasant No. 17. then perhaps we might fly over the mountains and leave a kiss on Lottie's lips — if nothing more — she is in Becket. Mass [*Massachusetts*] — where my father is recently located.

As to all the other things to be done and said should we meet again, it was fully to predict for the present I am quite removed from the atmosphere of my classmates — and while they explore the beauties of Milton — the depths of Olmsted — or the pages of Wayland — I plod on with Geology — "History and Euclid" But a truce to my pen for the bell is no less potent than in olden time. Yours still

Julia

[*Added in another hand*:] Julia Hyde, daughter of Rev. Mr. Hyde of Becket Mass [*Massachusetts*] — Married 1844 Rev. Edward Clarke — Residence in 1852 in Middlefield, Mass.
C. Grant

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[*Addressed to*] [*Alletta Hill Hulsizer*]

Bennington, Vt. [*Vermont*]
Wednesday April 4/ [*18*]80

Dear Lettie [*Alletta Hill Hulsizer*]

What under the sun have you been doing; but I guess I'll "hold my peace" as I've nothing to say against it. Now let me congratulate you, for I think Mr. H. [*Abraham Chamers Hulsizer*] will make you a real kind and good husband. I rather suspected that this is the way it would end if Chalmers could have his way in the matter. I'll forgive you for not writing oftener I can easily see what has taken up your time.

Am glad Halsizer [*Abraham Chamers Hulsizer*] passed well in his examination

Wonder of wonders that Mother [*Mary Burr Hill*] should have gone to Princeton [*New Jersey*]. How on earth did you get her off. That accounts for the cold snap we have just had. Did Mother see Cousin Frank [*Frank E. Burr*] when she was down, and how did she enjoy herself?

I heard of Alice Irwin's marriage when I was home Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] told me

Well I should think you had rec'd [*received*] a splendid present. Please tell me more about it. What Encyclopedia is it. How kind is Cousin Warren. I did mention to Lewis that you had such a present, but said nothing about the name of the giver, and of course he could never guess. Fannie's husband is a carpenter. So far as I know they are still at home. They, that is the Baldwin's have moved into their new house. Bessie has been sick with the "beasles" Nellie is a little better <they> she says. I am afraid the arbutus that I sent home did not amount to much. That we kept here, although it was kept in water has the most of it withered

Lewis & I got up before half past six Sunday morning to go for it and we were back before nine. It was cold and windy but we walked fast enough to keep warm. Yesterday it began to grow warm and today it has been quite like spring. I'm sure I hope it will continue so that we can

enjoy going after wild flowers. I wish I knew some way I could get that compound microscope. I tell you what it is, I don't want to be a know-nothing. Besides the pleasure of studying botany I want to know something that will make me appear a little intelligent.

There is a Ladies Sewing Society in the "Congo" [*Congregational*] Church. It meets every Wednesday evening (I believe) At six o'clock they have tea, at which the gentlemen are invited to be present. (That is if they will give 10 cts.)

This evening I went. Its been a long time since I've had so pleasant an evening out. I had not been there more than 4 or 5 minutes when a real nice old lady came up and spoke to me by name, saying she had heard Mr. Read call me by that name. In course of the conservation I incidentally mentioned that I knew but few there. She said she supposed I did not know her name. As I did not I asked her if I might know it, and she gave it to me. She said she had seen me at the prayer meeting and they like to have young men to help them. (Mr. Read calls on me once in a while to offer prayer). I sat by the old lady (Mrs. Harman) at table and near Mr. Read. I enjoyed the conversation very much. Every body seemed to be ful of fun and sociable. After tea Mr. Read introduced me to some of the young ladies. (Lewis says they are among the <u>best</u> society the town affords, and I think he must be right, they seemed intelligent and refined. Altogether I had a splendid time

One of the young ladies asked me to their house to see a cabinet of curiosities which her Aunt has gathered, in her travels. She has had good oportunity for such a collection having been (if I remember right) to the Sandwich Islands besides other places that I dont now remember

Lewis and I are going there some<day> evening before long

Now good night I may add more to this tomorrow if I have time. Recd [*received*] a card from Carrie last night.

Thursday morning 7 A. M. We have had no fire since some time yesterday and the thermometer is at 56° now. Don't suppose we will need any at all today. Guess I'll send this now as I'll have no time to add to it today

Tell Halsizer [*Abraham Chamers Hulsizer*] I'll be down there one of these days to see what he means by such actions. Love to all. Your aff. [*affectionate*] bro. [*brother*]

S. B. Hill [*Samuel B. Hill*]

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[*Addressed to*:] Miss Mary Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]
Care of Lewis M. Prevost Esq.
Erwinna P.O.
Bucks Co.
Penn. [*Pennsylvania*]

Folio post.

Prairieville, W.T. [*Wisconsin Territory*] May 10, 1844.

My own precious Sister,

A folio is now spread before me to be filled for my dear sister. I intend writing now & then as time admits & inclination prompts.

The past week my leisure time has been devoted to letter writing & yesterday noon we had a package prepared wh. [*which*] Mr. [Isad?] Mills is to take. I wrote several letters to our people, one to Mother Grant [*Elizabeth Grant*] & notes to Aunt Susan [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis*], Sarah Brown & Abby Cowles [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]. Daniel wrote to Joel & Uncle Pettibone [*Amos Pettibone*].

I fancy you think of us to day, as one year ago this day my dear husband & I took upon us the solemn marriage vow – life has since passed pleasantly with me, & I feel it good "to lean on an accordant bosom, I love
The beating of a heart that beat as mine
The sparkling of an eye that tells of thoughts
That harmonize with what I feel." –

But you know “There will be dark hours for all.” & strange if some moments of sadness should not steal over me, but then ‘tis sweet to feel a Savior [high?] –

May 11. Sat. P.M. This morning I gathered some wild flowers & put them pressing with the view of making an herbarium for you, dear sister – I intend to analyze some of them at least by the artificial method as we have Eaton’s Botany [*Amos Eaton,* Manual of botany for the Northern and Middle States?] – I suppose the botanical names will be the same as those given by Beck [*Lewis C. Beck,* Botany of the Northern and Middle States?].
I love these western wilds they are so fraught with nature’s rich, beautiful, productions.

Thank you for that paper containing those lines upon a “Forest Home.” They seem true & I love to read them & I think as the Author says, “more & more dear, And far more beautiful, doth Nature seem
So them who daily meet her face to face,
And learn from her the bliss, that, like a dream,
Robes common things with beauty & with grace.”
May 15. Wed. This day completes brother Erastus’s [*Erastus Burr*] 21st year, does it seem possible that he is “21” O that the bloom of his manhood was consecrated to the Savior’s Service – let us sister often & earnestly remember him to the [Heard?] of Prayer –

Last Sabbath was rainy & prevented my attending church – Mon. was also rainy & I delayed washing until yesterday – Just as I was about to commence washing my pantry floor Levi Grant came up to announce the arrival of his wife [*Lucinda Octavia Tryton Grant*], & her wish to see me – You will imagine that I was pretty expeditious in finishing my work & hastened down found her & her child in good health (exerting a cold & looking more healthy & fleshy than when she left – they have been absent nine months –
16. Today have been assisting Mrs. Grant in washing her house. She brought considerable dried fruit & has given us some
17 – One year this day since we left our dear homes & fresh to mind are brought many tender recollections but I trust we shall yet all meet again & enjoy each others society –
18 – Yesterday P.M. went to the village made several calls took tea with Mrs. Tickenor & brought from the P.O. [*Post Office*] some papers from Joel the N.Y. Weekly Tribune [New York Weekly Tribune] containing articles written on “Association” & in one we learned that brother E.P. Grant Esq is the president of a society of Associationists called the “Ohio Phalax” Their Domain is said to be very beautiful consisting of 2100 acres situated in Ohio on the O. river [*Ohio River*] – You are probably aware that these Societies are becoming common throughout the country –

Joel says he thinks something of the kind will be eventually adopted, though not according to the plan of Fourier – thinks there is a great deal of nonsense in their pretensions, & many of their plans visionary, although some of them seem good enough –
To day Daniel planted in the garden
May 22. Wed. Yesterday I visited at Levi’s with old Mrs. Brown our neighbor & Mrs. Burgess a young married lady from the state of N.Y. [*New York*] recently – she is acquitted with Mr. Erastus Holt’s family – says Mrs. Holt is very much esteemed – & her children are pretty & bright – the oldest is a son 11 yrs. of age – the [next?] two daughters – she has a young babe – [Georg…] lives near them builds organs &c. is a [pious?] smart young man – Mary does not now use crutches [*text missing*?]
25. Sat. To day Daniel & a neighbor with whom D. [*Daniel*] has “changed work” are planting potatoes & corn beside our common corn we have some for parching & also “broom corn.”
[*One line erased, reads in part: …* part of the day keep…]
28. To day is the funeral of Miss Sarah love – a young lady much beloved & one of the finest singers in the vicinity – she died of the prevailing epidemic – scarlet fever – it has raged here since the last of Feb. seizing alike old & young. There have been times when the disease has appeared to abate – but there are still new cases every few days – I believe inflammation always attends the fever & if it settles in the bowels the case is considered almost or quite hopeless – we feel that a kind Providence has indeed watched over us for good <*by*> thus far preserving our lives & health –

We last week rec’d [*received*] a paper fr. [*from*] home & a letter fr. [*from*] Joel written at Millbrook [*Connecticut*] – they brought Martha home last of Apr. or first of May in Esq. Battells barouche – she seemed to be considerably affected by the journey but had mostly recovered

from the effect when the letter was written May 6. M. [*Martha Grant*] does not sit up at all. & we have great fear that she will not recover, though they have a little hope think it may be month before the disease conquers her –

Give my love to Miss Hill – We last winter rec'd [*received*] a letter from Mother Grant [*Elizabeth Grant*], Miss Read & Abby Cowles [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] at S. Hadley we have the crickets made & covered – we did not take Levi's farm – please send a paper soon after your reception of this –

They say [Mr?] Hurlbut the tailor in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] is coming out here in June – our people intend to send some letters & things by him if he can bring them

May 29 – Brother Ralph's [*Ralph E. Burr*] birth day – how I want to see the little fellow – one year ago this day we were on Lake Huron –
June 1. One year this day since we landed at Milwaukie

I saw last fall in the N.Y. Observer [New York Observer] a notice of the death of Mrs. Henry Cowles of Oberlin died of pulmonary consumption – age 33 – did you not think she was older?

I saw this Spring in the N.E. Puritan [New England Puritan] notice that Mr. <*& Mrs.*> John Cowles & Mrs. Eunice Caldwell Cowles were in May to reopen the Ipswich Female Sem [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] also saw in the same paper the marriage of Miss Julia Hyde eldest daughter of Rev Davies [Hyde?] of Beckett to Rev. Edward Clarke of Middlefield – I suppose it was our Julia, do not you?

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

No. 7. Washington Square
Philadelphia
Penn [*Pennsylvania*]

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

Prairieville. Jan. 8. 1847 –

My dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I will endeavor my dear Sister to give sufficient attention to my teeth to preserve them, though I do not feel that I shall often expend an half hour daily upon them – I laughed when you said that you had <u>commenced</u> <u>being</u> <u>particular</u> <u>with</u> <u>your</u> <u>own</u>
Wm. Pease said that my front teeth were decayed very badly to fill, & that he gook a great deal of pains <u>in</u> filling them. But I am sorry to say the filling in two of the cavities has for some two months or more been loose & recently a piece came out as large as the head of a pin – there had previously one or two very small particles came out –

Why do not the Madame's & Md'lles' [*mademoiselles*] let you have a better place to study French than in the midst of "A mirthful noisy school girls?" & only occasionally a recitation! I do not see how you can make much advance <*much*>. I would not spend a great deal of time in writing to cousins &c
Harriet Prevost's death must be a <u>deep</u> affliction to her friends – present to them our sympathy & love –

D. Hurlburt appears much as he used to intelligent agreeable &c. looks some older has two children a girl & boy – has acquired a handsome property.
How do you like that plaid dress? The trimming that was on my white hat that I intended to have taken home I have found since returning –
Have had no letter from Father Grants people since my return – have had two from Joel [*Joel Grant*] & Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] – J. has been sick most of the time since June – I rec'd [*received*] letter from our people soon after yours, am glad they sent yours, your lecture to Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] was needful & good, hope he will hear it – I am anxious about Erastus [*Erastus Burr*] – Should like you to forward this home as <*I*> it will save my writing so soon to them –

We are not yet decided where we shall live next summer. Daniel cannot feel that it is best for us to return to Ct. [*Connecticut*] & stay a few years. As it will be so much expense to go & come especially if we move our goods & if any were left they would be in great danger of being destroyed by mice or persons or both & he does not feel <*as though*> that there is any one here with whom we could safely trust our property, land &c & think it would cost a third more to live

there than here – had he built a house last fall the man who was to build the barn would have put it up & [some?] of the $50 that Mr. Short was to pay & some money for D's work last summer was expended for lumber so that arrangements were made not to run much if any in debt for the building of the house

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

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

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

Wankesha. Prairieville, Sept. 11, 1847 –

My dear Sister,

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

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

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

Mr. Codding is now preaching for us – believe the people are well pleased with him. Mrs. C. is an intellectual, intelligent lady – She [sane?] not long since in Milwaukie Mrs. Martha Leach Curtis & Mary Humphrey said they enquired after me, sent love &c. I presume they learned that I resided in Prairieville from the Mem. Catalogue [*Memorial Catalogue from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] – you have rec'd [*received*] one I presume – Mr. Curtis preaches in Ann Arbor Mich. [*Michigan*]

Mrs. Codding said he looked & appeared well, but she did not think he was a great man – is pro-slavery. They were on a journey to Chicago as Mrs. Curtis' health was delicate she having been confined a few weeks previously & lost her child – Mary Humphrey is an assistant in Sem. [*Seminary*] in Racine. I think her sister Helen (widow Paler) resides [there?] now. & Mrs. Codding was not previously acquainted with them, but they happened to be at one place I was exceeding glad to hear from Sarah Sibley – have not yet written her, but intend to when I have time –

Where is cousin Thankful now & where is Warren. & how is his health? Did he visit Vermont with T. this summer? has just curled up in the rocking chair

13 Mon. A.M. I am in the midst of washing but <*but*> Abby has a chill coming on & wants Mama to rock her, so I improve the time in writing – Abby does not like to be bathed in cold water, she frequently says on [waking?] in the morning & during the day, "Mama, need Abby be washed? Abby don't want to be washed" – Willis Tickenor brought her a pretty Maltese kitten the other day which is a great comfort to her – many remark on hearing her talk, that she speaks very plain for one of her age, but she is not constantly jabbering like some children –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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West Winsted June 16,/61. [*in pencil*: 1861]

Dear Aunt, [*in pencil: (Mary Burr*)]

I really meant to have answered your kind letter long before this, and I trust I shall not be so tardy again

I do the milking have all the care of the cow and chickens, and get the tea.

I do not believe I can sit down and write a sober letter about sober things. I am so excited I cannot talk anything, think anything or write any thing but war.

And I have been doubly excited since Mr. Eddy went, and our first and second Conn. [*Connecticut*] Regiments have been stationed half a mile beyond any other U.S. troops. The companys from about here are in the second reg. and our own dear Mr. Eddy is its chaplain he received his appointment Saturday and went Tuesday. I was examined for admission to the church the Monday evening before he left. Oh! He is so good and he has the right spirit too. I'll tell you what I'd like to see him hold of a rebel.

I saw two drops of Col. Elsworth's blood the other day, they were upon the standard of a banister which came from the Marshall house within two feet of where he fell and his blood had spattered on to it. And when I hear about the Ohio troops how when they were reinforced and came back for [their?] dead and wounded, the rebels had severed every finger which had a ring upon it. I declare it is terrible hard work to stand it, it is enough to make any patriots blood boil, and Oh! How I wish I were a man

Millbrook July 26.

I have been home about two weeks and [and?] am fixing up my clothes and am just as tired as I can consistently be.

I was up to Norfolk day before yesterday and made a few calls. Aunt [Crissey?] was not very well.

Sarah and Henry Gaylord came home with us and staid until this morning.

Eddie [*Edward Grant*] sprained his wrist last Saturday so that he has not been able to do much of anything until to-day.

I am studying Arithmetic (Greenleafs National) Latin, and Grammar, and have got along pretty well in them

Mr. Eddy is among the missing of the battle of Bulls-Run and [I?] one other Winsted Volunteer though I have not yet heard definitely about that, all I am certain of is that Mr. Eddy is gone. The last that was seen of him was he was on the field after the <*wounded*> battle carrying water [to/the?] wounded.

We expect Aunt Gertie up here before very long and rather think cousin Mary Burton will come with her.

Please give my love to all.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] niece

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

It was the last battle fought at Bulls Run <*they [guess?]*> that Mr. Eddy was lost. Mother thinks it is called the battle of Manassas.

I think a great many times how awful hateful I used to be to you, and how impatient when you tried to teach me any-thing. I am really very sorry and hope I shall never do so to any one again.

Please give my love to Miss Cowless, and if you have an opportunity remember me to Mr. Clark and tell him that I still remember his Sabbath school teachings with a great deal of pleasure.

Give my love to Grandmother Aunt Kate and All the rest,
Abbie. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]
I am going back to Winsted this week.

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Catskill, Green Co. W.S. [*Wisconsin*] Box 282
Jan 9th 1882.

Dear Cousin Mary

I have post-poned writing to you from day to day that I might give you a good long letter & I don't see that I will ever get the time unless I take it. I have just thrown down a piece of sewing that I am sorely in need of to have a chat with you & yours. When I first reached C. & was at the Hotel I remarked to Mr B. [*William Benton*] "I will write to Cousin Mary Hill" & he replied, "I am going to write" I knew you all would be so glad to see he was able to write that I deferred writing – & ever since I have let different things prevent my writing any letters with the exception of a very few. Mr B. did write to you I believe. The week we were at the Irving-House – the weather was intolerably hot – & yet we were obliged to go out & suit ourselves with a good boarding place for the winter & a good school for M. Aflie [dree?] deliberation we settled upon Mrs Whitteseys' on Summit Ave. She with two maiden sisters – keep the house. It is very high up. & the views & walks are delightful From my South winders I have the mountains & Catskill Creek in full view – & never tire looking at them. I often think of Mr [Dunn?] & the Kaaterskill Hotel. I can see the Kaaterskill Clove from my windows – also the mountain House, plainly. The Catskill Creek is a beautiful stream. We are up on a hill looking right down upon it. It is a winding stream & the banks are high & rocky so that there are no floats or marshing places – & a strong tide flowing in & out & taking all this might be disagreeable with it – The winter so far – has been mild & beautiful Mr Boulin began to improve as soon as the weather got cool – & has continued to do so. He is very much encouraged & so am I So far I have not had such a happy winter for eight years. He seems bright & cheerful is with us a great deal – sits in our room & takes long walks with [my self?] & is companionable & more like his dear old self. & I feel that the 'grass-hopper is no longer a burden' Things that appeared like Elephants to me now seem like Pigmies, I begin to take courage again & hope that all will be well with us here & hereafter. We are so blessed in our Rector Dr Harrison from the South. A most eloquent preacher – he just holds you spell bound – and O! so spiritually minded! He had no manner & yet you feel as he stands before you that it is a seemed St. Paul. We have our pew & my dear husband goes to Church with me every Sunday morning & remains through service & sermon. If Mr B. continues to get well & some of those delightful days of our married life can be lived over again I shall feel like Simeon "Lord now [lettest?] thou thy servants depart in peace" It really seems as if my mind had been so on the strains that this sudden relief is like sunshine out of the dark clouds. Mr B's money affairs (investments) trouble him – yet he bears it so different from any thing before since I have known him that I feel more hopeful. He wanted me this winter to board M. [with?] Miss Gaylord (the lady to whom she goes to school) & go with him to Florida. A party of his friends were going from here Two gentlemen & their families, & they sailed from U.S. last Wednesday gone with a view of investing & settling. I agreed to go – but told him I thought the hot climate would not do him any good as he suffered so much this last summer, but I would go with him. He came to the conclusion that this cold weather agreed with him best & it is post-poned until next winter. We do not care to settle here. It is a lovely looking country – but in a business point of view – not much of it. Mr B. had numerous [Corbuman lar?] boils after he came here but did not seem any the worse for them <*it*> – but on the contrary better. He had his urine examined by a physician

who assured him that was nothing of kidney trouble that has given him another impetus. He goes back & forth to Hudson on his private business. A dear little Steamer (the Eloise) did ply between H. & the place until a few weeks ago – where she was taken off until next Spring the round trip was 20 cts. Now we have to cross in the ferry boat to the East side & then take the cars. M. too has improved wonderfully – She has gained 12 lbs. Miss Gaylord says it is "wonderful" Miss G. has taught for 30 years. She is bringing M. on finely. She is studying Latin & Physiology this term. She has grown very much & looks healthy.

We do not care to settle here on her account. Miss G. will break up her school in the spring & retire to a beautiful place in the country that she has just bought – then M. has to be changed again & we are thinking of some place where there is a college & let her [enter?] & finish. & we must look out for a place to introduce her into society

It is rather late but let me wish you all a very happy New Year I hope you all enjoyed a very pleasant Xmas & New Year.

Did Allie get my little box?

Ours was quite a pleasant one – Mr B. & self gave M. a handsome writing Desk – Her birthday came on the 9th of Dec. (She was twelve) & her father gave her a very handsome broad plain gold ring with name & date & I a locket – so when Xmas came we united & gave her one present. She received many beautiful cards from Bessie Van Syckle. She also received a handsome pen knife Mr. B received a handsome china cup & sauce from me. Mr. Benton's improved condition was my Xmas gift & I wish no other – In about a month (D.V.) he will make a few visits alone – I think he will go to <*kind*> Kinderhook, Poughkeepsie & Castleton I think they do him good. He is not willing that M. should be taken out of school now & I cannot leave [her?], & it costs more for 3 to go than for two. I hear good news from home (i.e.) all are well. Did you know that my dear Aunt Mary Pearson at Bordertown lost her adopted son Robbin Hunt? I cannot tell you what a blow it is to her. She took him when 8 years old & had brought him up a splendid farmer & she had given up things pretty much to him & she looked upon him as her support in her old age (she is now near 70) He was her nephew & heir. She is now entirely alone in the old homestead "Spring Hill" When so many dear ones home have been carried out & laid in the family burying ground

He died of Malaria. It was sudden. It attacked the brain on Sunday & he died the following Thursday. He was delirious most of that time. I would never dare to take Mr B. there after this but I did wish <*he*> I had a home to invite her to at least for awhile. She is too much crushed to write to me yet.

Now for your dear [Celoes?] – How are you? Mr Benton sends much love & wants to know particularly how Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill Wright*] stands the school? How does she hold out? Well I hope. Was Sam [*Samuel Hill*] at home during the holidays? Tell him when you write that I could not have lived to get here without that Palmleaf fan he gave me at the depot. It hangs in my room with his name on it. Tell the girls to write & tell me all they know about themselves. Remember us very kind so Dr Parish. Love to cousin William & all the junior cousins – I love you all very much & think of my sojourn with you last summer with pleasure. I hope you all will keep in health this winter – Have you had any rain yet? We have had an abundance. Now my dear Cousins I think I have given you a long letter & as much news as I have in my budget – at this time. Hope you will give me a long one full of news of yourselves in return. You can send this to Cousin Carrie if you wish to & request her not to sent it any where else but to destroy it, & a little later in the season I will write to her. Please remember us to inquiring friends & accept a larger share of love for each & all from

Your sincerely attached
Cousin
Mary H. Benton

[P.S.?] numerous interruptions have caused numerous mistakes. The arrival of a [nice?] bill of goods from Stewarts' was one. I got a whole piece of Victoria [Yarn?] so you can see I am going to have some white dresses & white […?].

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[*Addressed to Pamela Benton Burr?*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday All our families have gone to church but Mary & I fancy you are at church also We have but one service & no Sunday school in winter Our minister preaches in Berlin 4 or 5 miles from here in the P.M. so one minister answers for the two towns We are hearing candidates now. Mr Boys the former Minister that married Mary Edes has gone to Nantucket. We are trying to get a minister to suit both Parishes & thus be able to give a salary of $1,100 & the use of the Parsonage. Both congregations are small. Do you take any interest in the Andover controversy & which side do you favor the Professor or their opponents? I hope the Professors are in the right although it is contrary to my early training. "As the tree falleth so it lies." There seems to be quite an over turning of old beliefs & a great searching after the truth.

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

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

Affectionately

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

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[Extract from Miss Farrar's [*Cynthia Farrar*] letter to Miss S. [*Joanna H. Smith*] dated Nov. 23, '48.]

In Nuggar [*India*] & in the villages around, many are seeking to know the Lord, & to obey his word.

Eight were received into the church here in September. One was from a village 40 m. distant, another 20. One was a brahmin of much promise; another s teacher of the girls boarding school; - one was a pupil of that school; - one, a cruel persecutor of his pious wife, & of all who love the Savior; - the other two also, were interesting, promising subjects of the power of grace. Next Sabbath week, six or seven others are expected publicly to profess their faith in Christ, one of whom is a pupil from one of my schools, but now with me as an assistant in my family school. Three girls of the boarding school have received baptism with a view of being united to the church at next communion. This has exerted the severest persecutions we have ever experienced. No method is left untried for breaking up all our schools. The two under my care <*have*> besides the family school, have scarcely survived the persecutions of brahmins, & other influential <*friends*> Hindoos. But they begin to revive, & it is delightful to see the increased love, which the dear girls manifest for their christian lessons.

It would be most painful, could you know what the three girls, who have received baptism, have endured from their persecuting friends. Two of them were induced to go home on a visit, with the hope of softening their persecuting feeling against them. But sad indeed has it proved. They were constantly watched & guarded night & day to prevent their escape & return to the boarding school. One of them, however, did effect her escape, & is now happy at school again. The other, it is supposed, has been conveyed away by her friends to some distant <*a*> place where they have some small estates among family connexions. What may be her situation we know not, as not a word has been heard from her since she was taken away.

A few weeks ago, the wife of the head man of a neighboring village, fled from her abusive husband to the boarding school for refuge, & actually destroyed her caste by eating with the girls, before Mr. & Mrs. Ballantine, who have the care of the school, knew what she intended to do. She is now employed in cooking for those who reside on the premises, & she gives encouraging attention to Christian instructions.

Miss Joanna H. Smith
Care of Lincoln Clark, Esq.
Tuscaloosa
Ala.
Forwarded April 1, 1848

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EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY MISS FRANCIS B. BANISTER, THREE DAYS AFTER LEAVING HER SISTER'S HOUSE, AT MT. RURAL, NEWBURYPORT.

"No. 11, Chester Park, Boston
Nov. 20, 1868

My very dear friends at Mt. R. [*Mount Rural, Newburyport*] and Broad Street (as I can write but one letter):

Many thanks, more than I can express for all your kindness, tender sympathies, and loving, trustful prayers, and for kind letter received since I came here.

Thanks for that precious passage of Holy Writ, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee." I am trying to rest and trust just there, and if I have not just that "perfect peace," I have a pleasant quiet and cheerfulness, whether of nerves or mere natural temperament, or in part the result of true living trust, I dare not say. I need not ask it, I know you will continue your prayers for me, and I desire you to ask for me more and truer spiritual life and faith. I love to live here on God's beautiful earth, in this world where Christ lived, suffered, died and rose again for our redemption; and I should like to live still. I feel that there is much to live for; yet if our heavenly Father has other purposes, I think I can say, "As thou wilt." Ask that I may not deceive myself. I do not find any ground of hope for future happiness in my own merits, or any thing in my past life; but only the righteousness and atoning blood of the Son of God, can I hope. But, over and over, have I committed all my cause to Him, and I do so now: and I know, that "he is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

I thought you would all like an expression from my inmost spirit, so you have it."

On Wednesday, March 24, a friend who saw Miss Banister for a few minutes, said to her "You are resting quietly on the arms of your Saviour," she replied promptly and with a sweet smile,"Oh, Yes, my trust is in him alone, He is all my hope."

To another who saw her at the close of the Sabbath, (March 28,)# she said in reply to the suggestion, that though not present at Church, she had been there in spirit, "No I think not, I have been drowsy and sleeping," and in a moment added, "Before another Sabbath I shall be where there is no more sleep."

three days before her death

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[*Addressed to unknown*] from Cousin Cornelia Benton to Caroline Grant?
New Haven March 12th
My Dear Cousin,

Jennie & Husband and Bertie have just made us a visit, was glad to see them, it brings to mind days that past, that I spent with my dear Aunt O how much like a dream my life appears as I look backward. I have thought of you and Edward in your affliction, although my silence would not indicate it. I am glad he is able, as Jennie told us to be about and do a little work, he has had a <u>long hard siege</u>. I do not wonder he feels discouraged, and yet if we fully trust, and believe that "not a sparrow falls to the ground without His is notice," and that He <u>is</u> leading us <u>every step</u>, although the way does seem dark, and mysterious. <u>He cannot make a mistake, trust Him</u>, some good must come out of all this, I think there is contained in this poem a beautiful thought.

My Father God, lead on!
Calmly I follow where Thy guiding hand
Directs my steps, I would not trembling stand,
Though all before the way

Is dark as night; I stay
My soul on Thee, and say
Father I trust Thy love, lead on.

I have not heard from Aunt Susan [*Susan Jane Benton Wallis?*] in a long time, for the reason that I have not written to her, I shall write very soon. We have had company this winter most of the time, it so happened, but as I have been able to entertain them I have enjoyed it, a number of Mr B's relatives have been here. Brother David is keeping house alone a good deal of the time this winter as Eunice likes to be away with her children. D. is as well as usual. Ollie is keeping house in N. York [*New York*] she is daily expecting another heir, if she has it not already, her little girl is 2 years last Sep. a pretty child name Viola. Fred Benton had a son born last Jan. an only one. There is nothing special to write about my children only they are well and seen to be prospered to a small extent. Raymond has two children, son and daughter. Fran has one son three years old Fannie still remains with us keeping house on our 2nd floor. Bessie is in school she could have graduated this year, but we thought it would seem to crowd her to much, so we deferred it until next-year, she has always been to Mrs. Cady'[s] private school. She is <u>not</u> very strong, but expect she will be more vigorous when through her school. Gracie's eldest daughter is through high school, is now a book keeper for her father, so cannot help her mother much, all the others are in school the two youngest go to a private Kindergarten. Emma and her family are in very good health the three children are all in school. Alonzo's family have some of them suffered with what they called the "La Grippe." I think the little girl is not very well since but they expect she will come out all right. <u>We</u> were not troubled with "Grippe" <u>or</u> any <u>such</u> <u>thing</u>.

I would like to hear about the Flemington friends. I do not hear only when I hear from you. Your husband must have had a lonely time the past year. I suppose he learned to take care of himself while in the west. We attended the Stodard course of lectures this winter it was very interesting as well as instructive, two of the lectures were upon the life of Napoleon, while that was fresh in our memory, we had an opportunity to attend a play, <*of the*> entitled 'Life of Josephine' it was very fine.

Mr Baldwin's health is very good, he is able to attend to business every day and has had some <u>one</u> building in process of erection for the last – fifteen years, but now he has none, and is helping Mr [Braly?] about his moving business when he feels like it. He has caused to be erected 20 brick buildings on this little square of land, and still there is room for more. Mr. B. [*Baldwin*] thinks we will visit his friends in Iowa and Minnesota next summer we went to Ocean Grove last summer, and other places.

Now dear cousin I would like to hear from you, and please tell me about <u>all</u> of our relatives. Nancy too, do you know where Cousin Warren is? We supposed he was to spend the winter in Georgetown, with his wife's relatives, but we fail to get an answer from there. Frank Benton is in N. H. [*New Hampshire*] working for Fred Benton in the box manufactory, has Jessie gone west again? We would all be very glad to have a visit from you, and would it not be the best thing for you to have a change from your ardious duties of the past year, and so spend a few weeks with us, it would be convenient now as any time come right along.

Yours with much love
Cornelia [*Benton Baldwin?*]
22 Whalley Av.
N. Haven, Ct.

[*Written in pencil on the bottom of the last page, is the following*]
would like this returned please CG [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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[*Addressed to unknown*]
(Copy) of Sarah W. Curtis writing
Lee, Nov. 14, 1921

As all things have so changed I have destroyed my will and leave this writing in place of a will. In the first place I would have all debts and care of me in sickness, and all funeral expenses <u>fully</u> paid, together with my name on the stone in Stockbridge where I would be burried beside my Dear husband and as things now are I would have Ethel C. Ambler and Lucy C. Grant share

equel in all that is left. I have promised our Dear Heavenly Father that should I get the money in the note given by Lizzie Cobb, I would give one tenth for missions and in doing this I would give twenty five dollars to the church in Interlaken and Twenty five to the church in Southfield and the remaining one tenth to go to the Baptist Association Incorporate for the aid of the feeble Baptist churches in Berkshire County. Should I get the money on the Cobb note I should be glad <to> if there was enough left to give one hundred dollars to Helen Wurtzbach and Fifty Dollars to Mrs. Adda Wilder, and Fifty dollars to Charles Curtis' two boys, Twenty five to Raymond and 25. to his brother Charles, and if there should be any left I would have Lucy Grant and Ethel Ambler share equel. My heart is with you all.

Sarah W. Curtis.

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[*Addressed to*] Rev. Asa A. Morrison
(Copy of a letter to the Association)
Southfield, Mass
July 22, 1924

Rev. Asa A. Morrison Sec.
Dear Mr Morrison;

The New Marlboro Baptist Church of Southfield inc has been federated with the Congregational church of Southfield for the past twelve years. Many of the Baptist people have moved away or have been removed by death, so there are now only six members of our Baptest Church. Two of our members are non-resident, and the other four are my three daughters and myself. We are away from Southfield during the winter. The pastor of our Federated Church is Rev. M. J. B. Fuller. He is living in our Baptist parsonage and pays rent which we use toward keeping the parsonage in repair. This year we have put electric lights into the parsonage, and we are having the outside of the building painted. We feel a deep interest in the spiritual wellfare of the churches in Berkshire County and want to keep in touch with the Berkshire Baptist Association.

Lucy C. Grant

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[*fragment to Caroline Burr Grant*]
a young man might not shrink from being so understood for himself & a woman to whom his feelings go forth, she would be more likely to have a shrinking from a manifestation of a love, which she knows she should keep at bay, only as she allows it to be turned towards a man, to whom she sees the way open to give her self as her earthly companion for life. -- Feelings like hers are in thousands of cases. Laid open before our heavenly Father, with the longing, heart felt prayer "Lord, what then have me to do?" And he hears & helps. In the felt presence of Jehovah, & a sense of his perfect knowledge of us & of his parental feelings towards us, our self will is subdued. We choose that God should be glorified in us & by us, & by all with whom we have to do. Choosing him for our portion, we choose to do his will, & are by grace enabled to say, Not any will, but thine be done.

How has A. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr?*] manifested her faith & love & new obedience? Has she, on the whole shown that it was her unwavering purpose to obey the precepts of our Savior? Has she accepted the eternal life that God has given us? That life is in his Son, as tho [Fountains?] & in us only as we are united to him by a living faith. I hope the dear child goes to him, & accepts salvation as a free gift: & look to him to guide her step by step. In every thing, by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving we are directed to make known our requests unto God. No other one earthly thing is of more importance to our well being, than that connected with what we do in reference to that first institution inaugurated in paradise by the Father of all, & making Adam & Eve one duality.

It is not always easy for children to see, that their parents desire & seek the highest good of their children: & that for their future well-being in this life, & the life to come, they are disposed, often, to make every effort & proper sacrifice. In opposing matrimonial alliances, that they regard

injudicious or untimely, it is the good of the child, that they have in view. When I was a pupil of Rev. Joseph Emerson in 1820, I remember asking him whether in matters of love & marriage, persons should be influenced by the opinions of their friends? Whether this was not rather a matter of their own? He replied, A person that will not be influenced by friends ought not to have friends; or is not worthy of friends. And surely on this the most important subject next to securing their own salvation, that ever comes before a human being, the counsel of friends, is as important as it possibly can be. They care for the good of their friend, who by the making up of a tender emotion on the exercise of a strong passion, which they call love, is liable to be led contrary to sound judgment & discretion. Love will not be pure & lasting, unless it has good judgment for its basis -- The principles of a man are more to be relied on, together with his general character, to make his wife a happy woman, than any strength of a love before marriage. That is more liable to grow cold, than his warmer sense is to vanish.

Let this dear child be constantly held up in faith before God by her parents, & all to whom her well-being is so dear. Remind her when you write of the precept & premise James [1:5?]

[*separate unpaginated sheet, perhaps a different letter*]
after she came & has suffered less since than before, Mrs. P & the children have gained comfort by rest & they think a higher state of health. They all join me in love to you all.

You did well to mention your father & mother so definitely. My love to each of them particularly, & an assurance of my sympathy in their infirmities, & in their looking to Christ alone for deliverance from sin & suffering. A definite remembrance to Daniel, & sympathy in his state of difficulty in deciding what next to attempt. I send to him Prov. 3:6 & James 1:5. The Bible would not be complete without these precepts to be obeyed, & these promises to be believed & pleaded. Tell Marcus he is often present to my thots. [*thoughts*] & that I desire that God may be his inheritance. Truly yrs [*yours*],

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

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Aug 27, 1869.
Tues. 2 1/2 p.m.

My dear Nephew,

I know not whether to think of you as at the homestead or in the church at Colebrook Centre [*Connecticut*].

Tues. 6 1/2 p.m. All of you have returned from the burial of your father to the homestead. It seems desolate. Tho [*though*] you feel that the sting of death was taken away in this case, as it is with believers, the world around, its sadness remains. & after the laying away of the body, <u>dust to dust</u>, the bereavement seems greater than while it remained in the house. The care that had been so constant, so pressing has ceased. Your main occupation seems to be gone. In the case of a widow, who has lived for her husband, it is not difficult to conceived of the element of that sense of being good for nothing; of being no longer wanted in the world; or no longer essential to the happiness of any one person, that in their lack of a divine revelation, they should be tempted, & be ready, to be burned on the funeral pile. But each of you in that lone homestead, has various calls to present, active duty. Besides, you cannot mourn with out hope in case of the departed as the heathen do. You can see things in same measure as God does. And you can sympathize with the psalmist in the expression, “Precious in the sight of the lord is the death of his saints” The highest rewards promised by our glorious Redeemer, to his disciples, is that they should be with him, behold his glory, & be like him. Our dear departed one, has no doubt entered into the joy of our Lord, is now enjoying what he enjoyed, & in sympathy with him in his love; his love to God the Father, his love to all that God loves.

Your having ministered to your father I have regarded as a favor not only to your father, to Marcus & Caroline, to all your father’s children & grandchildren, to his Christian friends & his acquaintances generally, but also as a special favor of our heavenly Father to myself. It has for months been a subject for constant gratitude. It was your privilege to minister to his spiritual, as

well as his temporal wants. You could be tender towards him, even as a nurse cherished her children. Caroline & Marcus too have done what they could every way. --

Your frequent & full communications to me have been a wonderful comfort. Next to my being personally present to enable me to sympathize with my elder, my only brother, as he was descending into the valley of the shadow of death. By being permitted to be with you in spirit, I have had a tender, a sad, a cheerful satisfaction. At the present time, it is better to seem to be in the house of mourning, than in the house of feasting.

In love & sympathy
Z.P.B [*Zipah Polly Grant Banister*]

My love to Abbey [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] & John [*John Grant*]. You will tell me particulars of the funeral.

In fellowship yours Z.P.B.
[*Zipah Polly Grant Banister*]

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[*Transcription: original not in collection*]
[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Savannah [*Georgia*], Jan. 19, 1832

My dear Parents,

You probably have received a letter which I commenced writing Jan. 14 which was finished by cousin Roscana. That informed you of my sudden departure from Ipswich. Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*] accompanied me to Boston Wednes. P. M. to assist me in making arrangements for my passage to this place. Then I expected to go on to Providence [*Rhode Island*], & from thence to N. Y. [*New York*] & set sail for Savan [*Savannah*]. But on arriving in Boston, I found a ship was soon to sail from there & it was judged best for me to come in it. It was expected then that it would sail on Fri. so I was full of business Thurs. Miss Lyons advised & assisted me in making necessary purchases which we nearly completed at one o'clock. We then prepared to accept an invitation to dinner at Hon. Samuel Hubbard's. I enjoyed this visit much. It is a remarkably well regulated family. Mr. H. [*Hubbard*] has seven children, five by his former wife, & two by his present one. Miss Eliza Hubbard, his eldest daughter, is now here. She has been journeying with Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] for many months. Thurs. eve. the Capt. the ship Olive Branch in which I was expecting to sail came & spent the evening at Capt. Lovett's. No. 19. Hancock St. where we were boarding. We sent an invitation to him the morning previous. He, Capt. Dyer is a plain, but sensible man, & I shall ever feel grateful to him for his kind attentions during the passage. I was the only lady on board. There was one passenger besides myself. Mr. Herring lieutenant in the U. S. army. He was a Virginian educated at West Pt. [*West Point*] He was intelligent & rather gentlemanly. Sabbath morn about 11 o'clock we left Central wharf at Boston in the ship Olive Branch. The ship was well built, about 120 ft. long & of 400 tons burthen. The day we set sail was mild & very warm for New Eng. [*England*] Not a wave but small ripples were to be seen. About four miles from the wharf we passed between the islands on which the forts are situated. Fort Independence on Castle Is. [*Island*]. is west & Fort Warren the old fort east of the place where ships enter the harbor. About 100 men are stationed at Fort In. [*Fort Independence*] Walls of brick are raised 30 ft. I should think, on the east & south sides of it. These walls are white washed almost every summer. The earth is raised some higher than the wall, & there appear to be some fine buildings upon the island. We passed on pleasantly. About 6 miles from shore the pilot returned. I spent most of the day on deck hoping by that means to be less sea sick. I felt rather lonely. The crew were remarkably orderly, there were about 18 persons on board, including all, a cat, & about 14 fowls. I was sea sick only the first three days. After this, I relished our food as much as ever, which was wholesome. On an island, eight miles from the wharf, is the light house to guide eastern vessels & about a mile further is one to guide vessels into the port of Boston. The quarantine is on Painesford Island. Vessels are not detained there now. Capt. Dyer stayed there 10 days last Feb. on account of the cholera. There is a hospital, a surgeon's house, & some buildings on the island. I took some beef soup for dinner, thickened with rice & a few slices of turnips boiled in it. Soup was our first dish every day on board made either of beef, mutton or fowl <*beef*>. I suppose I could not have had better

accommodations, & nothing more could I wish but a companion. I mean some lady's company. I had a state room, in which were four berths to myself. Saw the towns of Hull [*Massachusetts*] & Hingham [*Massachusetts*] to the west of us. Scituate [*Rhode Island*] meeting house was in sight most of Sab. [*Sabbath*] P. M. I took a cup of black tea & retired to rest about six o'clock, sea sick. After this we saw no more land till the next week. Fri. morn, a period of 11 days.

Mon. morning. I rose about sun rise sea sick, & hastened to go on deck, where the fresh air & some vomiting soon relieve me. No place about a ship is so pleasant as the deck. I never became weary looking at the waves & the motion of the vessel mounting a wave & then descending sometimes appeared very majestically. I rested considerable the first two nights indeed. I slept pretty well, excepting two nights all the time. - Tues. A. M. was cold & cloudy, though I stayed on deck most of the time because I felt much better than in the cabin. We had a fine turky for dinner. It rained in the P. M. & the wind blew hard from the S. E. The boat rocked very much. I had not been able to support myself for some time, but now this was not only my case, but that of all on board. You would be amused to take your meals on board a ship when the wind blows. The table is made fast to the floor, & the dishes are prevented from sliding from it be a frame. Even then it was often difficult to keep our seats & see to our coffee & plates. The Capt. first mate, Mr. Herring & myself took our meals together. Tues. evening about 10 o'clock the wind suddenly changed to the N. W. & blew in a gale for 12 hours. No one slept any more, or but very little that night. It did seem that we certainly should capsize. I never passed such a night, & I then felt that nothing would ever incite me to take another voyage. I found some comfort in committing myself to Him who controls the winds & waves, & in feeling the Judge of all earth does all things well. The Sab [*Sabbath*] before I committed those verses in the 10th Ps. [*Psalm*] which contain an interesting description of a storm at sea from verses 23 – 31. Perhaps some of the children would like to learn those verses. In the serm [*sermon*] at Ips [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] just before I left about $70.00 was collected for the Seamens Friend Soc. [*Seamen's Friend Society*] & almost 100 for a Theological Sem. [*Seminary*] in Jefferson Co. Ohio. Miss Lyon mentioned four reasons why the seamen had a claim on our benevolence. 1. Because they were exposed to great hard ships in this life. 2. Great exposure to a premature death. 3. The salvation of their soul. 4. Their instrumentality in converting the world. These increase in importance the last outweighing all the others. Mr. Hubbard of Boston thinks no society more in need of assistance now, than this.

Wednes. morn. Was rejoiced to find the wind abating. I went on deck the sea was high. The spray often rose so high as to sprinkle me. It repays for some suffering to see the ocean in such a situation. I do not think I have language to describe it to you. At one time the waves were from 30 to 40 ft. high & they were several times from 15 to 20 or 25 ft. Sometimes a hill of water would be moving towards the ship much higher than we were & it seemed as if it wd. [*would*] soon bury us, but the ship wd. [*would*] rise, or the wave die away. It is wonderful how the ships do avoid them so much. I saw a great number of porpoises darting through the water. They would weigh 100 pds. [*pounds*] are chiefly valuable for their oil, & are caught with harpoons. I suffered very little more from sickness. Friday I finished reading a tract "The Backslider" which I think very good. Wednes. P.M. The Capt. & mates kept trying the heat of the water to ascertain of we were in the Gulf Stream. At four o'clock the thermometers rose to 76 degrees so that the Capt. had no doubt but we were in the G.S. [*Gulf Stream*] He hoped not to get so far east as the stream, but the wind was unfavorable, & it cd. [*could*] not be avoided. The Gulf Stream is from 60 to 80 m. [*miles*] wide, & extends to the coast of Newfoundland. Sea weed is floating about it in great abundance which resembles ground pine. The air here was peculiarly soft & warm as May days in New Eng. [*England*] Wednes. night the rain fell in torrents. Squalls were frequent all the time the ship was in the G.S. [*Gulf Stream*] Thursday stayed below because of the rain. Spent most of the time reading Memoir of Felix Neff. The gale I mentioned on Tues. night, should have been Thurs. night. This was much more violent than the first. During the evening there was much thunder, & sharp lightning. After this, the wind blew from the N. W. One of sails was taken away. The Capt. thought it very fortunate that the sails were furled, otherwise he thought the whole might have sunk. Fri. I went on deck before breakfast, & remained there about five min. The ocean was indeed a grand sight. I did not go on deck again till Sat. We saw three vessels sailing most of the day. Sat. P. M. was very mild & Sab. [*Sabbath*] very pleasant I read the book of Hos. [*Hosea*] When on deck saw large collections of sea weed. At a distance it appeared

yellow. Its color depends in a measure on its situation in the water. If two or three ft. [*feet*] below the surface it was a beautiful green. When on the surface, not so lively. Probably this is in part owing to the age of the weed. About sunset on deck I witnessed a scene which I fancy had I been blessed by the muses I should have seized as favorable to write poetry. The waters were gently undulating, & on every side of each [.... ....] hill of waters were numberless ripples. The horizon was skirted with broken clouds. The light of the fading day still lingered in west for some time only one gem twinkled in the heavens then one & another peeped out. The wind was soft & refreshing. I silently enjoyed it till the Capt. asked me down to tea. About poetry.....Abigail & John would learn to love poetry. When I was in Taunton [*Massachusetts*], Mr. Reed's children I thought had a pretty way of amusing themselves by capping poetry as they termed it. One would repeat a line, then another wd. [*would*] repeat one commencing with the same letter which ended the previous line, as if one should say, Deep in the waves is a coral grove, E is the last letter. The next line might be, Eye hath not seen it, my gentle boy, the next line begins with Y I think. Martha & even Marcus would like to it sometimes Mr. Joseph Emerson said at I. [*Ipswich*] last summer that poetry ought to receive 1000 times the attention it has yet received. Repeat poetry proper lines if you repeat at all. Mon. morning the waves were quite high but the motion was pleasant, no rocking but resembling swings, the head of the ship rising & then the stern. the waves usually break to the leeward that is if the wind is N. W. they fall away to the S. E. Tues. & Wednes. we were nearly in the latitude of Savannah but 300 miles from the coast & the direction of the wind such as the render the prospect discouraging as to what time we shd. [*should*] arrive at Savannah, but Wednes. night the wind changed & continued favorable the remainder of the passage. We were soon wafted over the Gulf Stream & Friday morning the land was in sight & a pilot was received on board. Sat. about ten o'clock I arrived at Savannah & sent to the P. O. for a letter which Aunt Z. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] had lodged there that I might know where to find her. About 11 I found her & now am pleasantly situated in a boarding house with Aunt & Miss Hubbard. Coming up the river the scenery was very pleasant. Flocks of duck, crows & rice birds were flying about in all directions – Aunt & Miss H. [*Hubbard*] are expecting to accompany me to Forsythe [*Georgia*]. They will probably remain there about one month. Aunt expects to be in Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] next summer. We expect to go by steam boat to Augusta [*Georgia*], from thence by stage to Milledgeville [*Georgia*], then to Macon [*Georgia*]. Forsythe [*Georgia*] is 24 miles beyond Macon [*Georgia*]. I do not know what my school is to be yet. There are two departments male & female. Mr. Parsons the principal has a general superintendence of the female department though I suppose they are principally committed to me. You may direct your letters to Forsythe, Monroe Co. Ga. [*Georgia*] The accent of Forsythe is on the last syllable. The th has the aspirate sound. I expect to remain there a year. My dear father have you though that you have not written me one word since I left home, though I doubt not I have your best wishes & parental regard but will you write me one letter this winter. I suppose you are not so pressed with business as in summer. I wish you wd. [*would*] describe to me the state of the church & society in Colebrook [*Connecticut*], also the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school. Brother Daniel will you write me a minute description of our house? Abigail, will you write me about the school & our friends. Give my love to our cousins, aunts & uncles. Aunt received a letter containing the news of Aunt Pettibone's death last Sat. the day I arrived here. We sympathize with them & hope they will be comforted.

From your affectionate,
Mary [*Mary Grant*]
[*along the center of the letter is a greeting from Aunt Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] "I love you all, Zilpah Grant"

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

One of sister Mary Grant's letters wh. [*which*] my children may like to look over She was then 22 yrs. old

Forsyth. Geo. [*Georgia*] May 29, 1833

My dear Parents,

A long time has again elapsed since I have written to, or received any intelligence from you. Aunt & Miss Hubbard left here the 28th of Apr. & I suppose, if prospered they are now in, or near, New Eng [*New England*]. I received a letter from them written in Lexington, N.C. [*North Carolina*] 350 miles from Forsyth.

The weather is very warm here now, I think about as warm as any part of the season at home. I usually carry an umbrella to screen me from the sun The nights are pretty cool, & the evenings & mornings, when pleasant or clear are very fine. I have taken one morning walk, but I generally keep my room after supper. I rise with the sun usually, & retire before ten. In this family, we breakfast a little past six, dine about one, & have supper about seven. I should prefer supper an hour & half earlier, but am pleased with the regularity of our meals. – I think vegetation two months in advance of Conn [*Connecticut*]. What time there are the peach & apple tress in blossom? Strawberries began to be red the last of April though not ripe. Raspberries are now in their best state. Mr. Lumpkin has a fine supply. We have them in pies, or in milk for dinner. Peas, beans beets, & Irish potatoes are now abundant. Some of the potatoes are quite grown. A few days since we had some green apple dumplins [*dumplings*] for dinner. Plumbs begin to be ripe. Peach trees are loaded with fruit. Next month they will begin to ripen. So much for food & vegetations. One thing more. I said something in one of my letters about the variety of meat & bread at out table, I think you might gain an incorrect idea from it. These are all we ever have. I think the difference between this, & other boarding houses is that all or almost all the variety we ever have, is on the table every meal. I sometimes feel tired of hot bread, fresh meats, etc. Of late, we have had some cold wheat bread on the table. A great many live mostly to eat & dress in this state, I think.

May 30 Wednes. eve.

I believe I have written to you respecting the scarlet fever prevailing here. The sickness still continues, & often proves fatal. Today the funeral of a young man was attended, & yesterday two children were buried. This young man had been sick about four days. The first case of sickness was about March 1, a wagoner was brought here sick in the evening & died that night. Soon two little negroes in the family where the man died were violently seized, & each within 24 hours was a corpse. The physicians knew not how to account for the disease. Some thought it was the cholera, & some that the children were poisoned. One child was dissected, which satisfied them the children were not poisoned. The first symptoms are vomiting coldness of the extremities, or fever, if death soon ensues, spasms usually attend the dying agonies.

There have been 18 deaths in this village, more, many more than have occurred since the settlement of Forsyth [*Georgia*]. This disease prevails in various parts of the state, & in Alabama. Some of the most eminent physicians do not hesitate to pronounce the disease, the <u>real</u>, <u>Asiatic</u> Cholera. Indeed, quite as much alarm prevails as did last summer in New Eng [*England*]. Parents who had sent their children here to school, have sent for them, & some who live in the village have feared to send their children to school. It is thought the number of scholars would have been 50 greater, had there been no unusual sickness. I do not write this my dear parents, to alarm you, but I thought should I have the disease, & not recover, you would prefer I should write just what is felt by the community. I have not been afraid at all, nor do I now suffer from fear, yet I feel, that I know not what a day may bring forth. I have been exposed by being with the sick considerably, but am still well. I do not yet regret coming here, though the prospects of the school are nothing so favorable as they were. Mr. Parsons now assists me three hours & a half a day in my school. I have about 40 pupils. Many of them have been sick, five of them are now so. Some of them are rather difficult to manage, though they generally do well. Scholars here have less encouragement<s> to study than with us. Parents, & other members of families are not readers, particularly the female part of community, & often undervalue education. They feel that they [confer...?] a favor on teachers to send their children [to?] school, & some easily take offence, & remove their children. We must, however, remember that this county has been settled but ten y[*ea*]rs. It is the testimony of all whom I have heard speak on the subject, that there is a gradual improvement in many respects every year. There is less fighting, less swearing less Sab. [*Sabbath*] breaking, (the profanation of the Sab. [*Sabbath*] is now very lamentable) & much less of the vice of intemperate drinking. At a recent meeting of the Tem. Soc. [*Temperance*

Society] 20 new members were added. I hope & think our school will do something towards raising the standards of education.

Next Sab. [*Sabbath*] a Sab. school is to [*be*] organized. You may wonder why this has not been done before. I know of <of> no justifiable reason. Parents generally are not interested. Sab. schools have been opened two or three times here but not succeeding well, have been relinquished. Some professors of religion openly say they are opposed to Sab. schools. I know not why they are opposed. There are this season to be two schools, one in the Meth. Soc. [*Methodist Society*] the other Bap. [*Baptist*] & Pres. [*Presbitarians*] united. The Meth. [*Methodist*] school will be much the largest. How does the Sab. school in Colebrook flourish? Where or in what part of the bible are they studying? Do you recite the lesson at home Sat evening, together as you did last winter I was at home? Who teaches the various schools in town? Is Elizabeth Rockwell teaching? Is Louisa R married?

June 2. I received a letter from Aunt & Miss H. written by, Miss H. last evening. It was May 18, about 35 miles from Charlottesville, Va. [*Virginia*] They had then been detained by impassable streams about a week within five miles of the private family in which they stayed. Not a word said how Aunt endured the fatigue of the journey, only at one time she was unable to proceed, & at another she feared the damp weather. I know it is trying to her health to ride to far, but I hope in the end it might be no injury to her health.

They spent a day at Charlottesville [*Virginia*] & visited the University also Jefferson's seat at Monticello three miles from C. [*Charlottesville*] With the situation of his seat they were delighted , but the place is now going to ruins His grave is surrounded by a stone wall, in the woods, & is a sorry looking place. It was a disappointment to be prevented from proceeding on their way. I do wish you would both write to me. I suppose you have a great many cares, & I will be contented that your letters be rather few, but you can influence the children to write. I want to know all about you, & my brothers & sisters, relatives & neighbors. I love them all. Tell them so. Does Mr. Holden live with you yet. What hired help have you? How is your health? That you may live to the glory God here, & when your [*hole in letter*.?..] in this vale of tears is run, be [admitted?] through the redemption [*hole in letter*.?..] Christ, to Heaven, is the desire of your daughter.

Mary [*Mary Grant*]

Abigail, you will be 13 yrs. [*years*] old, before this letter reaches you? Do you grow as your years increase, in whatsoever is lovely, & good report? Pay great attention to forming good habits, habits of self government. Do what ever you do, well To do right is to promote the greatest happiness & suffer yourself to do nothing you feel to be wrong. What books do you read? I hope I shall see you, & all my friends again.

Do you feel that you have been born again, born of the spirit, & is it now your care that your body be a fit temple for the residence of the Spirit. My dear sister, will you write, & tell me.

From your affectionate sister,

Mary

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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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Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], July 24. 1834.

My dear Parents [*Elijah Grant* and *Elizabeth Grant*],

Was the letter mostly written by Miss Cowles [*Abigail Cowles Grant?*] duly received? I suppose you perused it. Aside from one letter mailed about two weeks since to Elizabeth, & one business letter I penned for Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyon*], I have written but two letters since I came here. Miss Cowles has not heard, neither have I from home. Cousin Lovina received a letter from Grant and Miss Beach has heard a number of times, so that we have felt contented feeling that you all were usually well, yet I feel that a letter from home would indeed be acceptable My health has been good, for a week past a cold has troubled me some. Miss Cowles has been gaining strength, she has been absent from school but one half day — then because of the sick head ache. We enjoy rooming together well. Lovina is making good improvement I think, & is happy. Half of the term is gone, we are to have a short vacation soon here. The school is very pleasant, I do not know but I mentioned in my last that one section of 24 young ladies were committed to me. They are generally about 17 years of age from five different states. I never felt the privilege of living and laboring so great as this summer. I have often felt grateful that a kind Providence has brought me again to Ipswich [*Ipswich Female Seminary*]. I ardently desire that my principles may now become so fixed that I may be prepared for more extensive usefulness than formerly. Miss Lyon I think is more & more spiritual & enlarged in her views. She is confident one way in which the renovation of the world is to be accomplished, is the more general diffusion of correct female education, & I do think schools will eventually be formed where the domestic labor will all be performed by the pupils, & Miss Lyon will do something. It is known that she intends leaving Ipswich & she often receives applications, but she says, she thinks it would be wrong for her to accept any situation however desirable, unless on the domestic labor plan. She has given two lectures on fem. [*female*] education of about an hour each. She would have the intellectual advantages equal to any school now in operation. A few ideas in one of her lectures follow. Learn to philosophize upon what educated men & women ought to do in various ways, & what you ought to do & then do your part. I mean fem. [*female*] ed. [*education*] in general not principally our relations. The man without children may have that benevolence & comprehensive view of the subject as to render his interest ten times deeper than many men with ten daughters Throughout the country a man interested for himself alone is considered mean, but not so mean for an educated female to be contracted as an ed. [*educated*] gentleman. Females cannot rise so much above those around them as men. This one reason why the mass shd. [*should*] be raised — Aspire for an enlarged view. — education to go forth into the world to be actively useful. — God has blessed fem. education, & next to the preaching of the gospel a means of bringing forth the glory promised. — Investigate — write upon the subject find out what is lacking, what is superfluous. — physical system to receive attention — to understand

philosophy of the mind, & of human nature, how the passions are excited & allayed, & prepare for action on society, eminently philosophical able to investigate general principles on every subject. — Should be no incongruity between theory & practice. Her own passions under perfect self control. — A great loss of moral power by being obliged to warn others by our follies, rather than by our correct deportment — Our country is not awake to its importance — the advance is slower than generally supposed, & has not been principally to extend the privileges to a greater number. These are a few of her remarks which I noted down at the time. Some of them may be so unconnected that you may not understand them. Miss L. [*Mary Lyon*] always has general attention in her lectures. Her face & voice express a great deal, & her sincerity & deep feeling can but fix attention. I do think it much to be lamented that the vast majority of females have not the means to become prepared for expansive usefulness. We have heard of a small society in Jacksonville, Ill. [*Illinois*] composed of females who lend money to indigent promising females that they may gain an education, & for two or three days at table we have been discussing the utility of such a society in New Eng. [*New England*] conducted something on the principles of the Amer. Ed. Soc. [*American Education Society*] Mother, I thought had you been here you would have entered into it with all your heart. Do you take the Nat. Preacher? If you do not, Uncle Cowles does. It is taken here by the society in school for general improvement. The Jan. & May No's contain some sermons by Prof. Hitchcock on Intemperance in eating. I have read them, & wish you could all take the time to carefully read them Perhaps you might have it read aloud when all the family were together, or some Sat. evening calculate to have all the work done early & read one sermon. As you both mean to be awake in every good cause, I have no doubt you would like to understand, & not be behind on this subject. And I think it would do the children good, particularly the older ones. Perhaps they will read them if you cannot during this warm, busy season. I think of you these warm days, — good hayweather, I suppose. The thermometer stood at 96° in the shade at one <*in*> this P.M. Sat. July 26. It is now three the thermometer was taken & hung on the [b]arn in the sun where it rose to 108.°.

Father, have you ever read Edward's' history of redemption. Miss Lyon & Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] both think it very valuable. They made some efforts last winter to get it republished in an abridged form, as there are no copies to be obtained of the former edition. Some notes are to be omitted & the print to be smaller. Last winter when they anticipated to [hav]ing it in their power to recommend it as a ... wor[th]y <*their*> careful perusal, they received word th[at] the hard times prevented their procedure. This summer through the influence of the Rev. Bela. B. Edwards Boston, they thought it would be done. But its contents are too solid, & sp<*r*>iritual to sell, the bookseller said it was not sufficiently inviting for sale. Then Miss Lyon sent to know for what number of subscribers they would publish it. They informed her, 300. The number of subscribers is not made out. The single book will cost 75 cts. [*cents*] By the dozen a little l[es]s, probably 52 1/2 cents. It is a sorrowful thought that the great & wonderful plan of redemption has no charms for enslaved man, whose bondage is infinitely more dreadful than that of the colored man within our borders. The book is valuable for every one over 14. particularly for Christians. Could you not get a dozen subscribers within two weeks. Please write within that time & tell me what you think about whether you get any or none. If published at all, it will be soon after that time. I subscribed for two copies. You may say there are already too many books, but our people <*might*> must & will read something, & if a taste for solid feasting upon what is really elevating and good is already formed, no work can be more palatable or profitable than this. It wd. [*would*] tend to lead any one to be ashamed to live for themselves, & to ardently desire to cooperated with God both heart & hand in redeeming the world. Cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*] will bring them on, & will pay for them in Boston, & receive pay there of those who subscribe. It is not subscribing for a work whose merits have not been tested. Will you all, the family I mean, see what you can do, & write however the case may be. Remember yr. [*your*] daughter Mary at the throne of grace.

Yours, very affectionately, Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

[*written across second page*] Mother. I think this work on redemption would be interesting to read together in the Maternal Association. & have conversation on its contents intermingled It is suited to elevate & show the great object of living. It is also suited to encourage us in our labors.

[*written across first page*] Love to Uncle & Aunt Phelps & cousins E. & M. also to all other relations & neighbors. I should from them, & write them, if more urgent duties did not command my time. What do you think of Bush's work on the Millennium. Good bye.

[*written across fourth page*]
My dear Abigail [*Abigail Grant*] July 28, 1834

I have been expecting a letter from Elizabeth, & was in hopes I should hear before I completed this sheet, but Miss Lyon has heard from Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] five or six times, & through her I have learned some things respecting her school, & Granville. One of their company wrote a fine description of G [*Granville*] & its inhabitants which was read at table. One of the teachers here, Miss Foot from Lee, Mass. [*Massachusetts*] has spent considerable time in Granville she says, E. [*Elizabeth*] has a very good boarding place. <*Since*> Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] left there, has since been at Chillicathe, Cincinnati & was about a week since at Yellow Springs not far from Xenia, towards the W. part of Ohio. She will leave for Detroit about this time, I suppose. Her health has not been usually good for a week past, but she was better when she last wrote.

Have you studied Arithmetic much? How far? I hope you will on an average get an hour a day. If you should ever come here or attend Miss L. [*Mary Lyon*] domestic labor school, you would proceed much faster for having a thorough kowledge of arith. [*arithmetic*] Do not say, you have so much to do, you cannot get any time. Your age & strength both require some rest from bodily fatigue, & by mingling mental & physical strength, you may relax, & increase the value of both. Have you kept an account of the time I hope you have, if not, will you begin now & let me know every time I hear from home. How is you health? Your bending forward proves your stomach to be weak, & I fear much for your health. Miss L [*Mary Lyon*] has given her pupils one maxim, & their attention to it no doubt has increased our happiness much the last month. Maxim. "Gain entire self control with regard to bodily sufferings & bodily appetites." Dear sister, I would like you to confine your times to taking food during the day to a certain number, say three, or five if you require luncheon, & quite probably you do, & then not taste any thing during the other parts of the day. Never taste any thing after supper. Write me how you succeed. Your sister, Mary

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Colebrook
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

[*Letter written on a printed broadside that begins:* To the Friends and Patrons of Ipswich Female Seminary ... Ipswich, (Mass.) September 8, 1834.]

Ipswich, Sept. 18. 1834.

My dear Mother,

I thank you for your letter, & wish you to write as often as possible. The preceding pages will show you that the time for efficie[nt] action on the behalf of the proposed Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] has come. I do think there will be some difficulty in collecting the $1000. as soon as desirable. Will not the maternal association rejoice to lend a helping hand. If mother, you can do any thing for this object, it is the cause of God & virtue. And from this fountain many streams will flow forth fertilizing the men[ta]l powers, & enriching moral feelings. Not on[ly i]n New Eng. but the example will be imitated by the West & South. <*If*> Whether we may live to see this, or not we shall never regret we made vigorous efforts. I never have been more interested in the success of any project, for I do think it intimately connected with the prosperity of the church. If the educated will show they desire such an institution, by very soon raising sufficient to support an agent it is to be hoped the school will be opened one year from next spring. $.10 now may do more than 20. or 30 when the agent presents the subject. Hand this circular to Mrs. O. Stillman would she not contribute $10. also. Dea. [*Deacon*] Stillman's wife & daughters. I do hope Colebrook [*Connecticut*] ladies will avail themselves of this opportunity to do something to raise our country, & benefit the ch. [*church*] I trust they will not merely coldly

approve, but be willing to sacrifice some thing to aid this noble, & very important enterprize. For further particulars I refer you to cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*]. I am expecting the stage every moment to call for her. I remain here during vacation, study Ecclesiastical Hist [*History*] some, & sew some. Pray my dear mother, that such young ladies may come here next winter as may be profited, remember the teachers, & me particularly. Love to you all.

Your affectionate

Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*].

[*written across side*] May every sister in the ch. [*church*] to whom this subject is presented understand & do her duty.

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Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] Nov. 23. 1834

Dear sister Abigail,

I received your note by Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*], & was glad you were going to Windsor. I hope you will endeavor to gain improvement from all your intercourse with society, & also to impart something valuable whenever it is proper. Make it an object to converse properly, it will prepare you for greater usefulness. Avoid ungrammatical expressions, & incorrect pronunciations, also very strong exclamations, as dreadful, &c. The maxim "whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well" you may bring to mind many times a day. Next time you write, let me know if you have tried to improve on these ... also how you have succeeded. And tell me how you spend your time, indeed, it interest me to know all about my dear brothers & sisters. What definite things do you wish to eradicate, & what to gain to be prepared to promote the greatest amounts of good. Dear A. [*Abigail*] this life is short at the longest, you cannot do ... for God & the world to work with your might while it ... longed to you. You say you do not enjoy that communicated with your Father in heaven you ought. Do not dear ... longer dishonor God by living without comfort in ... Come to him as you did at first, determined not to be satisfied till you are anew converted, till you do behold the light of his countenance. The example of James B. Taylor contained in his memoir from the 65th page & onward affords encouragement. Have not your closest duties been neglected or formally performed. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] meets the young ladies who hope they are pious an hour every Sab. [*Sabbath*] for instruction & prayer. You probably understand it is a regulation in this Sem [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] that each one may have half an hour morning & evening uninterrupted & alone. The manner of spending this time is a subject which Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has taken up at our last two meetings. Before prayer we should think definitely what we want, & of the readiness & <*fullness*> of God to give, & then throu' [*through*] Christ come with high expectations to him who wills the sanctification of his children & during these stated seasons of communion with God, we must not neglect his word which he has magnified & will magnify above his other works for the conversions & sanctification of men. Dwell on those passages you do understand, till you feel <*its*> their truth deeply, feast on the truth of God, & seek particularly to improve all the means of grace you enjoy. Are your Sabbaths profitable? Write me soon. I should like you & Daniel & John to fill me a sheet. Let Daniel consider what I have written to him. Do you sit any more erect than last spring? I should like you D. [*Daniel*], John, Martha & Marcus to cultivate pleasant, interested countenances. Give my love to them, I try to give them all to God, & pray that they may be active in his service in whatever field God may see fit to place them.

Ipswich, Dec. 18, 1834

I wish to write a few things to my brother and sisters at home when I can get a few moments. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] remonished ? to day in school that duties never clashed, that all duty could be done. And I thought I would be industrious, and complete a letter to get to you before next new year. I will write a few words first to brothers John and Marcus & sister Martha. I suppose they are now attending school. I hope they daily improve their minds, hearts, and manners. — Dear brother John, you are more than 12 [? *paper torn*] yrs. old, you have heard the Bible read every day since your remembrance, and have been to the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school a long time, but when Pres. [*President*] Edwards had studied the bible more

than any one book for many yrs. [*years*] at the age of 53 he thought he knew in comparison of what was contained in this precious book, but as a drop to the ocean, and how much do you know. Have you ever read the whole Bible? do you try to receive its meaning as it is read in the family? and do you try to practice it as you know it. Do you feel that your Creator has a right to require you to do what ever he pleases. His requirements are tended to promote the greatest happiness, are suited to promote your happiness and mine, and in no way but in obedience to these holy and just commands then it be secured. Are you studying geog. [*geography*] this term. I think your knowledge of the planet we inhabit may be sufficient for you to devote your attention to some other branches of Arithmetic, I believe you are fond. I think you would find it so, and only regret that I did not avail myself more of the privilege. When you study or read about any place, get as vivid a conception as possible of it, so clear that you will seem to see it.

[*written along left edge*] Cousin Maria Pettibone's Geometry is here. I did not know it till after cousin M. Cowles returned home. The first opportunity I will send it. My love to all my cousins & inquiring friends.

[*written on verso*] Ipswich, Jan. 14, 1835

Dear sister Martha,

You see by the preceding page I commenced my letter about a month since, and then I hoped I should finish it in time to wish you all a happy new year. I have been reading over what I wrote to J. [*John*] and thought some of taking a new sheet, but feared if I did, I should not get it done for a month longer. And Martha, what will make this a happy year to you. Me thinks your answer, <u>doing right</u>. Doing right is promoting the greatest good, or the greatest happiness. This is the aim or standard of our Creator, and he wishes us to make this our aim. When you wake in the morning while you are on your bed, and then when you are dressing, inquire of yourself, what must I do today in order to do right? What should be the tone of my voice? What the expression of my countenance? Then ask the assistance of Christ to help you to do what your conscience tells you is right. Then as you lie down at night, and have one day less to live, inquire, have I done right. If you have the whole or even part of a day [...] forget to give thanks, if you have failed of thinking, speaking and acting right at home, or at school, then sincerely seek forgiveness and be not satisfied till you obtain it.

From your affectionate sister,

Mary Grant [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

My dear Marcus,

Last vacation I visited the museum at Salem. This is the finest collection of curiosities in New Eng. [*New England*] I there saw a large root of a banian tree, where do they grow? Can you learn five things about this species of tree? Also the head of a New Zealander embalmed, said to be natural. When the boys are sliding down hill here, what season is it in New Zealand? Why will you learn four things about those islands, or the inhabitants? I saw an electric eel. How does this eel differ from the common kind. A great number of Chinese figures representing the dress of the different classes, their employments and religious services. Who are called mandarins? What do you know of Mr. Gutzloss? — Some stamped pieces of metal found in Pompeii. Learn a few things about this place. I should be happy to know next time I receive a letter from home if you have ascertain about these things. — The weather has been very cold here this winter. After one storm, which was accompanied with a light wind for two days each surge of the ocean as it washed the shore, could be distinctly heard here. The distance of three miles. I hope, brother Marcus, you will try to be useful in every way you can be cultivate neat habits. Keep your skin and clothes as clean as you can. Now, seek to Jesus for forgiveness and a new heart. Your parents have given you to God, and they wish to have you labor to do good, and I give you to Christ and pray to him to make you a blessing to the world. From your friend, Mary.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Colebrook
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], July 23, 1836.

My ever dear Mother,

Your letter was duly & gratefully received. I have often thought of you, & did not think so long a time would pass without writing you a single word. I study a part of the time this term. Have studied a small work on Geology & Butler's Analogy of natural & revealed religion to the constitution & course of nature, & attend to singing & drawing. These things with the care of my section, with what I teach & visits, walks & necessary writing & reading have so filled up my time that I have deferred it till now. I have filled out a large folio sheet to sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] & cousin Maria [*Maria Pettibone*]. I received a letter from sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant*] to day. She is very well, better than usual, had a good visit with Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], says she loves him more than ever does not think of returning this fall, & I think I choose she should not. Miss Bridges & Miss Adams the teachers who were with her last winter spent two days here a few weeks since. I was very happy to hear so directly from E. & her school. Miss Bridges left Granville in the latter part of May, & expects to return the forepart of Sept. She is to spend a few weeks here first. Mr. Rose a clergyman from a town joining Granville, is now in New Eng. [*New England*] as an agent to procure funds for a boarding house in G. [*Granville*] He went from Gran. [*Granville*] Mass. [*Massachusetts*] at the age of five years to Ohio, saw the first tree felled in Granville. O [*Ohio*] in 1806. He feels as well as the people generally that the school at Granville must be sustained, though the teachers as useful or more so than many ministers there. Was quite acceptable in his remarks, I wish you could see him. I received a letter from Elizabeth Rockwell this week in which she says she has just heard indirectly that brother Phelps has come home. Is it so? Miss C. Beecher [*Catherine Beecher?*] spent some time here a few weeks since I wrote to Miss Palmer after it, & expected you would hear from me thro' [*through*] her. I hope she will answer mine soon. Mr. Laberce, president of a college in Tenn. [*Tennessee*] next came into school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & gave an account of the state of society, education & religion, also the productions, face of the country &c, of that state, quite interesting & valuable — great want of educated ministers & teachers. Next Mr. Lewis agent for the school in [Ind.?] which Mr. Twining plead for last winter, & which Mr. Twining is now engaged in teaching. Then Mr. Rose of Granville — & Monday this week Rev. Thomas Brainerd, Cincinnati addressed us, giving us an idea of the vast tide of population crowding into the western states, of the principal periodicals in the Miss. [*Mississippi*] valley — of the state of Catholicism, all these statements were valuable, & suited to lead to self denying action. I have read most of Maria Monk, people generally believe it, & I see no reason why they should not. It seems that the great principle of the papists is, that <*the*> any thing is right which promotes the interests of their church. There are now 600 sisters of charity who have taken vows of celibacy & to teach for life, planted in schools in different parts of the land. They are like nuns, except not secluded.

Mon. July 25. Often since I commenced this sheet have I thought a year ago at this time dear sister A. [*Abigail Grant*] was lying on her sick bed, & I doubt not but you have often thought of & felt it too. Today is the anniversary of her death, & has she enjoyed the glorious privilege of swingling in that society, so harmonious, so pure, so benevolent, so Christ like, & been made more like onto Christ herself for a year? Our gratitude should be called forth that we may hope she has joined the company of the redeemed. And are we now living as she would wish us too, were she acquainted with our ways. Are we trying to comply with her last request, to prepare to meet her in heaven. I feel reproved for the little I have done the last year, but feel determined to go on forgetting, as it were, the things that are behind, I trust you have near access to God, & that though you meet with trying scenes, you find it sweet to cast yr. [*your*] care on him who careth for you. These trials are necessary for us here. May we ever so view our trials that they may work for our good. How interesting to observe Paul's prayers for the churches to whom he wrote. Yesterday I thought particularly of Col. [*Colossians*] 1:11.12, Strengthened with all might according to his glorious power unto all patience & long suffering with joyfulness. I think these

petitions such as Christians may make for each other now so strengthened by God as to [love?] all with patience, long suffering, & yet joyful.

July 29. We have beautiful weather now tho' [*though*] the season has been uncommonly variable & damp this summer. I have a pleasant room & room mate, & Ipswich Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] I think one of the most blessed places of earth. Here is intelligence, refinement, benevolence & piety. Half the school are professors of religion, one gives some evidence of having been recently renewed. Miss Caldwell has been spending a few days at her mother's in town. I enjoyed visiting with her much.

July 30. Aunt's [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] health is usually good this summer I should like to be here next winter on some accounts, as it would be for my improvement, but Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] & I both think, on the whole, I had better have a school at home, as I did last winter, to continue from three to five months. My health has been uniformly good. It is decided that I do not leave this country till a year from next fall, & perhaps not till a year from next spring. I generally feel that this is the path my God would have me walk indeed, I have not felt otherwise since I became fully decided.

Miss E. Rochwell wrote me that Jerusha Gilbert was going to the I.S. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] this fall. Give my love to her, & her sisters. Tell E. I most sincerely thank her for writing me, & for the more, as she does not claim a reply unless I can make consistent with other duties. I shall not forget it, but do not think it probable I can write her this term. In seven weeks I shall probably be at home.

My love to E. Eno, & to all my scholars whom you may meet. I expected Margaret, Desia & Martha would write me before this. I have been hoping to find time to write to S. Boyd [*Susan Boyd Grant*] ever since I heard of the death of her sister Mrs. Hubbel. Much love to her, & to Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], tell Phelps I want a letter fr. [*from*] him much very much. How do Martha & Desiah get along with arith. [*arithmetic*] or does D. go to school to Miss Norton. I hope Margaret or some of you will write me very soon. Do you know why Miss Paler does not write me.

Aunt says she thinks it will not be consistent for her to visit Ct. [*Connecticut*] this fall. When does P. expect to be married. when leave for Ohio. I have invited Mr. B. to come to Colebrook [*Connecticut*] this fall, as I thought he might never see Phelps unless he came then. He has been here once to see me. He asked me if you would like him to send you the Evangelist, as he could as well as not. He heard you speak of that paper, I told him I thought you would. My best love D.J. M&M also Aunt N. Margaret & Desia. Aunt Phelps & all cousins. Has Uncle Phelps returned from Ohio Did Mary Ann Coweles get her bill?

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

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

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Aug 11, 1836.

My dear Brother,

I wish to consult you in reference to some notes I hold against Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], & proceed directly to the point.

I have before me four notes, which he has given me, & the [fare?] of each is fifty dollars. The first is dated New Haven, Oct. 1, 1831, & signed Elijah P. Grant, payable two years from date. The other three are each payable two yrs [*years*] from date. One was given March 1, 1832, one March 31, 1832, the other bears date March 31, 1832, but on the back side is written by my own hand "forwarded the money $50. for this note July 1[], 1832" On the back side of each of the three last mentioned, is the name of "W. S. Hoyt & the [mash?] $50." Phelps stated to me, that Mr. Hoyt had generously offered to be his endorser, but he could <*for*> not at that time advance the money.

I must take up some money this ensuing fall, & I would rather take what these notes would furnish than any other. (I prefer not to take what you have the care of, unless it is a great burden to you.) I have written to Phelps, that I want the amount due on his notes before he leaves. I mentioned, that it was probable, the man who encouraged his borrowing of me could now supply him. If he could not, I suppose some other business man among his friends would do it. I should choose not to have a debt due from one so far off, especially a relative. I do not know the best way of attending to his business, & if you can aid me, I will thank you to inform me. Shall I send the notes to you, or do you prefer I would send them to some other person. If the latter, to whom [shall?] I send them. I propose to forward them by Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*]. It is her purpose to reach home much after next on Saturday.

If I hear nothing from you before Mary leaves, I shall send the notes to you, & commission you to attend to the business according to your judgment. I suppose there will be ample time for you to write, so that I can hear before Mary leaves.

Mary is well & is devoting almost her whole time to study. She has been studying Butler's Analogy, & is now attending to Smellie's Philosophy of Nat. History & to Alexander's Evidences of Christianity. These kinds of knowledge she will need, to teach the heathen, or more especially as the companion of a missionary. I do not know, whether we should any of us, have given her up cheerfully to the missionary cause, if she had always had good health. But afflictive providences often show us that our friends are not our own.

Miss Bridges is now here. She says Elizabeth is in very good health, & quite fleshy. It appears, that the Granville school is doing much good.

Joel writes me now & then: I am much pleased with his letters. I hope he will do much for the cause of truth.

May all your children be rich blessings in the world. As this is not a public letter I send no messages.

Your ever affectionate sister,
Z.P. Grant [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant
Colebrook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*], March 28, 1838.

Ever Dear Friend,

Having an opportunity to send a letter by Miss Burr, I write a few lines. I remained in Hartford [*Connecticut*] till Wednes. P.M. & then came to Springfield [*Massachusetts*] in a boat, stay a Mr. Lucius Clarke's over night, & the next morn about 9 oclock arrived here by stage. Here I have enjoyed my visit much. Yesterday the term closed. The examination which occupied Mon. P.M. & all of Tues. did credit to the institution [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Miss Lyon is as happy as any one I know. She feels that her cup overflows with merries, particularly in getting established with so many conveniences, & in having scholars of so much character & conscience, & of such a spirit of accommodation as to render the enterprise pleasant & easy. The building here is indeed very fine & commodious, & I think the prospect great that the institution will be a rich blessing. Miss B. [*Burr*] will tell you more about it, if you see her. Sheets pillow cases, towels from any friends of the school will be gratefully received, as they are not supplied.

On my arrival here, I found a letter from Mr. Burgess, saying that Mr. Read was to leave Babylon in April, & therefore it would not be convenient for him to instruct me. I have written to know at what time <*to*> Miss Farrar can attend to me either at Ips [*Ipswich, Massachusetts*] or Boston.

Last Friday I received a letter from Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. She was at Ips. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] said she was intending to be there till the term closed April 11. & she anticipates being able to be there next summer, to give instruction upon moral subjects more or less every week. Her health has improved the past months. She says she shall insist upon Miss Farrar & I being at Ipswich if Miss F. [*Farrar*] can leave her relatives. Miss Caldwell goes to

Amherst tomorrow, & I have concluded to accompany her, & remain there with her till Mon. when I shall go to Boston Providence permitting, & soon after to Ips. [*Ipswich*]

Miss C. wishes an affectionate remembrance to you all & also to Aunt Phelps & Elizabeth.

In this town & in several towns in the vicinity interesting revivals of religion are in progress. May Colebrook & the neighboring towns thus be visited. Do not forget me in your prayers.

I have commenced writing sister Elizabeth. When you write me direct to Ipswich.

As ever your aff. [*affectionate*] friend daughter & sister,
Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

Sister Martha,

I would like to have you see Mt. Holyoke & the Sem. of that name here [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Every thing is convenient & the young ladies do not need to work over 10 or 11 hours each a week to do all the work. 90 is their number. I wish you to make s special effort to sit erect, to avoid any ungrammatical or improper expressions, & to be useful as possible at home this summer. They intend to receive no more young ladies into this institution who are not thoroughly acquainted with arithmetic, geog. [*geography*] U.S. History Watts on the mind & some knowledge of grammar. The ground is covered with snow here which fell yesterday. I think you will all remember the catechism lesson.

Love to all. Your affectionate sister,
M. [*Mary*] Grant.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Elijah Grant

Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Con. [*Connecticut*]

Paid
No. 6.

Boston, March 29, 1839.

My dear Parents,

Mr. Burgess wrote you in Amherst [*Massachusetts*], & sent by Mr. Cowles. We left Amherst the next day, & rode nearly all the following night, & arrived in Grafton [*Massachusetts*] Fri. noon. The next Tues. Mr. B. [*Ebenezer Burgess*] was ordained. The exercises were highly interesting, & well attended. I was pleased with our visit in Grafton, the people are hardy, sensible, & inhabit the eastern part of the Green Mt. range. Mt. Ashutney was in sight & only a few miles from us. The people are now engaged in making maple sugar. It was a good season, & sufficient is generally made for their own use. We visited Mr. B. [*Burgess*]'s four uncles, & called on a good many cousins & acquaintances, found them interested & kind, indeed I was much more gratified with my acquaintance there than I anticipated, & think I should have regretted it, had I not gone We stayed in Grafton one week, & came to Lowell [*Massachusetts*] last Sat. where we stopped at Rev. Mr. Burnap's an old teacher of Mr. Burgess's. We spent the Sabbath in Lowell. Mr. Burgess preached half a day in each orthodox Congregational ch. [*church*] Lowell has now a population of about 19,000. About 1,000 persons usually attend at the <*ortho*> congregational chhs, [*churches*] & they are now forming a third congregational ch. [*church*] It is a city & is quite an interesting place. In the town about 6/7 of the inhabitants are females, & about the same proportion in Mr. Burnap's ch. [*church*] about 600 females, & less than 100 males. We came to Boston Monday last, and are now almost ready to embark. My health has been very good, & my acquaintances say that I am looking very healthy for me. I get tired days, but sleep, & rise refreshed & well. We are staying at Mr. Stichney's.

Ipswich, April 9, 1839.

My dear Brother, & Sister,

On Saturday March 30, the missionaries Rev. Messrs. Burgess, French & [Hume] & their wives with Miss Cynthia Gannan, came from Boston to Salem [*Massachusetts*]. On Sat. eve. private instructions were given them at the house of Rev. Mr. Worcester, by the Rev. Messrs. Anderson & Armstrong. Judge Darling of Henniker, N.H. the father of Mrs. Ballantine of the [Nahvalta?] Mission was admitted, & such relatives of the missionaries as were in Salem. Judge Darling remarked, that his love for his daughter had increased every year since her absen<*t*>ce, but he did not wish to see her in this country; he wished to have her a devoted missionary. Mr. Anderson very familiarly told the missionaries what was due from them to the Capt. <*&*> mates, helmsman & sailors on board the vessel, what would be due to the English Consul on their arrival at Bombay &c., & exhorted them to render unto Cesar the things which are Cesar's. He gave them good counsel also, in reference to their deportment towards each other.

On Sabbath evening, Mr Anderson as the organ of the Board [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*], gave the missionaries their public instructions in the Tabernacle church, the house in which Dr. Worcester formerly preached. Mr. Worcester gave the address. The missionaries occupied the same place in the church, that was occupied by the first missionaries sent out by the Am. Board, & the first sent from North America 27 years ago. They were, as you know, Messrs. Hall, Nott, Newell, Judson, Rice & their wives. The church is very large, & it was crowded to overflowing. The number present estimated from 2000 to 2500. On Monday morning the<*y*> mission company had their state rooms, 6 ft by 5, assigned them, & they made up their berths with their own bedding, & arranged their trunks &c. so that the rooms were in readiness to be visited at ½ past 10. Multitudes went to [...] the rooms. At ¼ before 12, Mr. Burgess from the highest part of the ship addressed the crowd on deck & on the wharf, estimated at from 2500 to 4000, (probably not far from the highest number.) He said they were going to make known the gospel to those who were without it, that this same gospel was no less important to us than to them. He hoped those around them would not think some strange thing had happened [there]. They were only obeying that gospel which they themselves (the missionaries) had received. He exhorted all to see to it, that they (the heathens) became personally interested in the same salvation. The day was one of the finest of April days, the weather comfortable, the sky & air clear & the wind westerly. After singing & a prayer lead by Mr. Armstrong, persons were requested to leave the deck, & friends to take leave of the missionaries, & in a few minutes the activity of the sailors spread the sails & put all things in readiness, & the vessel was in motion. I lingered & watched her proud & easy movement until the hull & half the height of her masts were out of sight. May he who rules the ocean keep them in the hollow of his hand, waft them to their destined port, bless them & make them rich blessing to the heathen, by employing them as the agents of Christ, in turning many from Satan unto God. – What a blessed privllege it would be to give up Phelps to so glorious a work. May all yours & all mine, & their descendenants to the end of time, give their own selves to the Lord, & be co-workers with Christ in advancing his kingdom. Capt. Ward of the brig Waverly is an excellent, pious man, a member of the Baptist church. He has already carried out several missionary companies. In 110 or 120 days he hopes to reach Bombay. His wife thinks she shall visit these missionaries, within a few years.

From Sat. 5 o'clock P. M. I was at the same house with Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*] until her departure. She was cheerful, solemn & happy & so appeared to [love?] all the company.

Ever your friend & sister, Z.P. Grant
[*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*]

My dear Brother, Your letter was most precious to me. That I have such a friend in you, affords me great consolation. I suppose that Christian parents are often blessed, when they, in faith, educate their children, & that <*generally*> if they can they shd [*should*] educate them [for?] faith, even when the children are not pious. I know not what the Lord would have you do with your son John, but I trust that he will make known to you his will in this matter. You cannot safely lean much upon your children, in such a way as to depend on them in future. But if you do all you can to fit them to glorify God, & give them up to him, he will be better to you than sons or daughters. The course of obedience to God, is the only happy, as it is the only safe course. We must not desist from commencing a good work for fear, that we shall be unable to carry it through. David did well to commence what he could not finish. Every good work is commenced in the mind of

some deviser. I mean when commenced & carried on understandingly. May Heaven guide & bless you. – Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*] handed me $50. in return for my loan. I do not want the funds from Mr. Bass's estate forwarded to me

My connexion with Ips. Fem. Sem [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] closes on Tues. the 10th. I have no doubt, that it is my duty to give up all care of a school for some time to come. By quiet, & much exercise in the open air, together with the blessing of Heaven, I may again have comfortable health, & enjoy the luxury of laboring for others. But to obey the will of God seems to me more desirable than any thing else. In my abundant cares in closing business, my poor body suffers, but my spirit is wonderfully sustained Teachers & pupils are as kind & faithful as possible, & so are all with whom I have to do. The Lord deals with me in great mercy. – I do not expect to visit Colebrook [*Connecticut*] for some time to come. Whether I shall be moving about in [a hass?] next summer, & be stationary I do not know. My health will be my object. Miss Elizabeth [Heaton?] expects to go where I go, to stay where I stay. She can write such business letters as I must have written, & <*perform for*> gives me the sisterly attentions I need. – The future in this world is a blank, but I doubt not, the Lord will provide – I hope you will write me again before long. Direct to Ipswich [*Massachusetts*]; This will be my head quarters for six weeks to come. After that, I shall keep the P. M. [*Post Master*] here advised of my movements. I send you an Essex Register.

Much love to all your children.

Your ever affectionate sister,
Z.P. Grant.

I should have written last week if I had been able. I write in great haste now.

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[*Addressed to*]

Dea. Elijah Grant
Millbrook
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

[*Note in area of letter near above address*] From Mrs. Mary Burgess written as they were starting on <*the*...> to their Mission field – Apr. 1839.

Salem Harbor ½ mile from wharf. [*Massachusetts*]
April 1. 1839.

My dear Parents,

I commenced a sheet to you, but found only time to write one page which through mistake, I left on shore. I will write now what I can before the pilot goes back. I have written to sister E. [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*] but to none of the other brothers. We had a very pleasant visit in Vt. [*Vermont*] Friends there were kind, & many much interested in the cause of missions. We spent one week there. I found more intelligence & piety then I anticipated. Considering the season, we endured the whole tour very well. The ordination exercises were very interesting indeed. The consecrating prayer by the Rev. Mr. Bradford pastor in Grafton [*Massachusetts*] was admirable. We came to Lowell [*Massachusetts*] & spent the second Sab. [*Sabbath*] Lowell now has a pop. of 19,000, 6/7 females. In the <*Pres.*> Con. [*Congregational*] churches, two in number are about 1000 females, & less than 200 males. We came to Boston one week ago today, & remained there getting ready till Sat. P.M. when we came to Salem. Fri. P.M. we had a miss. [*missionary*] visit at Mr. Hill's in Roxbury [*Massachusetts*]. Our friends have all been kind, very kind, & we procured all we needed, & have about every thing we wish. Our conveniences are as good as we can have on board a ship of this sort, & are really comfortable. Our state rooms are about six feet by five. Mr. B. [*Ebenezer Burgess*] cannot stand arect. Our Capt. has an excellent reputation in Salem. We have only 13 including the Capt. two mates & the steward, besides the miss [*missionary*] company. They are seven in number, Mr. French Mr. Hume & their wives, & Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar. We received our private instructions Sat. eve. our public last eve, & an immense crowd assembled to see us off. I hope a salutary impression will be left. The Lord grant it. In answer to the many prayers which have ascended for us, God has, & will bless us. - - We shall think of you daily Try all of you at home, to be kind one to another, all the children speak pleasantly, all try to do what will please God.

Mary [*Grant*] Burgess

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[*From typescript*]
[*Note at top of first page of typescript*] Original not in file

Brig Waverly, April 10, 1839
Lat. 36% N. Lon. 54% W.

Loved and honored Parents,
This is the first time I have taken my pen since I addressed you a few lines immediately after embarking. I intend in writing to you to mention incidents as they occur somewhat in a diary form. I think I shall always consider it a great privilege as well as a duty, to write you every opportunity. The day we left Salem, April 1, many sails were in sight, & Cape Ann was to be seen the whole day, though as the sun was setting it was in appearance a small cloud, less than a man's hand. I supposed this was the last glimpse of our native land, yet I could not sufficiently recognize <u>that</u> for my country, to be affected with sorrow in taking a farewell view. — Immediately after completing my letter to you, I went to my stateroom & there arranged things for sea sickness. Mr. Burgess began to be sick directly, but remained on deck the whole P.M. I remained below something more than an hour, & then went on deck, found all the passengers there & all a little sick, none so much so as Mr. B. [*Burgess*] The sea was comparatively smooth. Tues. & Wednes., the two following days, the sea was rough, the passengers were all sick, & scarcely left their berths. Sea sickness makes persons almost perfectly helpless. One loses all curiosity, & all desire. The effort of speaking, or of even raising the hand, seems an almost insurmountable task. Something must be accessible into which to vomit, & a glass of water for the purpose of washing the mouth, if possible to go through this herculean work. I have read this description to Mr. B. [*Burgess*] he says it is hyperbolical, but I think it my own experience, & I surely thought it to be his. An accompaniment of sea sickness, which is very disagreeable, is an exceedingly bad taste of the mouth. We slept considerable during both day & night, took no nourishment, but a little water gruel, ocassionally tasted of an orange or lemon, with which our friends had bountifully supplied us.
Thurs. morn. The motion of the vessel was less, the sun, through one sky light shone pleasantly, & we all felt better. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] hastened on deck. I rose & washed my whole system in salt water (a practice I have since continued, & probably shall to the end of my voyage) & went on deck. From that date I have been most of the time entirely free from sickness. Thurs. noon I took dinner at table with Capt Ward, Mr. & Mrs. French, Mr. & Mrs. Hume. This was the first time we had been to the table. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] & Miss F [*Cynthia Farrar*] were not able to be present & they are still on the sick list. Fri. & Sat. we had some social reading.
Thurs. P.M. April 11. A favorable breeze is wafting us along, & the day is beautiful. The sea is less rough, so we are on deck more & suffer less from s. [*sea*] sickness. I will go back to last Sab. [*Sabbath*] It was warm, & mild. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress spread on deck, & I read to him most of the A.M. I read some from the Bible, & several tracts. About 3 o'clock, P.M. a little meeting was held in the cabin, opened by singing. Mr. F. [*French*] led in prayer, Mr. H. [*Hume*] read a sermon by Chalmers, a little time was spent in conversation, & the pleasant meeting was closed by prayer, led by Mr. Hume. Capt. Ward was present. He is a member of the Bap. chh. [*Baptist church*] in Salem. He is willing that all suitable measures should be taken to benefit the crew. The number of persons on board is 20. Missionaries, 7. Capt. & two mates, steward & cook, & eight sailors. The steward & cook are colored men. We have far more to do with the steward than any one else excepting the Capt. The steward is good natured, active & kind, & rather neat. None of the crew are pious. The sailors were all strangers to the Capt., but he thinks them a very docile, respectable set. Six of them are from Salem or its vicinity, & the others are foreigners, English I believe. They spent considerable time in reading last Sab. [*Sabbath*] & almost entirely religious books. We hope this may be a voyage they will love to remember in eternity – Mon. Tues. & Wednes. (the past three days) have been very rough, the rocking & tossing of the vessel have made us all dizzy, & about ½ of our company sick. However we have had social reading on deck, each day. We have in this way read John's first Epistle, & about 50

pages in Malcom's tour to India. All our company sing, though Mr. F. [*French*] sings but very little. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] is very fond of it, & sings well, & much. I am glad of it.
April 14. Second Sabbath at sea. There seemed a stillness & sacredness even on board ship, as if holy time was recognized. Nothing is required to be done, that is not necessary. To day seems like a Sab. [*Sabbath*] at home when there is severe sickness in the family. None of our company are able to be up much, except Mr. & Mrs. French & myself, therefore we have no sermon read. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has his mattress on deck. I sit by him, & read much of the time. The sailors sent back the tracts Mrs. Hume sent them last Sab., [*Sabbath*] saying they were much obliged for them, & liked them. The Capt. said they considered that a polite way of asking for more. I sent them about a dozen, most of them stories such as Conversion of Mrs. Eleanor Emerson, Col. Gardiner, Bob, the cabin boy, etc. We have evidence that they were read. They are not well supplied with Bibles. We regret we had not procured some cheap Bibles & Testaments to give them.
April 15th Lat. 28% Long. 40%. For several days the wind has been almost ahead (S.E.) & we have been compelled to go farther S. than is desirable. This morning the ship tacked, & our direction is now N of E. This change brings our state room on the windward side & in consequence our side of the ship is several feet higher than the leeward. It is not quite as easy keeping our place in our berths. Had some cheerful, pleasant conversation with our company, read an hour in the Ladies Wreath & heard Mr. French read in Malcom's tour. I feel almost impatient for Mr. Burgess's recovery. He does not relish his food, is feeble, & exceedingly averse to exertion. He hardly walks at all.
April 16. As this day terminates the existence of Ips. Fem. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] I have thought much of them, & my emotions are indescribable. For years, associations, tender & strong, have been clustering round that institution, & what a day there, this must be. I would praise the Lord for his blessing upon those who have assembled there to receive instruction for his loving kindness & tender mercy to the teachers, & for that providence which permitted me to enjoy its privileges. May Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] be comforted & sustained, & I doubt not she will be.
While writing the above in the cabin, I was apprised by the tone of voice on deck, that something out of the common course had occurred. I found the second mate had brought a dead flying fish, which probably flew into the ship the night before. It was smaller than my idea of them, though the Capt. says it is of medium size. He has seen them twice as large, but often smaller. It measured 13 inches from the extremities of his wings, nine inches in length, & five in girth. Its eyes were large, color on the back & sides silvery grey, under whitish. We judged it to weigh 1 ½ of a pd. [*pound*] It has a few small scales, & three small fins. Its wings were inserted about an inch below its head. – Today for the first time, all our company sat at table together. Mr. French had just been reading the temperance tale, "I am afraid there is a God," which furnished a topic for conversation. Those now, who are able to write, spend a little time each day in writing. We may meet, the Capt. informed us, a returning ship within a few days. This is uncertain. After tea, we sung on deck some of the old tunes, Greenwich, Morality, Exhortation & several others. The Capt. joined us a little. He says he regrets every day that he did not take his wife & daughter with him. His daughter is an only child, aged about 20. We saw them in Salem.
April 17. Lat. 30% N. Lon. 44% W. Favored with a fresh breeze & a beautiful day. We spent an hour & a half, reading Murathee, with Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar for our pundit. All were present, except Mr. B. [*Burgess*], & I think he is better today. We commenced reading Luke's gospel. They read Mark & Henry & his Bearer, while with Mr. Read. We intend to have a lesson each day in Murathee. Mr. Hume read aloud in Mr. Malcom. Sung in the odeum after tea, & then had some pleasant conversation in the round house on deck. The Capt. was communicative, as we ever find him, when disposed to converse. He spends considerable time each day reading. His age is about 45, has been to sea 25 years.
April 18. Warm & rainy. Studied Murathee an hour & a half in the A.M. We have but one lexicon, & one grammar, & four copies of Mark, so we take turns in using them in preparing our lessons. We study in pairs, & keep the books in use most of the A.M. At 2 o'clock P.M. we recite in a class, with Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] for our teacher. She is happy to be permitted to go to the heathen again. She suffers every day from ill health & I fear always will. She is resigned, & is able almost constantly to say the will of the Lord be done. She knows something of the peace of

a mind stayed on God. She is one too, who keeps her mouth & tongue. I have noticed this trait from my first acquaintance with her. I am glad she is with us.
April 19. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has walked with me on deck today for the first time. He appears like one recovering from severe sickness. The day is pleasant.
April 20. Lat. 31% Lon. 37%. As the one who preaches will wish his time Sat., & as we all wish to have matters arranged preparatory to the Sab. [*Sabbath*], we this morning decided to have no Muratha lesson on Sat. It is three weeks to day since we came from Boston to Salem. That eve we received our private instructions, given principally by Dr. Anderson & Mr. Armstrong. Dr. Anderson among other things remarked upon the frequent effect of sea sickness upon mind & body; of its making one unreasonable, petulant, & 0, he drew a sombre, deary picture. I cannot tell how far his delineation operated as a preventive of such direful effects, yet I can say that three weeks, the time he mentioned, has passed, & I have not heard an unpleasant word, & I think each of our company could make the same remark. I am happy, to say Mr. B. [*Burgess*] improves, though slowly; his appetite I think could be called good. He, with Mr. & Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself sung an hour this P.M. Today the ship tacked, again; our course since Mon. has been N. of E. now it is S. of E. I looked on to see the seamen change the sails. The first thing a seaman learns, is to obey; it is interesting to notice their perfect obedience. They evidently strive to excel in promptness & seem to do their best. Some of their work is very hard, & as yet they are constantly occupied. They will have more time for rest & improvement after a few weeks.
April 22, Lat. 28%55". Lon. 37%50". We are now in the N.E. trade wind, & shall now pass on in a S.E. direction to the equator. We have just finished our recitation in Murathee. Yesterday we had public worship for the first time on board. This is the third time Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] has crossed the wide ocean & never before had she beheld such a scene. An awning was raised aft of the main mast. The colored table spread was tied round the capstan, for the desk, three settees were arranged, one before, & one on each side of the capstan, these accommodated 11, the others occupied chairs, forming something more than a semicircle round the speaker. At two, P.M. all except the man at the helm seated themselves. They were in a cleanly clad manner, though in sailor style; no one appeared in a white shirt, some of them wore red flannel, without coats, some in blue factory cloth shirts. Some of them showed by their appearance that this was a novel scene to them. It was amusing to observe their countenances. Timidity, bashfulness, wonder, curiosity, pleasure & good will by turns or simultaneously were expressed in their sun burnt faces. In one case as one caught the eye of another, I noticed a suppressed smile. Mr. French officiated. He read the hymn commencing "There is a fountain filled with blood." Some of the sailors joined in singing, but in a suppressed tone. We stood in prayer. God was with us. We sang again; then listened to a good sermon from Mat. 3:18. All were very attentive. The occasion was one of uncommon interest. We were forcibly reminded of our distance from the assemblies with which we have been accustomed to worship. I believe all are pleased to have religious exercises. Family worship is regularly attended at eight o'clock each evening. Half the sailors attend each evening alternating. – Last Sat. eve Mrs. H [*Hume*], Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself had a little season of social prayer. It was pleasant, & I trust but a foretaste of what we may hereafter enjoy.
April 24. Lat. 24% 37". We have as yet seen but few sails since we left Salem, but yesterday five were in sight; some from the W. Indies [*West Indies*]. In the morning our Capt. hoisted his flag to one, but she condescended not to tell us who she was, or to what nation she belonged. The Capt. then hoisted a flag consisting of pieces of cloth denoting the name Waverly. They raised a flag saying they understood, & by that time the vessels were so far apart that they could not communicate. About noon, one appeared which would cross our track, the Capt. learned by signals that she was an Eng. [*English*] ship bound home. Soon the little boat, with the first mate, & four rowers were dispatched with the letters. A short general letter written by Mr. French was sent to the Miss. [*Missionaries*] rooms. The mate said the Capt. of the vessel offered him some brandy & water; upon his refusing, he asked him if he was from Salem. This ship was on a return voyage from Sierra Leone. You may hear perhaps from the Herald that the Brig Waverly was spoken by the British Tar, London, & were well. Mr. B. [*Burgess*], Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] & Mr. & Mrs. H [*Hume*], however, are far from well. Johnny Hodges occupied the time for social reading to day, the fourth temperance tale we have thus read. Though we are about to cross the

tropic, the weather is cool & agreeable. The thermometer now stands at 70% four o'clock P.M. One sail a hoy today.
April 29. Lat. 14% N. Lon. 31% W. I often calculate the difference of time between us, & look off towards home & country & think what my friends are doing. When dining yesterday, I thought of you, as engaged in the services of the sanctuary. Our meals are between ½ past 7 & 8, between ½ past 12 & 1, & between ½ past five & six. Crossed the Tropic, Apr. 25. The thermometer for five days past has been from 72% to 75%. There is a fine breeze of the N.E. trade wind, & the sun is often obscured by clouds. Today the sun is vertical, & will now be N. of us till we get round the Cape. The sailing distance of the vessel from Salem is a little more than 3,000 miles. We had religious services on board yesterday as last Sab.[*Sabbath*] Mr. F. [*French*] again officiated as neither of the other gentlemen were able. It was a pleasant season, though more difficult for the speaker to stand or speak, on account of the motion of the ship.
Tues. April 30. Lat. 11% 15"N. Lon. 29% W. For two days we have sailed at the rate of 178 miles a day. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] able to study the Murathee lesson. Last evening we conversed for about ½ an hour in that tongue. Mrs. Hume arranged sentences easily. All our company are disposed to improve themselves. Mr. F. [*French*] & Mr. H. [*Hume*] yesterday commenced classes of four sailors each. They teach them chirography principally though sometimes they read & spell.
May 1. Lat. 9% A fine breeze is wafting us pleasantly on our way; this with the flying clouds, so diminish the intensity of the heat of the sun, as to render us quite comfortable when in the shade. Last evening for the first time I observed the phosphorescent light of which I have read as being sometimes seen at sea. This appearance is accounted for, as caused by minute animals, and is not phosphorescense. It is seen only where the water is in motion, & principally near the ship. It seemed more like numerous lightning bugs, on the water than anything else, to which I can compare it. I stand & gaze & admire. Thus something, almost daily, occurs to furnish a little variety. For a few days, flying fish have been very often seen, both singly & in schools. They fly but a few rods at a time & resemble a flock of grey birds. Dolphins, & many other large fish pursue, & pray upon them. – I often feel, that I shall never have so favorable a time for cultivating personal piety, or for reading, as the present. So teach us to number our days, as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. I must not omit to mention, that Capt. W. [*Ward*] has had a convenient bathing tub fitted for the ladies, & another for the gentlemen. We use ours in rotation, & as Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] does not choose to take a bath at present, every third morning, I have the luxury of bathing. We value it highly, as conducive to health & comfort.
May 6. Lat. 1% 23" S. Lon. 26% 14" W. Ther. 81% Yesterday P.M. we crossed the equator. It was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] Mr. Hume preached. There was a fine breeze all day, & though the thermometer stood at 82, (I always give the thermometer in the shade) it was very comfortable under the awning. Sat. evening an arched squall (as they term it, occurred. A cloud in the form of a perfect arch, covered the whole eastern horizon. Soon the wind blew, & though not properly a gale, it approached nearer one than any thing before on our voyage. The wind was so steady upon one side, that the vessel did not rock much, but was constantly turned down upon the leeward side.
Last Fri. the Capt. caught two fish, called bonetta. They were of very rich, brilliant color & weighed four or five pds. [*pounds*] each. They were caught with an instrument called grains, which has three prongs, & a handle longer than a hoe. They made us two meals, which were relished by all. Two little flying fish had before been cooked, & were nice. When we left Salem, there were of live stock on board as follows, 120 fowls, 10 pigs, & a goat. The goat was procured at St. Helena, on the Capt.'s last returning voyage. It had a high reputation for yielding a large quantity of milk, but it furnished us with none, & as a consequence forfeited its life. Nearly every Sat. our ears are saluted with the dying shrieks of one of the pigs. The whole crew have a fresh meat dinner on the Sab. [*Sabbath*] It is common for sailors to have a better dinner on the Sab. [*Sabbath*] than on other days. For the supply of our table the number of our chickens is diminished four or five each week. The crowing of the cock, & the noise of the hens, is pleasant, sometimes & almost leads me to feel that I am on terra firma.
Our food is good, things are, in general, well prepared, with the exception, that they are sometimes too rich. Our dinners are regular. On the Sab. [*Sabbath*] & Wednes. fresh meat, & sometimes on Mon. Tues. & Fri. baked beans, Sat. salt fish, & Thurs. minced meat, also a

pudding each day. We have puddings of rice, bread, flour, Indian meal, & sago. The sea bread is of good quality, & so are the coffee & tea, the butter, cheese & pickles, & the potatoes as good as could be expected for the season. I take a cup of weak coffee with my breakfast, & one of weak tea with my supper, & though most of the water is palatable, I aim to need as little as possible. I have often wished you could know just how we are situated.
May 8. This P.M. Mrs. Hume & I have been making some dried apple pies. It was a relief to do it for exercise. We walk the deck back & forth for exercise every day, some of us jump the rope and practice calisthenics for the same purpose. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] has led our evening devotions twice since I last wrote. He went through the process of getting the longitude from the sun's & altitude today.
May 10. Lat. 7% 57"S. Lon. 31% 40"W. Ther. 82%. Birds are now often seen flying at a little distance. We are near the Brazil Coast & every day brings us nearer. If the wind would permit, our course would be S.E. instead of W. of S.
May 14. Lat. 9% 40"S. 32% 50"W. Last Sat. about sunset an uncommon pitching of the vessel took place, wh. [*which*] the Capt. knew not how to account for as high winds are hardly known in this latitude; but he was sure that there was a blow somewhere in the vicinity, & he felt that it might reach us. The sky was clear, the pitching continued & about midnight all the hands were called on deck. They reefed the sails, the rain fell, the wind blew strong. The ship tossed, & sleep almost forsook us. Mr. & Mrs. Hume are our nearest neighbors, they complained of being drenched by the rain which leaked thro. [*through*] the deck. We did not feel in danger. Storms will probably be severe as we pass around the cape. The next day, Sab. [*Sabbath*] no preaching – all of us dizzy, & some quite sick. Towards night the sea became more calm. — — Yesterday the windsail was put up. It is five or six yards long of a cylindrical shape, & is made of two breadths of Russia duck cloth. For a yard at the top, it is not sewed together, but is straight. It lets down a stream of fresh air; our state rooms, the cabin, & indeed all between decks are benefited by it.
May 15. An interesting female social prayer meeting in my state room. Miss G. met with us for the first time. We value having her with us. — We have made us some little blank books for translating common phrases into Murathee. My task in this department is three sentences a day. I write them in Eng. [*English*] on one page, & in Murathee on the other. We make some progress, though we often feel vigorous for reading & writing letters, when we do not relish Mahratta. (I suppose in writing letters, I had better spell <u>Mahratta</u> as this is the usual way in Eng., though I find it Murathee in the books from India, & I often write it that way before I think). We were so far west as to fear we should not see any vessels, but to day <u>a sail aho</u>, caught our attention. Our flag was immediately raised, & so was hers. It proved to be a whaler, out 10 months from N. Bedford. Capt. Maxwell. They were more desirous to have communication with our ship, than we with theirs; & they sent one of their boats manned with six men to us. They wished to learn respecting the war of the U.S. Capt. W. gave them a file of papers & they gave him some Liverpool papers of March. They also brought us a half bushel of [potatoes] oranges, & the Capt. gave them a half a barrel of potatoes. We hastened to seal our letters, our company of seven sent off 23. I sent three, one to Mrs. Stickney, one to Mrs. Willard Holmes, & one to Elizabeth Rockwell. The Capt. & crew sent as many more, I presume.
May 17. Lat. 7% S. Almost becalmed – the sea nearly as smooth as glass & the weather very warm. We are near the shoals of Brazil. They sounded last night and found the depth of the water 25 fathoms. They find bottom today. fish of various kinds are sporting in the water. They have been trying to catch some, & I suppose they have put out for bait some two pounds of pork, which the fish have taken without being caught. A shark too, made its appearance a few rods from the ship, it appeared to be of brown color, its only fin of consequence is on its back, it resembled a horn as seen from the ship. The ship's progress the last 24 hours, only 40 miles.
May 18. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] continues to gain strength, & has a good appetite. If the sea should be rough, however, he would be sick. He now studies the Mahratta lessons, & reads considerable, & to day finishes his third letter, all of them short. Kindness, good nature & forebearance characterize all our company; & the officers & crew seem contented & happy. — On Sat. our bedding is carried on deck to be aired, & to day our state rooms have been washed; so you will perceive our health & comfort are consulted. Our cup does indeed overflow with blessings.

May 20. 22%56 S. Lat. 35%30 W. Lon. Yesterday was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] There is not the perceptible difference between it & other days as on land; yet there is a quietness & sacredness in unison with the day. We felt rejoiced to have a still pleasant Sab. [*Sabbath*] Our Bible lesson was instructive. We occupy in reciting from one & a half, to two hours, & spend more time in previously studying it. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] conducted the exercises of public worship for the first time. Christ's interview with Nicodemus, formed the basis of his remarks. — Some of the sailors read their Bible every day, & I doubt not some of them will be benefitted by the efforts made in their behalf. — Venus, the moon, numerous stars & the balmy air conspire to render our evenings delightful.

I have been much amused today in seeing Mother Cary's chickens tipping on the water, then soaring generally near the water. I never see them remain long on the water, hardly a moment at a time. They are about the size of a robin of black, white & chestnut color. Numerous sperm whale birds have been flying around for two days, probably a dead whale or a whale ship is in the vicinity.

May 21. Lat. 24%30" Lon. 34%30". We crossed the Southern Tropic about six o'clock last eve. To day is much cooler, & rain is fast falling. They catch some for washing. An Eng. [*England*] brig from Rio Janiero bound to N.Y. [*New York*] passed us within two rods of our vessel, bound to N.Y. [*New York*] Capt. W. [*Ward*] spoke it with his trumpet & told the Capt. he would give him some papers if he would stop, but the wind was briskly blowing, & they stopped not. I have read H. Newell two days passed. I admire her spirit. Our comforts exceed hers. I fear our gratitude does not. — You now have three hours more sunlight than we. Our sun sets before ½ past five, & every day diminishes our sun light.

May 22. Not a day passes, but we think of our dear native land, & raise our petitions to our common Preserver for the many dear ones we have left behind. The Lord bless, guide, & keep them all in the way of eternal blessedness. Our country, seen from the point of observation we now occupy, assumes a greatness, a glory, an importance, which I cannot express. Much is seen to excite gratitude & hope, but still there is much corruption. We keep up a little idea of what is going on in our native land. Miss. F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] says she thinks far more of her home in India than in America.

May 23. P.M. A ship has been in sight all day, & all have been busy in getting out letters, hoping to send by her, but now we relinquish the hope, as she is too far off.

May 24. A little discussion upon dress occurred, & it was decided to read Mr. Judson's tract on that subject, & Mrs. Torrey's little book, entitled <u>Ornament</u>. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] read while the ladies sewed.

May 25. Lat. 28%S. Lon. 32%W. Cool & damp, very heavy dews. Sat. my first work after breakfast, is to put everything in order on my premises, i.e. in my state room, & then see that the clothes for the succeeding week are in readiness. I have just finished that work this morn. I take pleasure in doing it. Yesterday Mrs. F. [*French*] & myself made six dried apple pies. This is the fourth time we have made them; twice Mrs. Hume & I, & twice with Mrs. F. [*French*] We partake of them for tea, & they relish well.

May 29. Lat. 35%S. Lon. 20%W. Ther. 66% distance from Salem 7,000 miles. The air [however] & all around is damp, yet the day is pleasant. No fire is kept except for cooking. Miss G. has two soap stones each about the size of a brick. These, after being heated we apply to our feet, & they are really a comfort. By the way, missionaries ought always to take them. It is past seven when the sun rises here, & it disappears before five. Six is my time for rising, besides attending to my morning work, I get some time for reading my bible before breakfast, wh. [*which*] is about 20 min. before eight. Last Sab. [*Sabbath*] the sea was in great commotion, & public worship was attended in the cabin, only one watch was present. Mr. B[*Burgess*]'s remarks from John 3:13, 14 were clear & faithful. Yesterday & the day before very damp, embracing a variety of weather. Our female prayer meetings which are held three evenings each week, increase in interest. Last eve. the season was precious.

May 31. Lat. 37. S. Lon. 14% W. Yesterday an albatross flew several times round our vessel, favoring us with a full view of the largest of aquatic fowls. It is brown upon the back, & almost white below its wings. Its flight is rapid, & graceful. It is remarkable for the length of its wings. It often measures from 9 to 12 ft. from tip to tip, & is about twice the size of a goose. Its flesh is not valued for food, though sailors frequently eat them. We saw many at a distance sometimes

sitting in companies on the water, at others soaring aloft. — Cape pigeons begin to be numerous. They are spotted, black & white, about the size of pigeons in New Eng. [*England*] They resemble ducks. One was caught, by getting its wings entangled in some lines thrown out for the purpose. All the fowls we see are webfooted. Very few can raise themselves to fly from a level surface, like the deck, & they all walk clumsily spreading their wings & slapping their webbed feet, but they move elegantly in either water or air.
June 1. Sat. Rough & damp. Wrote & read some in the A.M. after dinner. I was in severe pain. Mrs. Hume very kindly & efficiently nursed me. She is apt, at almost everything. June 4 at night a gale commenced, but was not very powerful till Sab. [*Sabbath*] morn. Then every sail, with one exception was entirely furled, & that was reefed, the helm was made fast, & the vessel was in a state called lying to. Everything at such times must be made fast, or be thrown from side to side. Passengers keep principally in their state rooms. Every few minutes a high sea washes over the ship, & though our vessel is well built, the water found many entrances at such times. The wind continued strong & violent till Mon. A.M. Twice I ascended the stairs which lead from the cabin to the deck, & there gazed at the mountain waves. The view was fearful. Our vessel seemed very small, when compared with them, & as a high sea approaches, it is difficult for one not long used to such scenes not to feel that it will overwhelm us. None of us stayed on deck, everything there was lashed by strong ropes, & the Capt. feared every high sea, that the deck would be swept clear. To see nothing but bare masts & rigging, was desolate. None of us attempted at such times to do much, & though it was the Sab. [*Sabbath*] there was little thinking, reading or praying. I occupied our upper berth, the lower one was too wet to be occupied. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] had his mattress on the floor, just outside the door of our state room. Considerable of my time was spent, in covering the things that they might not be injured by the salt water which came in every time a wave broke over the deck. When one cloth was thoroughly wet, I furnished another. I had rather a severe headache, but felt that I had much for which to be grateful. Mon. my head pained me still, but about 11, Mr. B. [*Burgess*] came & said I must go up & see the birds. I put on my overshoes, cloak & hood, & went on deck: the wind had subsided, but the sea was still very high, & we were obliged to hold ourselves constantly. Albatrosses, cape pigeons, stormy petrel (alias Mother Carey's chickens) & two other kinds of aquatic fowl were very numerous, & soaring around in every direction. Some were very near the vessel, & they often seated themselves on the water & afforded us much amusement, in seeing them ride the mountain waves. A line with pork on it was put out, in the hope of catching them, but though they were attracted by it, & many pitched near it, & some took hold, yet they all contrived to release themselves before they could be drawn to the vessel. An albatross was drawn several feet, we thought he was secured, but were disappointed when he freed himself, & flew away. A little before noon some of the sails were unfurled, & we were again under way, having been lying to, more than 24 hours.
June 5 Lat. 35 S. Lon. 3% W. The sea is still very high. Every few minutes a large wave dashes over the deck, but the fair wind is driving us rapidly towards our destined port. Around the cape is the region of gales, thunder & lightning, & variable weather. Our Capt. who has been around 23 times, says he dislikes this part of the voyage. I have not felt fear at all. I am assured of the skill & prudence of our Capt. & I have an impression, that some of our company have a work to do in India. I often try to bring myself to view death near, & aim to be ready to welcome it, but have never been disposed to feel, that the deep would prove my grave. — Today we resumed our Mahratta studies, which since Fri. last, we had laid aside. Time seems almost lost in rough weather, as it is more than we can well do, to take care of ourselves & the leaks. My room is yet very damp, & we are anxiously looking for fair weather. Health we consult, & I enjoy it, in general. Gales, & damp, cool weather will tend to make us value, & be grateful for more pleasant circumstances.
June 7. Lat. 36%S. Lon. 5% 15" E. Ther. 55 ½ Last eve a shower accompanied with thunder & lightning occurred, & to day the air is pure & delightful. I have almost continually felt, that gratitude should flow forth for this fine day. Our progress is not so rapid, but the deck is dry, & our mattresses & bedding have been aired, our room is dry again, & how agreeable is our situation compared with what it has been for five days past. The sun rise & the sun set were both beautiful to day; finished reading the 3d vol. of Brit. India. Some part of the volumes are rather dry, yet the mass of the information was interesting; all except Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] read them, & their contents have often been the theme of conversation. To day for the first time washed a

few articles off, 5 pints of fresh, hot water only were allowed me, & owing to its being so long in a cask, I suppose it will make suds only with difficulty. Soap, as I rubbed it on the cloth, changed to a brick color. I rinsed in salt water. I had before supposed they would be sticky, if rinsed in s. [*salt*] water, but the steward said that was only the case with flannels. Towels, sheets, etc are very liable to become iron rusted. I have been glad that I took such a quantity of old clothing for the voyage. In addition to what I had laid aside when I arrived in Boston. I found a bundle of articles from the Ips. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*], & Mr. B. [*Burgess*] found a similar bundle from Andover Theol. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*], forwarded at the suggestion of Prof. Emerson. Clothes become tender, and very yellow by remaining so long without washing. It is economical to be supplied with old clothing for a long voyage.
June 9. Ther. 55% Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve. 6 o'clock. Just about time for the Sab. [*Sabbath*] school in Colebrook. I think of the churches & Sab. [*Sabbath*] privileges of my native land. May they be abundantly accompanied by the Spirit. The weather is so variable, that the Capt. thought it not best to have preaching. This was a disappointment, but it may be for the best. Our Bible lesson was interesting this A.M. & it has been I think a profitable Sab. [*Sabbath*] to me, & I judge to all the miss. [*missionary*] company. Mr. Hume conversed with one watch of the seamen, & found them all ready to admit the truth, & acknowledge duty, though none seem to feel deeply. All have been still.
May 10. Lon. 12% 10 E. Lat. 36% S. Ther. 55% to 59%. I have studied with unusual delight & vigor today. What a great work to learn the languages of nations. We make some progress. Evening brings us all below this cool weather. We sit around the cabin tables & either write or silently read. The Capt. is one of our number. Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] spends her evenings in her state room, & reads reclining in her berth. I sometimes sit with her. She does not need much done, but I love to sit converse, & sympathize with her.
June 12. Ther. 55% Damp & uncomfortable, so rough that some are sick, & all are affected. Mr. B. [*Burgess*] read another of Wiseman's lectures, while I sewed. Yesterday for the first time, our eyes were feasted with the sight of a whale. Though he shewed himself finely a number of times, I do not know how to describe him. He was but a few rods from the vessel when first seen, & while we were eagerly on the watch to catch further views, he passed to the other side of us. Its color was very dark. Its skin smooth, & it seemed a huge mass moving undaunted & rapidly through the water. We saw from 25 to forty feet of its length, which was probably 50 or 60 feet. The mighty ocean seems a fit residence for him, & his species. From a large fin on its back, it is called fin backed. It is rarely taken as it is fierce & frequently sinks before it can be secured, & yields less oil than other kinds.
"13. Ther. 59% Clear fine air, our bedding on deck for airing. We passed the Cape of Good Hope yesterday & are now in the longitude of Cape Lagullus, 72 days out & are now where Capt. W. [*Ward*] was in his last voyage when 58 days out.
June 17. Lon. 26% E. Lat. 36% S. Ther. 65%. Anniversary of the battle of Bunkerhill. I remember how the cannons are fired in Ips. [*Ipswich*] & other towns in the eastern part of Mass [*Massachusetts*], at the dawn of this morning. — The whole animal economy seems animated & invigorated by the balmy air around us, & the soul partakes of the delight, how inexpressibly delightful would a view of the verdant hills & forests & gardens of home, be for a few hours. The Capt. thinks that while the weather is so unsettled, public worship had better be omitted. The time for our Bible lesson is the only time, which the passengers have the cabin uninterrupted, & it was decided to spend the hour in conversation & prayer, & defer the Bible recitation to the round house in the P.M. It was a precious session, & the same arrangement is to continue till the weather is more favorable. Last Fri. night, we were visited by another gale from the West. It continued 15 hrs., the sails were nearly all reefed, yet we were driven over the mountain waves at the rate of 8 miles an hour. Sat. P.M. the ladies went on deck, the waves presented an appearance similar to one caused by a high wind after a fall of snow. At the head of each wave as it rose, were innumerable drops of water & much vapor, which looked white & moved as snow before the wind from the summit of the drifts. We dined in our state rooms for the first time.
June 18. Yesterday at twelve o'clock, the course of the vessel was turned to the N.E. Now our faces are set towards Bombay, & we anticipate reaching Zanzibar in time to spend Independence, July 4. To day the air is balmy, & delightful. "Every sense & every heart is joy" Though it is winter, to us it seems a spring day. After dinner yesterday as we were singing, as is

our practice after dinner, Capt. W. [*Ward*] called our attention to the fishes which were gamboling in the water, astern of us. It was indeed an amusing sight, to me more so than the whale. They were very large, some of them 30 feet long, with great heads. They would leap from a large wave, first throwing their heads, & as these descended into the water their backs. We were glad to see them, but heartily wished them either to stay longer or soon come again.* They were a species of black fish. Muratha & writing letters is my principal business this week, & I may add, that of all the missionaries.

June 21. Lat 31% S. Lon. 34% E. We are having a favorable breeze, & fine weather. Ther. 68% or 69. A little before sunset a shoal of porpoises secured our attention. They passed the ship, often leaping entirely out of the water. The mate tried to harpoon one as they passed the bow, once he succeeded, but before they drew it into the ship, it got loose. — Every thing is pleasant as we could wish in our circumstances. Bedding was again aired to day.

June 23. In our little state room. Past 9 P.M. I seem unwilling to retire while you have so much Sab. [*Sabbath*] I think of you as now in the sanctuary, P.M. service. That the Sab. [*Sabbath*] privileges of my native land may be blessed & sanctified, is a desire, which rises spontaneously as often as I think of you. My mind first recalls those parts I have visited, or where I have friends, & from them extends over the whole country. The temperature & clearness of the atmosphere, with a favorable breeze wafting us four miles an hour, render our outward circumstances agreeable, & what is far more desirable, I think God has been with us by his spirit. This P.M. Mr. Hume preached from Rom. [*Romans*] 3:20. For by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight. After being bounded in our prospect by sky & water for 83 days, it was pleasant to see land this morn, which continued in sight till darkness came. The land is in Africa, Cape Corientes, & the coast for many miles below. It is principally sand hills, barren & uninhabited. At Inhambane near Cape C. [*Corientes*] is a Portuguese settlement from which we could perceive ascending smoke. Such an evidence of the presence of our race added interest to the view. We could not but feel for oppressed, degraded Africa. The Portuguese own the coast from Delagoa Bay to Cape Delgado embracing 16% of latitude, & have numerous settlements. The slave trade is carried on more extensively on this coast than in any other part of Africa. Many vessels leave every year laden with slaves, though the traffic is a violation of a treaty between the English & Portuguese. Many are taken to Brazil. It is for the interest of the owners to treat them well on their voyage. The dealers use fast sailing vessels, & have agents in Africa to collect cargoes, & put into port one day, & ship the cargo the same day, at night, to avoid detection. Eng. [*English*] cruisers are constantly on the coast, but few comparatively are detected. Our Capt. thinks the Portuguese on this coast a great curse to Africa, & says they are remarkably destitute of moral principle. He has traded extensively on this coast, at Madagascar, & indeed in all this region. The Portuguese, Spanish & French are all, to some extent, engaged in this smuggling traffic, & some think, U.S. men (<u>Americans</u>) are not entirely free from the imputation of being at present engaged.

I think I must tell you how I am favored in visiting home in my dreams; last night I had a most agreeable visit with mother of several hours. I was fitting to leave, which made us more studious to improve every moment; we were agreed in concluding as we separated, that this was the best visit we ever enjoyed. — I have rode to meeting with you, bid you, & other friends farewell, again & again. I am generally preparing to go. Once the ship put back, & I spent a few hours mostly with father, before we put out again. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Bannister*] too, I often meet. Sometimes I am procuring articles for use in India. Nothing sad, has with one exception occurred. I mention this because it has been pleasant to me to mingle with you, though on awakening, I am assuread we have been continually receding from you.

June 26. Lat. 20% S. Lon. 37% 38 E. We reentered the Torrid Zone June 24. Thermometer for a few days has been between 73% & 79%. The sunsets in this region present softer, mellower, & more varied tints than I have ever seen before. I have been loath to say they were more beautiful. I have seen such glorious sunsets at home though this is the general opinion of our party, & I felt last night, this is different, & I think superior. — This morning as Mr. B. [*Burgess*] came down from bathing, he said he had seen the moon sink below the horizon, & that the eastern horizon was already resplendent, & that if we could go on deck in 10 min. we might see a beautiful sunrise. I went before that time transpired; as soon as I went Mr. Lovett, first mate said there was a shark. Mrs. F [*French*], & I immediately discovered it. A piece of pork was thrown

out, it seized it, though the hook seemed too large to take in, we had a very distinct view. Five little pilot fish hardly as large as trout were with it, sometimes on its back, & then by its side. The pilot fish were prettily girdled with stripes of blue & white the whole length. Its upper side was of chestnut brown, underneath whitish; when dying its color changed to deep brown. Sailors love to kill sharks. This was full grown, weighed 150 pds [*pounds*] or more. Its fins are fleshy, & do not contract. It has one large fin on its back, two of about the same size on its side, & two smaller ones near the tail. We saw its five rows of teeth in the under jaw, & five in the upper – its mouth is of horse shoe shape. Mrs. Hume says its head & mouth are like a tadpoles in shape. The gentlemen took the dimensions; whole length 6 ft. 7 ½ inches. Head 12 ½ in. Body 3 ft. 10 in. tail 21 in. Between eyes 9 inch, width of mouth 8 in. Fin 17 ½ in. long. They save the back bone but the most they give to David Jones as they say when they throw anything overboard. At tea, some of the cooked fish was put upon the table. I tasted it, & had I not known it to be an animal of bad reputation, I might have liked it. None of us ate much of it. However the sailors had one or two good meals from it. In Madagascar & many other parts in this vicinity, they are highly valued as an article of food, the fins particularly. Large quantities of fins are exported to China, & other places.

June 29. Sailed by Mozambique, & so near as to distinguish trees and buildings. Moz. [*Mozambique*] is a small island, the capital of the Portuguese settlements on the coast. The governor general resides here. The sight of land is very pleasant.

June 30. Sab. [*Sabbath*] no public service, as the vessel was rolling very much.

July 1. Progress the last day 202 miles, 20 miles more than any previous day. We hope to see Zanzibar tomorrow. This being the eve of the monthly concert, a little meeting in the cabin. We expect the island of Monfua before morning. It is inhabited by Arabs & is a part of the Sultans dominions.

Zanzibar. July 4. Three Amer. [*American*] vessels are in the port here, & 13 cannons were fired by one at sunrise. 26 at noon by the next, & one at sun set by the third, & in the evening sky rockets were discharged from the flat roof of the Amer. [*American*] consuls house. American flags have been waving all day. We arrived at this port July 2, about noon. We had been sailing in sight of the island for four or five hours. The isl. [*island*] is about 50 miles long, 15 or 20 wide, & 15 from the continent. Its pop. [*population*] is composed of Arabs & African slaves, principally. About 400 Banyan traders, & a class called Soohillas. The pop. [*population*] is estimated to amount to from 125,000 to 150,000, two thirds of whom are slaves. The vegetation is so unlike N.E. & the town, too, that our attention was strongly riveted. Cocoa nut trees were so like the drawings, that we recognized them at once. I wish Martha & Marcus to notice drawings more, they will gain many correct ideas, & increase their enjoyment. The town contains probably from 15 to 40,000 people. The houses line the shore for about 1 ½ miles, & for some distance back into the interior. The better class build of coral rock with which this, & the neighboring islands abound; & cover with chunam. The walls are from one to two & a half feet thick, have few windows, & less window glass. Their stairs & roofs are of the same material. These roofs are flat. Many however, have a thatched roof above, sloping four sides, made by fitting poles, then covering with the cocoa nut leaves. The lower class build of poles, then wall the sides with mud, & thatch the roof. The streets cross each other like the threads in a tangled skein. We walked yesterday through some of them. They are rarely over 10 feet wide. The houses so cover the ground as to leave no room for gardens, & next to none for trees. A few slender cocoa nuts find room. But three white females have visited the isl. [*island*] before us & we are quite a curiosity. The people merely assemble & gaze & occasionally laugh. The first day the gentlemen went on shore with the Capt., & the following day July 3 the ladies went with them, to Mr. Waters' of Salem. He is the Amer. [*American*] consul, & has been here three years. He is pious, & aims to do good to this people. There is also an Eng. [*English*] mercantile house here, so that I suppose there are at this time as many white persons, as ever at one time before. We took a short walk in a cocoa nut grove, saw the cassada growing, also alocs & mango trees, picked several wild flowers. Returned to Mr. Waters' in a boat. His Highness (the Sultan of Muscat or Mascat) as soon as he learned that our vessel had brought to Mr. Waters the tidings of his brothers death, sent assurance of sympathy saying that he would come & see him. In the evening, he came, & we were introduced to his Highness, his eldest son prince Haleed, & two of his officers. His Highness prefers the climate of Zanzibar to that of Muscat. He has made Zanzibar his residence

for the last three years, one of his sons being in Muscat. His palace is between two & three miles from town, though he has one nearly completed in town. He comes up, either on horseback, or in a boat. His age is about 54, his size above medium, his beard long & gray. His manners easy & dignified. He is always attended by a retinue, though he is not fond of display & would often be gladly relieved from it, yet it is their custom. He shook hands handsomely & affably with each of us. He is very well versed in the Arabic, but does not speak Eng. [*English*] but by an interpreter. He first said to Mr. W. [*Waters*], God does all, & he does right & good. He inquired respecting the prosperity of our country, of our passage, of our health, & a few other things, & then bidding us good evening, departed. We then took tea at Mr. W. [*Waters*] & after singing & prayers returned to the vessel about nine, so tired that I almost felt that the Arab custom of keeping ladies at home, the best. This morning we went by invitation to Mr. Thorns, the agent of the mercantile house; dined there, ladies never dined with him before, quite a parade. We had a fine view of the town & harbor from the top of his house. The slaves around were amused. A little Arab child of three years was brought up, that we might see how they paint their faces etc. They begin to wear ornaments from infancy — This little child had three strings of beads of various color, material & size upon its neck, bracelet on the wrist & bangles about the feet, & 6 or 7 rings in the ear, extending round the rim of the ear. Some have ornaments as large as a cent, inserted entirely within the lower part of the ear, then of different sizes to the top of the ear. Some have rings in their noses, but this is not common. Slaves have as many ornaments as any, but in general, not so valuable; though the rich slaves <u>wear</u> those that are valuable, though they do not own them. Slaves are from 7 to 20 dolls. [*dollars*] apiece here. They are sold every day at auction, at five o'clock. They are well fed, & do but little; die off fast, from 7 to 10,000 come here from the continent every year. They wear but little clothing, besides ornaments. They look as if they needed only favorable circumstances to make them valuable, intelligent people. None of the Arabs or Sowalies are slaves. While the gentlemen went out to walk, we remained & were treated with fruits. We are here in the season for oranges, mangoes, plantians, papau & various other fruits. Cocoa nuts are abundant. The exports from this port are gum, copal, frankincense, cloves, & shells. The natives are becoming more industrious. An evident improvement is in progress among them. May the day be hastened when they shall have the light of the gospel. Mr. Waters & Mr. Thorn have spared no pains to make our visit here, profitable & pleasant, & I think it has been so. We have acquired some acquaintances, with this part of the world.
July 9, 1839. Last Sat. we visited by invitation his Highness. The ladies were permitted to enter the harem, & see his daughters. His Highness has been very kind; he sent up a boat manned to take us to his house; he furnished us horses & donkeys to go six miles into the interior & every thing else which would contribute to our comfort, provided refreshments as we went & returned, & presented each of the ladies with a cashmere shawl, worth from 20 to 30 dollars a piece. He is very kind to all our countrymen. We surely feel under obligation to him. He, of his own accord, sends letters for us to his son at Muscat. We leave this place to day in good health & spirits. We feel that soon we shall reach the field of our labors, & shall rejoice to enter it. I did not intend to send this memoranda until I arrived in Bombay, but it accumulated so much that I decided to send it now. I wish it to be preserved, & as neatly as consistent. I have written you, my dear parents, & Martha by mail.
Ever your affectionate daughter, M. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess

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

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

[*Written in stamped area*] Oct 19th

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

Dear Father,

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

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

Your affectionate Son
Wm. [*William*] Burton

Oct. 11.
Dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E.

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

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

Love to all.

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[*from Mary Grant Burgess*]

Ahmednuggur [*India*] Oct 23, 1840

My dear parents,

I sent you a few sheets of journal from Zanzibar. ------ Forest and field are not superior upon that island to those of America yet very unlike them. Here the trees were the cocoa, the clove, the orange, the nut-meg, the mango, the plantian & custard apple, the vegetables, yam, sweet potatoes, pineapple and other tropical plants --------

We had a rough rapid voyage of two weeks to Muscat, The monsoon driving us forward at the rate of 200 or 225 miles a day. Muscat harbor is surrounded by bold precipitous rocks. ------

July 24) we spent at Capt. Calfauns. Capt. C. [*Calfauns*] is a good Mussulman, understands considerable English & would be called a gentleman in any society. We saw his wife & little son five years old. The females would run, if one of our men came near or if for any reason any remained they would veil their faces. -------- July 26th in the morning we called at the palace. Two long flights of homley wooden stairs led to the harem. Here we found the kings (Sultans) wife, mother, sisters & two grown daughters. They received us very cordially, taking our right hand in both theirs and shaking it gently. We were seated among this company of females & would have prized it much to have been able to talk Arabic. We had learned a few words, by these, & by signs we received and communicated a number of ideas. They wore a profusion of very costly ornaments & their dress was rather becoming. We were then invited into a large room most expensively furnished where was a table loaded with fruits, sweetmeats, bread and puddings. -- After our meal we again engaged in conversation in our way -- Seid Mohammed (one of the Sultans sons took Mrs. Frenchian & intimated that he would accompany us -------- July 28, Sabbath. Anchored in Chubar --- The next morning Capt. went on shore. In the afternoon came back to the vessel having purchased some thousand pounds of wool. Last year he purchased wool for eight cents a pound & sold it for 35 cts. [*cents*]min Salem -------- Left Chubar July 30 & Aug 1 landed, anchored in the bay near Cape Guadel, about three miles from town ---- Aug 3 we all went on shore ---- Soil appeared barren, we stopped near a Banyan temple & dwelling. Banyan are a religious sect, who consider the cow as their chief god. They are Hindoos. Here we saw the mummery of heathenism. One man was sitting & chanting something while another sat by & dipped salt water from a copper vessel with a little shell & poured it upon little sticks of wood. ----- Coarse red figures & pictures were numerous upon the interior walls of these buildings ------ The inhabitants are Beloochees ---- They have the Koran, very few can read it. ---- They wore a profusion of ornaments in their noses, ears, & upon their wrists The women of the town almost all assembled at the governors house to see us I suppose they never saw a white female before ----- beginning to feel that we should suffocate with so many breaths we were glad to be invited to another room to partake of refreshments. Plates of mangoes, fresh dates & holwah

were arranged on a round mat on the ground which constituted the floor of the room. As there were no chairs we sat down upon the mat & partook of the repast. Water & sour milk were brought for us. ------ It is but three years since they learned that wool was valuable. Capt. W. [*Ward*] bought thousands of pounds for about 10 cents a pound ---- The English have already, or are about to have these people under the government, which we cannot but hope will expediate the introduction of the religion of Jesus. After dinner August 5 weighed anchor & set sail direct for Bombay, distance about 700 miles. --------

Aug 10 Sailed into Bombay harbor - land began to appear in the afternoon. Found it difficult to realize that we were in the vicinity of our labors, joys & sorrows. That evening we were welcomed to Bombay by our missionary brothers and sisters. I think I have written you about our two months stay in Bombay, & also of our journey to Nuggur our spending a mount in Mr. Ballantines family & then becoming settled in our own hired house Nov. 22, 1839. Our time was principally spent in getting the language for some months. In Feb. just before the commencement of the hot season Mr. Ballantine & Mr. Burgess decided to take a tour to Jalna ---7---- The distance to Jalna about 120 miles. We stopped at Arungabad over the Sabbath. visited the wonderful caves of Ellova & remained in Jalna with Mr. & Mrs. Munger four or five days. ---------- March 11, 1840 My house appears very pleasant to me though the weather is oppressively warm.

March 15. Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve. The last great day of the taboot a mussalman festival annually observed in honor of Hassan & Houlsein, two brothers who fell in battle in the defense or propagation of Mohammadanism ---------21---------- March 21 -- Having had no rain since we came to the Duccan last Oct it was truly pleasant to be revisited by refreshing showers on the 18th. & 19th. -- The thermometer for several days before the rain, had stood at 100º 101º 97º in the warmer parts of the day. Rain is not expected to fall again 'until June. -- I feel that we must value this highly. --- Today is the last day of the Holee or Shimgah festival. It is a foolish degrading feast, as some among them acknowledge. ----------

Yesterday I made my first call at the house of a native. Caste & its appendages, is perhaps the greatest barrier in the way of our benefiting the people. If we enter their houses they must wash themselves & their clothes & perform some other ceremonies for purification. It makes them so much trouble & besides since the excitement attendant on the conversion of two brahmens, people are afraid of disgrace of our being seen in their houses, therefore we think it not advisable at present to call on them without invitation. The <*M*> man at whose residence we called, has the charge of the house & garden where we dwell ------12------ His house was large mostly built of stone. His apartments were all on the second story, the lower part being for buffaloes & cattle. His floors were of earth and stone & according to their ideas of nicety, were nicely washed or rather whitewashed with water mingled with cow dung. This practice, though revolting at first, is really a great comfort & a wash of cleanliness among the Hindoos ---- I remarked that I would like to see his wife & that I would <*like*> see her in her room if more agreeable to her. He said that as no gentleman except Mr. B. [*Burgess*] was present he would call her otherwise he would not. ----- His little wife came into the room as timidly and bashfully as anyone could. I asked her some questions but could hardly get her to answer one, she was so frightened. --- She is now 11 years of age & has been married one year. She was about the size <*of*> that Martha was at that age & was richly clad. Her nose & ear ornaments were of pearl & I presume cost many scores of rupees. ----7--- O that the way may be opened that missionaries may labor successfully for the poor degraded females of this country. It will be, though I do not live to see it. This is one of the many cases where the husband is of suitable age to be the father of his wife. --------15--------

March 2<7>5. We already keep <*the*> our houses shut to prevent the entrance of hot air after about eight o'clock in the morning. We are thus toreably comfortable.

March 27. A fine air & clear sky. The dust is laid. This morning I witnessed the native practice of threshing. I suppose it like the old Jewish custom

----49--- March 29, 1840. Sab. eve. Thermometer 97º Today for the first time Mr. Burgess addressed an audience in Murathee. He took his text from Mark 15,15 & talked 33 minutes. It was <*a*> very pleasant indeed to me to have him appear to be so well understood.. -----20----

April 2. Ther. 101º- This morning I took Miss Farrar to ride with me in our chaise. ---- We aim to be out before the sun. Three or four little stones painted red were lying near the threshing <*floor*> ground such as I described a few days since. Miss F. [*Cynthia Farrar*] asked one of the workmen

if they were god, to which he <*answered*> replied in the affirmative. She then asked him which were the greater himself or those stones. He said, they were. ---------- April 3. The first day of the Hindoo year -- a feast day -- they compute their months by the moon

May 16, 1840 My dear parents, I cannot tell you how much we were rejoiced today by letters from America, particularl</>y in my hearing from you & our family & family friends 13 1/2 months had flown & I had heard nothing from you ---- Today I received one written by mother & Joel Aug. 23, 1839 & a long valuable one from Joel dated Nov. 4, 1839.----------1.8
May 19. Last evening our missionary company met at our house to talk about the news from America. It was a pleasant time. -----14----- The vessel which brought our last letters (the Brinda) was laden with ice By advertisement in a Bombay paper, I perceive they are selling it from early six o'clock every morn at the rate of about seven cents a pound. I have since learned that the ice which cost 15.00 in America re[a]lized $10.000 at once in Bombay. We manage to keep our drinking water good & sufficient cool for me, this hot weather. It is filtered through charcoal & sand & then we keep it in an e[a]rthen jar which is so porous that the water evaporates through it, instead of heating what is within.

June 2.

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[*Addressed to*:] Mr. Elijah Grant
Millbrook
Lichfield Co.
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

July 23, 1842

My dear Brother,

On or about the 20th of June, I received half a sheet from Mrs. Burgess, dated Ahmednuggur [*India*] March 20, 1842. The information which she gave me concerning postage she wished me to communicate to you, & I will transcribe the whole which she wrote on this subject.

"The steam communication is indeed a boon to this country. Very many parents have children in England, now they can write & hear from them regularly once a month. All letters in this country pay postage according to their weight. We can send a half sheet like the one I now write upon to Bombay or to Mahabulishwar for one anna, that is, about three cents. We see, <*that*> by the papers, that letters of less than half an ounce weight go from England to America for single postage — for one shilling. — & single postage from here to England by Falmouth is 1s 6d. 2 1/2 sheets like what I now write upon will go or come for single postage. #

[*written across first page*] # Mary wrote upon paper like that English letter paper which I last spring gave to Martha.

2 1/2 such sheets weigh less than <*an*> 1/2 an ounce. But be sure & write upon the outside "By way of Falmouth," as by the Manscilles route the postage is more than double. The lowest postage by way of Falmouth from India to England is 1s 6d for under half an ounce weight. For an ounce the postage is doubled & so adding single postage for every half ounce up to six ounces, the largest weight they will take. A rupee & a quartes is just half an ounce avoirdupois. I suppose a half dollar would be a little less than 1/2 an ounce. Now I have been very particular on this subject, as you may not find it easy to ascertain. It was a long time before we could ascertain correctly."

In another part of the letter, Mrs Burgess says, "O what a meeting of the Board the last was. We received the N. Y. Ob. about two weeks since containing the amount. The kingdom of Christ will come, tho times may be hard. That letter made us inquire what we could do to diminish our expenses"

"Mr. Burgess sends a folio sheet, (it will go for single postage) for the N.Y. Ob. N.o.7.2.+9. on Idolatry in India. It was a subject which he wished to look into himself, & as he receives the paper for writing some for it, he wrote them. He says there will be some, not a large class, who will value the information. To many they will be dry. India & India matters, as connected with our labors require a good deal of study. We are as busy in various ways as we can be, & generally good natured & happy." "I go to my schools now a little after sunrise, & get home for breakfast about eight. I have comfort from them." "I believe some of the little girls will be saved through the truth I am enabled to communicate to them. Five of Mrs. Ballantine's larger girls wish to unite with the chh. [*church*] which means a great deal." "I love our missionary associates tenderly. Mrs Ballantine & Mrs. Abbott are both valuable characters."

I have transcribed from Mary's letter all that I thought you would particularly value. — On the tenth of June, Mr. B. [*Burgess*] & I went to Salem <*in the 1 o'clock (P.M.) car*> to see Mr. & Mrs. Munger, who had then just arrived in our country.

To Mrs. Munger it seemed almost incredible that we should leave home at one o'clock, spend about four hours in Salem, & reach home the same afternoon at 7 o'clock. Distance of Salem from Newport 24 miles. — Mr. Munger was in good health, & expected to labor under the direction of the Am. [*American*] Board while he remains in this country. — Mrs Munger's health was in some degree improved by the voyage. It was her earnest desire, that she might have her health improved, & be permitted to return. — They seemed to have highly enjoyed the society of Mr. & Mrs. Burgess on their journey from Ahmedmugger to Bombay. Jalna, where they have been stationed, is about 300 miles from Bombay.

Mr. & Mrs. M. [*Munger?*] could form no plans for themselves before seeing the Ex. Com. [*Executive Committee*] of the A.B.C.F.M. [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] — It was good to converse with them. — They hoped to see you & your family. — I have heard nothing concerning them, since I saw them. — During their stay of three months at Tanirahs, they forwarded the letters which they had for our country. — We recieved ours while I was in Con. [*Connecticut*]

For several weeks after my return home from Con. [*Connecticut*] our eldest daughter, Francis, was very much out of health with a cough &c. The latter part of May our son James & Richard had a short run of scarlet fever. He soon recovered, & Francis's health is much improved. Mr. Banister & Sarah have had good health. — Mr. B. [*Banister*] & I returned last Thursday, July 14, from Bangor, having been absent three weeks. — Next Monday we go to Amherst & to be there until after commencement on Thursday. We shall stop at Mr. Boltwood's very near the college [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] buildings & shall be most highly gratified to have you meet us there.

[*written across last page*] Should you come, we might finish our visit with you on Friday. Do come if you can.
Much love from Mr B [*Banister*] & myself to your family,

Affectionately yours,
Z.P.G. Banister
[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Newbury port. Sat. morn. July 23. 1842.

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

<*New*> South Dedham [*Massachusetts*] Feb. 20, 1844.
Tuesday.

My dear Brother,

I have not heard one word concerning your daughter Martha, since I received a letter written partly by her brother Joel at South Hadley [*Massachusetts*], & partly by Miss [*Mary*] Lyon. She had then been confined to her bed six weeks, & her mother had been with her two weeks. I directed my reply to that letter to Miss [*Mary*] Lyon, & requested further information without delay, & also frequently information while she should continue ill. Why no one has written, I cannot conjecture. If the dear child had left "the land of the dying, & gone to the land of the living," surely some one would have communicated to me the fact. With a disease so severe, & so stubborn, she cannot have recovered sufficiently to be removed home in the uncommonly cold weather of this inclement season. Probably your family remains in a measure broken up, while <u>you</u> suffer loneliness & anxiety. No doubt, however, you rejoice in the privilege, which Martha enjoys in being allowed the presence of her mother; as well as the privilege which her mother enjoys in administering to her stricken child.

You may be ready to inquire, why I am again at South Dedham. Perhaps you already know, that Dr. Briggs was attacked last June with profuse & stubborn hemmorrage of the lungs. From the debility consequent, he so far recovered as to be able to attend to his professional business. A slight cough through the summer & autumn was attended by a decay of health, until December 26, after one week confinement to the house, his spirit was released, & his emaciated body, a few days after, consigned to the tomb, then to remain until the morning of the resurrection. In the last week of his life he gave, by will, all his estate to his wife, & made her sole execution. Since his death, debts have been presented to an unexpected amount; & the 6th of March is appointed as time for an auction, in which the house, garden, woodland, & some of the household furniture is to be sold; -- leaving Mrs. Briggs & her children almost destitute. From a letter, which I received from this, my very dear friend, just before evening last Saturday, I feared she was breaking down under the weight of care, labor & solitude now devolving upon her, & overcoming what I had supposed to be insurmountable obstacles. I yesterday hastened to her dwelling. The Sabbath had been to her a season of precious rest from almost overwhelming cares & labors, & her spirit seemed to have been refreshed by drinking at the fountain of truth. Still she is worn down, & feeble. What she is to do, she knows not. The people throughout the parish are exceedingly kind & sympathizing. <*Both*> Her father, the Rev. Jabez Chickering & her grandfather Rev -- Balch (Mr. C's [*Chickering*] predecessor) each spent a life as past of this church & people. Her father, having ample pecuniary means, gave a library to the parish, & did many benevolent acts suited to promote the intellectual & moral improvement of his own generation, & of their posterity.

On my way to this place I called at Mr. Wm. [*William*] Stickney's 52 Temple St. Boston. They often received a short letter from Mr. Burgess. Under date of last October he says, that it is possible they may see him here in the course of a year. Should he come, he will, of course, bring his little boy, now almost four years old. He speaks of its being the opinion of the mission that he ought to [...] of its being peculiarly trying to him to think of leaving his field of labor among the Mahorattas.

From this, I infer, that the restoration of impaired health must be his object, tho [*though*] he does not specify. -- Dear Mary [*Grant Burgess*] has finished her work, & gone to heaven before us. While our attractions to earth diminish, do our attractions to heaven increase?

I did not know, until I heard at Mr. Stickney's of the failure of Mr. Jonathan Hoyt, & I fear you may have suffered by this event. (He was owing Mr. Stickney six thousand dollars for borrowed money, which was to be paid next March. Mr. S. [*Stickney*] considers Mr. H's [*Hoyt*] house as fraudulent, thinks he is liable to indictment, believes he has funds secreted; -- but has very little hope of receiving his due.) From his having purchased cheese & wool. I fear many around you may suffer -- How is this? -- Is uncle Cowles still near you? How is he?

Wm [*William*] Banister always speaks of you with fraternal affection, & he cherishes the hope that at some future time you may visit us. For some weeks past, he has not enjoyed so high a degree of health as usual, tho [*though*] with care, he attends almost daily to his ordinary business. The health of his eldest daughter is better than it was last winter. She rides to take the air almost daily, & on part to the time is quite comfortable, having the aspect of a person in health. She reads many volumes every month, & writes a good deal. But occasionally she suffers for hours, & some times severely. No day passes without her suffering more or less. His second daughter is not sick, but she is exceedingly slender. -- James Richards our missionary son is in

his 17th year. He does not love study well enough to justify our sending him to college. It is his choice to return to the [S.I.?] sooner or later. If his own father, whom we constantly expect from Europe, should decide that he shall follow his inclination to become a farmer, I do not see how we can provide for him the necessary training. My own health is, on the whole better at present than it has been before for seven years. Still I have no capacity for endurance. Overextension when we had company last week

This in brackets is for you only. {confined me mostly to my bed from Friday noon until Sunday morning. -- We have excellent Christian minister, & many steadfast Christians, among us; but we suffer greatly for want of a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

I wrote a few lines to Mr. Pettiborne from Amherst last August. & I have not since heard from him. How is he?

My most affectionate regards to each member of your family, including Joel & John, when you write them. Tell Elizabeth I remember her with much affection. During these seven years, that it has lost me so much suffering to write a letter she has not once written me -- That you, your wife & children may be sustained under present trials, & prepared for whatever God, in his providence, has appointed you is the desire of

yr [*your*] afftc [*affectionate*] sister
Z.P.G Banister.[*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Ellen continues in the family of David Choate, Esq. (at Essex, five miles from Ipswich. [*Massachusetts*]) & pursues her studies to good advantage. Her present situation is favorable for her health her improvement & her character -- Direct to me at Newburyport

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

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

Mrs. Root writes that they intend to have their Parents come out here & live with them, & does not know as they shall all be ready to come until sometime in the summer, but says Mr.

Root will return early this Spring -- do not believe it would be best to trouble Mrs. Root with the care of anything as she would have her aged Parents children to see to, & if she had not I dont know but any thing would come as safely alone as with her --

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Mother,

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

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

I have been trying to get a living by teaming and could do so very well if I could get my pay as I go along, but I cannot however it will be wanted when it comes I got the team on account of my health and I know my health is better than when I labor on a farm I could have done better this winter in a school I suppose but the spring has now come and I believe I can do better with the team than any other way my health has not been good for some time but as good as ever when the warm season is approaching. I am now quite comfortable and feel that the spring seasoning is almost past if so it has past much earlier than usual I have hired a man to drive the team till I am strong again and get some other business done up He has now been here a week and we have earnt in that time $16, besides some other work that we have done I drove the team about two months before I bought it and my health improved rapidly during

the whole time and until the middle of Feb. when the warm weather commenced my health never was better.

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

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

give my love to all friends --
Your aff daughter --
Caroline

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

My dear Mother & Sister,

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

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

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

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

our Sewing Soc. [*society*] for some of the children, and oh that we had a few hundred yards to make up. I have often wished I could get to some of your old flannel petticoats, that you could no longer use. They will cut over four small girls & are so much warmer than cotton.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope we shall soon hear from you.

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

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Lockport, Ill, [*Illinois*] Feb. 1, 1853.

Dear Parents,

Since I wrote you last, our family has been in comparatively comfortable health. The children are now suffering somewhat from colds produced, in part perhaps, by the unseasonable warm weather. Still they are not sick, but on the whole quite comfortable.

I have had a little more time recently to look at the spiritual destitution & diseases of this place. I think there is improvement here, & that we have reason to look for still greater in future, but still it seems one great moral waste. Christian families here are things in a great measure unknown. In this village there are but two families connected with the Cong. Ch. [*Congregational Church*] Where family prayer is observed. There are three Methodist families where I have reason to suppose this ordinance is observed & beyond this, I know not that there are any others. But there are tokens of good. Last summer there came here both a Baptist & Methodist minister, who both labor earnestly & wisely for the good of the Church of Cht. [*Christ*] There is also an Episcopal Minister of evangelical views & decided piety who in his sphere is doing good. From

this it would appear that that if good does not come to Lockport it will not be for want of ministers. The Cong. Ch. [*Congregational Church*] is at present however the chief one here, not in members, perhaps, for its members are only about 50, but in the size fits congregation, & the character of those who give it support.

We have some organized forms of wickedness here that seem very unpromising. The most prominent is the Catholic Church, wh. [*which*] embraces all or nearly all the Irish, & is in a good degree of prosperity. The next is the "Codding" party, as it is known, embracing infidels, Universalists, & spirit rappers [*spiritualism*]. This, as an organized party, seems likely to fall to pieces eventually, though it is probably its affects must remain. Codding is still the idol of many, their beau ideal of everything a minister should be. But his doctrines do not really set before men any thing to do, & it is only a jest to be sustaining an organization that has no high purposes in view. It may last months yet, or even longer, but I greatly mistake if it is not destined to fall. The support given to Codding (other than encouragement by attending his meetings) is very small indeed. He, however, has leased a farm in this vicinity for five years, & lives upon it, & while he can have hearers will probably preach.

The Spirit rapping delusion influences very many here. It seems impossible to deny that strange things are performed by unacceptable agencies. The spirits seem to delight in theology, & as far as I know, while they present nothing worthy of thought, they all testify to the happenings of all who have departed this world. I doubt whether this delusion is likely to receive any considerable check, until our preachers shall instruct the people (1.) That the days of trustworthy revelations have ended. (2.) That all such seeking for Knowledge as by inquiry of spirits real or pretended is forbidden entirely, in the Bible, is preeminently liable to imposture, & therefore must be avoided by all Chn. [*Christian*] people. I am looking into these things somewhat & propose soon to preach upon them. Only on one question am I now in doubt, viz. whether the action of incorporeal intelligences has any thing whatever to do with these manifestations. If there are any spirits at all in the case they are evidently wicked spirits, sent to deceive. I have been accustomed to believe that the days of spiritual manifestation had ceased, & this I believe has been the opinion of Christiandom since Witchcraft was exploded, though quite a contrary opinion prevailed previously. But I am led to inquire whether or in the reaction of the public mind consequent upon the cruelties to wh. a belief of Witchcraft led, has not produced too much skepticism, & whether God dos not permit Satan at times to exhibit his operations somewhat more publicly than by mere interior suggestion, even in our Savior's days he was permitted (by his agents) to influence the bodies of certain individuals. If such is the case we might expect just what we actually behold, what the unreligious, the unbelieving, the rejecters of Cht. [*Christ*] as "God manifest in the flesh," would be led astray. <*This is*> In all this place there is not an individual who previously had a belief in Cht.[*Christ*] as God, or in God as a being who will punish the wicked eternally, who has been carried away. Others, & even some who previously denied the resurrection or that there is either angel or spirit, are borne away. How far the delusion may extend I know not.

Our people have given us a donation Party, & done very well too. They brought us $95 in money & about $75 in that wh. [*which*] is equally valuable -- total $170. The expenses of our removal (family & goods) were about $160. The party was numerous & very pleasant. We have a hold upon the better portion of this people that I think neither men or devils can readily break, though it must all be as the Lord appoints.

We all send love. Our weather is very warm & we long sometimes for your cold & bracing air. We have had no snow for more than four weeks, & then we had no sleighing,

Your aff. [*affectionate*] son.
Joel Grant

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Burrsville [*Ohio*], Tues. noon. May 28

My dear Brother,

Mrs. Burr hopes to take me to your house next Friday forenoon. If Mr. B. [*Burr*] should on that day, go out of town with his horse in another direction, it is our purpose to come on Saturday, if the weather & other circumstances do not forbid.

While I deeply sympathize with you in your infirmities & sufferings, I regard your continuance on earth a favor to our world. Those who have been called & justified in accordance with God's plan of saving sinners "are the salt of the earth." Therefore, our world is better for there being in it. When too feeble for continuous that is protracted prayers, you may perhaps sometimes need the prayers of one good man, "Bless my posterity, so long as trees grow & rivers run." You can pray, "Save the souls of my children, & of their descendants for Christ's sake," uttering this prayer from the heart many times in the day, & many times in the night, would not be <u>vain repetition</u>.

For yourself, perhaps you can say as the late Rev. Dr. Goodell said in a letter in 18[6?]7 from Constantinople that he repeated as his own prayer many times in the day & often many times in the night,

"I'm a poor sinner, just
nothing at all,
But Jesus Christ is my
All in all."

When you may not be able to repeat the whole of the Lord's prayer, you may lift up your soul to God, in the expressions, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Or more briefly you may say, "Father glorify thy name," or simply " Thy will be done."

Stephen adapted the prayer of our Lord in its spirit. Jesus said, "Father into thy hands I commit my spirit. The words of Stephen were, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." A single that offered up to God in accordance with his will, & in dependence of his mercy thru' the gift of his Son, has proved to be prevailing prayer. One who had never prayed before his last hour said from his heart "Lord remember me," & his soul was saved.

Much love to Marcus & to Caroline, to Edward & to Jack on his return. In love, your sister,
Z.P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 1, 1854

Dear Parents,

Mother's letter was received in due time, bringing the comfortable news that you were still in your usual health, as also many thoughts and suggestions wh. [*which*] I highly value. I was pleased to receive that fragment of Elliot's letter, it so truly, so sweetly, expresses the proper feeling for every Christian in circumstances of trial. The times through which we have passed have tested Christians' hopes, and the result in general has not been so comforting as we would have expected, perhaps. There was but little of peaceful, hopeful, quiet rest in the hope of the glory that is to be revealed. Christians like others seemed to have a feeling that nothing but a promise of life and health could give them peace. God's promise "I will never leave nor forsake thee," did not sustain them, and of Christ's declaration "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" we might have asked the question "Believest thou this?" for the number of those who derived any thing like stable comfort from it was very small. And yet there were some who did. Of the 46 who have died out of our village there were members of the Methodist Church, one of the Baptist, and one (an English lady) had never united with any church here, but < *an*> had long been a professor of religion, and died in the triumph of faith. Still another on her death had made such a profession of penitence and faith that we indulge a good degree of hope for her, thus making six of whose views we have some considerable knowledge. Many of the rest sank into the grave as they had lived, with no hope, or a delusive one.

But I was thinking of the sustaining power of the Christian's hope. If it is ever to be "an anchor to his soul," if it ever is to help and comfort him during his stay here it seems as if it should at such a time. In my own case I felt that it did sustain me. I unhesitatingly went everywhere that it seemed best to go. About half of those who died were either Catholics or Germans that spoke a language unknown to me, and I did not visit them. Every where else as far as my strength

permitted I went, and felt that I went under God's gracious protection and with his promise, not that my body should be spared, but that even if it died it would live again, while my soul should, even in the interval, be <*the*> permitted to be with my Savior. But there were only a few who felt so – very few indeed.

As you will see by a paper I send the cholera seems now to have left us. There is but little sickness in the place. The weather, however, is astonishingly hot. Day by day the sun pours down his scorching beams until it seems difficult longer to endure them. Every body exclaims "I never knew it like this before!," though this is no very good proof that such is the fact, so forgetful are we of the past. This is certain, however, that the season is unusually hot and is fast becoming very dry. In one thing we are favored, and that is that our winds are from favorable quarters, principally from the North, East, and West, rather than the South. All these winds are regarded as healthy while the latter is not so.

We received a letter from Marcus a few days since. I enclose it so you. For the first time it is possible that the boys may make a little, though not enough to render it best that they should tarry for it. Marcus, I infer, still intends to return as soon as the season is over. We are all, as well as usual, unless we except Willie, and perhaps he is, though we fear not. This chief hope is that his bodily system may get a more complete development and this very warm weather seems to operate the other way, making him less strong and healthy. His fits, though no more numerous than formerly, seem to be somewhat more violent. At the same time he grows in all that is lovely most rapidly. If he does any thing wrong and is rebuked for it, he ordinarily desists at once and expresses a wish to kiss his rebuker. Can it be that he who said "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, thou hast perfected praise," has thus early taught him to <u>feel</u> with David (he cannot say it) "let the righteous smite me, it shall be a kindness and let him reprove me, it shall be an excellent oil?" At the same time he does not seem now to grow rapidly <*in any*> in any thing but sweetness and music. He scarcely speaks a word, though he sings with surprising sweetness, and accuracy. We feel that God is preparing him for service in heaven rather than on earth, but whichsoever it may be our prayer is that he may be well prepared.

I am very sorry to hear of sister Elizabeth's misfortunes. Hers too is a life of sorrow and disappointment, though not unmingled with joy, I trust. I suppose it is still time that through much tribulation we must enter the k. of God. May we all be prepared to achieve as seeing Him who is invisible.

Your aff son
Joel Grant.

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Marysville [*California*] May 10 1854

Dear Mother

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

I am now with Daniel. I came here yesterday. He is quite pleasantly situated for a married man leading a bachelor life in California. He has seven cows now and expects three more every day. He rents them for one half the butter and cheese that they make. As yet he makes nothing but butter.

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

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

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

In your letter were a few lines from Caroline I am very much obliged to her for them.
I received a letter from Joel about a week ago dated Feb 2.
I wrote a letter to John a month ago and should be received about this time.
I can think of nothing more to write.
Much love to Abby and Eddie,
Your affectionate son
Marcus Grant

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

Gainesville, Sumpter Co. Ala [*Alabama*]
April 2, 1857

Dea. [*Deacon*] & Mrs. Grant,
My dear Brother & Sister,

I was wonderfully refreshed and strengthened by the peculiar genial atmosphere of the "Indian Summer" after my arrival at Tuscaloosa [*Alabama*], October 11. From the first of December through the winter months, I suffered from various symptoms. In the coldest weather, (meaning once down to 4° above zero,) my breathing organs were quite embarrassed, showing that they would not well sustain a northern winter. The two weeks of vacation at Christmas, I was most mostly confined to my room, & also that cold week from Jan. 17 to 24. Besides this time, & a few other additional days, I have taken charge of the opening exercises in Mrs. Stafford's school of 100 pupils, for half an hour. Tues. Wed. & Thr. Mornings. This has sometimes been all I could do. Till Dec. 18, I was at Mrs. Stafford's. Then I went to Mrs. Maxwell's, & have not again been to Mrs. Stafford's because I could not well endure what I could not help feeling & doing, where so many young ladies were accessible, & needed so much done for them. They board 20 more or less.

Early in March I accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell to Mobile [*Alabama*]. After resting there through a long rain, we took boat, by "the inner passage" (inside the islands) & over a part of Lake Pontchartrain to New Orleans [*Louisiana*], 180 mil [*miles*] that Paris of the U.S. The Cathedral, the Battle Ground of Jan. 8, 1815, "The Levee" several miles in length, a place of immense business; the peculiar site of the city; "The Cemeteries" in wh. [*which*] all their dead are entombed above ground, (because the crust of the earth over the water is not thick enough to dig a grave) -- & were well worth seeing. Fortunes there are made & lost by variations in price of produce almost in a day. One man, a Scotchman McMahan deals only in lard. Sometimes he has bought & sold 200,000 pounds in a day, on wh. [*which*] his commission was $2000. One firm of Spaniards, has during the last 25 years accumulated a fortune of $400,000 dollars, by dealing only in Spanish Cigars. This one firm, and Capt. McConnel, who is continually passing to & from Havanna, trade with this Scotchman, Mr. McMahan; & from these alone he makes enough to support his family, & his office or place of business.

I came up the Tombigbee to this place to visit some ladies of Ipswich [*Massachusetts*] memory. A line from Tuscaloosa [*Alabama*] mentions the death of Prof. Tuomey of the University of Ala. [*Alabama*], who taught in Mrs. Stafford's school. He was distinguished for his great attainments as a naturalist. Mrs. S. [*Stafford*] depended on him to teach Chemistry, mineralogy, Geology, Botany, & Conchology. He was born & bred in Ireland, & he had a large <*of*> supply of Irish wit, & good judgment in using it. – a very interesting man—adhering to the R. [*Roman*] Catholic form of religion, tho [*though*] worshipping with his wife in the Episcopal Church. His family, including two lovely daughters as all his children, I suppose must be left destitute of pecuniary means.

Next week I expect to return to Tuscaloosa [*Alabama*]. This excursion has done me good. Tho [*though*] yesterday and today, I am trying total abstinence, excepting gruel, & mostly lying by

to get rid of some ailments. I have written with great rapidity, that I may send this to your son John.

Have you succeeded in gaining some statistics of our ancestors of the Grant family? I want a list of all you have, sometime. Perhaps I can have it thro' [*through*] John.

Probably I shall not leave Tuscaloosa [*Alabama*] before the first of May. Tho [*though*] my movements must be regulated by my company of wh. [*which*] I have now no knowledge.

Remember me kindly to each of your children & to inquiring friends. Your aff'te [*affectionate*] sister

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

Cousin John, I should like to have you send this to your brother Phelps's wife & request her to forward it. I think of her & hers with much affection, & I cannot write them.

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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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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Feb 20, 1863
Monday eve.

My dear Brother,

Your letter was gratefully received on the evening of the 16th. I rejoice to hear that your family & your friends generally are enjoying physical health. Still more do I rejoice, that so many of the branches in your neighborhood are enjoying a season of refreshing from the presence of

the Lord. I would not only desire that converts may be multiplied as drops of the morning dew, but, I would also desire, that believers may be baptized anew by the Holy Ghost.

Many places in this country are visited by the influences of the Spirit; but as yet, there is nothing marked among the religious societies in this town, with the exception perhaps of one of the Methodist churches.

I am myself greatly surprised at what I hear & see of poverty in this place. After much has been done by individual effect, & through the Howard Benevolent Society, & the Washington Total Abstinence Society, it was ascertained that many families were suffering for the want of comfortable food. Contributions were made, & it was advertised that soup would be delivered three times during the week before last, at 12 o'clock to such as needed aid. The applicants were much more numerous than was expected. Last week it was delivered daily. On Friday the number of families supplied was 112, embracing 551 individuals. It was said, that some applied who ought not, but after examination into the condition of those who were recipients of this public bounty, the number of families supplied last Saturday was 120. The population is a little over 7,000. Business has revived here since the manufacturing of cotton has employed so much capital & occupied so many persons, but some of the mills have stopped, & others have dismissed many of their hands. Mechanics do not find it easy to get employment, & many have little or nothing to do. One morning last week a gentleman on inquiring at the market whether the seller could send some fresh fish to his house, was answered by a respectable mechanic that <u>he</u> would like to carry it. On the gentleman's putting two cents into his hand, he remarked, that was all the money, which he had earned for a week. This mechanic, (ship carpenter,) had a wife & children dependent on his earnings. Many others are in similar circumstances. A great variety of wants are expressed by those, who come to us personally for aid.

Your son Joel passed two or three days with us the latter part of January. He is very well situated at Andover [*Massachusetts*], & he is pleased with his situation.

Our family are well except our older daughter. Disease seems to be making advances on her system, & we fear it may prove fatal. From the nature of her complaint, it seems plain, that she cannot have health for some time to come

Rev. Wm. Richards of the Sandwich Islands visited us, before he left our country for England in steamer Caledonia. His son James, & indeed all of us, valued his visit very highly.

I feel very much for Lucius, in his reverses. I hope he will keep a conscience void of offence both toward God & toward man.

Mr. Bannister writes with me in affectionate regards to yourself & Mrs. Grant, & to each of your children, also to Mr. Lucius Griswold & his wife, & to Uncle & Aunt Cowles & their family.

Your affectionate sister,
Z.P.G. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Company & other engagements prevented my writing either on Friday or Saturday of Last Week.
How are Mr. & Mrs. Pettibone this winter?
How are my good friends Mr. & Mrs. Marsh of Winchester? You did not mention Winchester among the places receiving showers of divine grace.

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Care Mrs. C.C. Chrisman
Westchester, Pa. [*Pennsylvania*] Jan. 29, 1866
Morn

My dear Brother,

A letter written by Mr. Phillips on Fri the 26th, mailed the 27th, has brot [*brought*] me tidings of you & yours. The closing scenes of life bring with them sadness to surviving friends. But to the believer, Christ has "abolished death" (Tim [*Timothy*] 1:10) he saith to him, "Because I live, ye shall live also." In the removal from you of your best in friends the companion of your youth, I trust you will recognize the fulfillment of our Savior's promise, Jn [*John*] 14:3 – "I will come again & receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also." It is his will, & his prayer, "that they also whom the [Earth?] has has given him be with him where he is, that they may behold his

glory." & (Jn. [*John*] 17:24.) Having laid down his life to purchase them, having loved them with an everlasting love, & their having been partakers of eternal life, since they by faith on being born again became partakers of the eternal life which God has given us which life is in his Son as the Fountain & in the believer as united to this Fountain it is his joy to put them in possession of their inheritance, reserved for them at the close of their earthly pilgrimage. – This dear fiend lived here by faith upon the Son of God, & she endured unto the end. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Can we not comfort on another in the conclusive evidence we have that she has already entered in to the rest of & will ever be with our Lord.

After her mortal part shall be consigned, "dust to dust," then will be a desolation in your house, exceeding what you felt while her body lay before you, cold as marble. Do not, my dear brother, allow yourself to regard death as a grim tyrant, a monster, watching for his prey, as the heathens do; but rather think of both soul & body as having been bought by our Redeemer with a price, & each as having their habitation, whether in this world or another, appointed by Him, & cared for by Him as long as each shall exist. Let not the room in which she breathed her last have melancholy associations but recognize <*that*> it as the place where Jesus came to take one of his own, came in love, & in the fulfillment of his own precious promise. There he came, only a little while before he will come again & take you also. In view of the past your heart will perhaps say, "Even so, Father for so it seemed good in thy sight. "The Lord gave & the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." In view of the future, considering that our great High Priest hath by one offering perfected forever them that are sanctified, (or justified), you may say "Come Lord Jesus." One Apostle <*tells*> in speaking to the saints says, The father hath made us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Another says He is able to keep you from falling & to present you before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Shall we not choose that unto Him that loved us, & washed us from our sins in his own blood there shall be glory forever & ever.

Your son Joel, away at Dr. Well's Bluff in Arkansas, will weep & rejoice <u>for</u> you & himself, tho [*though*] he cannot be <u>with</u> you. You and each bereaved one, can go & tell Jesus. Assure each of your own family & home hold of my deep & tender sympathy, Let us one & all seek to have this event a means of sanctification to ourselves & others, The Lord be with you, my brother,
Z.P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Dr. King of Carlisle who preached here yesterday, said that Jesus Christ had purchased our souls by his atonement Jn. [*John*] 1:29. Those who accept his offer, he will receive to himself. Those who reject it he will cast off.

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

Newburyport. [*Massachusetts*] Sept. 3, 1866

My dear Brother,

I was glad to hear of you by our cousin Rev. Henry Cowles, whom I saw last week at Ipswich. Inquiries often arise in [?] that's concerning you. By something of that resting in the Rock, Christ Jesus, which may be while we are at home in the body, the remainder of your life may be comfortable in measure. By often in the day & night lifting up the brief sincere prayer for your children & their descendants, "O God, save their immortal souls for Jesus' sake," your life may be a blessing on all your posterity, & countless others to the end of time. By your quiet patient endurance, too, you may glorify our Father in heaven & so let your light shine, that others around you may be led to glorify him also. – As for me the constant teaching & power of the Holy Spirit, & the manifestation of God in Christ.

That you may be sustained under all your privations & sufferings, be accepted in the Beloved, & have the light of God's countenance is the desire & prayer of your affectionate sister,
Z.P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Feb. 26, 1867

My dear Brother,

It is a fact of tender interest, that I am permitted to write this address. Caroline's letter, received yesterday, leads me to think of you as near the time when Jesus will receive you to himself, cleansed by his blood, bathed in his righteousness, a trophy of divine grace. The salvation of your soul, saved from your sins, will be the means of making known to angels, the manifold wisdom of God. (Eph. [*Ephesians*] 3:10.) Looking unto Jesus, may be our daily motto while we continue at home in the body. May we not on earth, commence the song of heaven, "Unto him that loved us, & washed us from our sins in his own blood, -- to him be glory & dominion forever & ever."

Yesterday I met with some remarks of C.H. Mackintosh, a Scotchman still living, so adapted to my own wants, that I will transcribe a few sentences for you.

"God has taken us up just as we are. He can never make any fresh discovery to cause an alteration in the character & measure of his love. (Jn [*John*] 13:1. Having loved his own wh. [*which*] were in the world, he loved them unto the end. Jn. [*John*] 15:11. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.) God knew all about us. – the very worst, when he manifested his love to us in the gift of his son. He knew what was needed, & he provided it. He knew what was due, & he paid it. He knew what was to be wrought, & he wrought it. His own requirements had to be met, & he met them. It is all his own work. Hence we find him saying to Israel (Ex [*Exodus*] 6:7.8) 'I will bring you in.' – 'I will take you to me.' – 'I will give you the land.' – 'I am Jehovah.' – It was all what he would do founded upon what he was. Until this great truth is fully laid hold of until it enters into the soul in the power of the Holy Ghost, there cannot be settled peace."

My dear brother letting go of every hold you may sink down with the weight of all your infirmities, & all your sins into the arms of Jesus. He is watching, -- that he may do all that for you, & work all that in you, which you need. Is it your choice, that he should have all the glory of your salvation? -- & the glory of the salvation of all your descendents to all your kindred – of all whose bodies & souls he had bought with a price?

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," may be our daily prayer. – thro [*through*] our Father which art in heaven, Save my children, my grand children, & my kindred, for Christs sake.

In sisterly love, yours,

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

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Aug. 27. 1867.

My dear Friends at Millbrook,

The Lord be with you, all & each of you personally. When teachable, we may expect the teachings & power of the Holy Spirit, to attend the providences, that we recognize from the hand of our heavenly Father.

Mrs. [Jemshu?] Grant, the widow of James, since 1826, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. [T.?] Parker June 9, in the 78th year of her age. And now that your father has gone, no one of my brothers or sisters, or their companions is remaining. Your father had long been the only person living that had loved me ever since I was born. This world seems to grow poorer, & heaven richer in loved ones. I would heed the lessons from the Great Teacher & profit by them.

That my own & only brother should have with him in his last days, sons, sons wives, grandsons, all respectful, filial, tender towards him; & this, to with most of them as It must in obedience to our heavenly Father, having a choice to do his will shows the wealth of our heavenly Father is love & applies us.

Dear Abbies letter written at 7 am. Last Saturday came to me at 10 a.m. yesterday. (Mon.) Joel's telegram from Winsted [*Connecticut*], Mon. reached me at 10 ½. Mon. morn & his letter, written Sat. eve stating that his father died that afternoon at 5 o'clock, has this moment,

Tues. 10 a.m., arrived. The Lord be praised for his favors general & special to the dear departed one & to you all, to us all. What a blessing that sleep towards the last instead of [. . .] agony, & is it precious to see that expression of “perfect peace” on his countenance, as he sleeps in death. How thrilling must have been his welcome by Jesus as one of his purchased ones, & how satisfying [to] see this Jesus as he is, & to be conformed to his image. To be received by Him whence he is to be forever with him, safe from sin, form evil from even the fear of evil, what must it be, Forever safe! Is all this only just before us? See the hymn, “My God, my portion & my love.”

The Lord bless you each one. In sympathy & present in spirit tenderly yours,

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

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[*Addressed to:*] Hon. W. [*William*] B. Banister
For Mrs. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Newburyport
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
U.S.A.

Ahmednuggur [*India?*] Nov. 29, 1842.

My dear Mrs. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Inclos,d [*Enclosed*] is a letter for Miss Joanna Smith which I shall feel much oblig'd [*obliged*] by your directing to her, as I know not where she may be, or the name she now bears I had the pleasure of seeing yours & Miss Briggs,s letters to dear Mrs Burgess -- was delighted with inteligence respecting so many that I knew -- and, glad hear of Miss Cutter's marriage. You will rejoice to hear, as I trust you will through the Herald of this encouraging progress of truth among this people -- Of the eight who were receiv,d [*received*] in [the] church at last communion one was a sholar from the [?] Boarding shool -- Nine others have since receiv,d [*received*] baptism, which has produc,d a very great excitement I may say, far & near. Serious effort is in progress by opposing heathens to undermine our operations as much as possible -- But we feel that He that is for us, is more than they who are against us, and we are encouraged to believe that God,s word is having free course & will be glorified. I am not able, definitely to state the number expected to be receiv,d [*received*] into the church at next communion, but am expecting one of the number will be a scholar from one of the schools <*I left under Mrs. Burgess care on going to the Hills.*> under my care. I now have her with me as an assistant in teaching those we require to have daily about us, and for gathering together what I shall call, a family school. The two girls already under her care, are doing well, & I hope others will soon be added to this number. Thank Mrs Grant with my best love for her rememberance of me -- You will rejoice to hear so good account of my health -- am feeling quite well, and able to attend to <*attend to*> the schools under my care, and other duties with enjoyment such as I was want to, in gone buy years of labour in India -- have in a measure, lost that stupor, and dullness that so unfitted me for social enjoyment the dreary years of poor health -- Mrs Ballantine says I begin to look again as I did when she arriv,d [*arrived*] in the country -- I say all this dear Mrs. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*], as I know not how best to express the gratitude I feel for so great a blessing.

I am sorry to say that Mr Burgess,s appears delicate -- is subject to poor short attacks of [M...?] which, for a day or two quite prostrate his strength and spirits -- generally speaking however, he appears tolerably well. He is now preparing for a visit to the [C...?] for a change, which we hope may be a great benefit to him -- I know your respect for him, and need not assure you how much he is treasur,d here [*treasured*] -- what confidence the brethren have in his judgment and abilities, and how he will be miss,d [*missed*] during his absence; still, they are anxious he should avail himself of such measures as may tend to the promotion & establishment of his of his health. He takes Edwin with him -- [*he is*] a fine child, and a most interesting little companion I often think how delighted you could be to see him in his cheerful, happy amusements -- I expect to miss his company a good deal, as he usually goes out for the morning air with me in the [?]. He often speaks of his dear mama of his own accord in a way which shows

that he has some distinct recollections of her, and which I trust he will never loose. May the sure promises of God, and answers of a godly mother's prayers rest on this dear child, His loss is irreparable to human view, but God can overrule even this dispensation for His greater glory -- I know you pray for him, and for us all, that we be found faithful, and the blessing of God may rest upon us, and our labours. Allow me to ask a rememberance to my friend who may inquire for me -- for your [?] --

--respectful regards to Mr Banister if you please
and believe me,
dear Mrs Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*],
yours sincerely
Cynthia Farrar

I give permission for you to [...] the inclos,d [*enclosed*] if you please --

Ahmednuggur [*India*] Nov. 28. 1842

My dear friend Mrs. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar gives me the opportunity of writing a word or two on the out side of her wrapper -- I have time to say but few words -- I rec'd [*received*] your letter dated June 10 on the 29th of Oct. -- Am truly thankful for it -- expect from what you say I shall have more letters from you before long. The last six months have been months of great interest to our Mission -- The interest still continues, and is of such a nature that there does not exist the same reason for its ceasing as in case of revivals in N. Eng. [*New England*] We do not say revival -- it is the attraction of the people to christianity -- Some six or eight individuals have been examined within a few days -- and will probably be baptized next Sab. [*Sabbath*] We shall have some eight or ten new communicants next Sacramental season. -- next Sab [*Sabbath*] -- We had quite a number last one. Edwin is pretty well -- I am much better than I was two or months ago -- I am about to take a journey to Bombay, for my health

In great haste As ever your friend E Burgess

[*Written across side*] My regards to Mr. B [*Banister*] - and inquiring friends --

I wrote you a half sheet by the mail which left Sept. 1- and the same by the am of Oct. 1.- Steamer leaves Bombay Dec. 1s

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Extract from a letter from Rev. Salmon Cowles to Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] -- they are cousins -- he was born June 1784.

It is dated West Point, Lee Co. Iowa, Sept. 17, '62

"I have for three for four years past given up the charge of the church in this place, & of the Des Moines College in this place a little longer, but still preach occasionally as I have opportunity -- Last week our Presbytery met at Keokuk, & as Moderator, I preached the opening sermon -- My wife is yet living, & we are on our farm, a little our from West Point, with our son Noah Miner Cowles, with his family, so that in our old age, we have a moderate living & suitable care -- We have not withstanding to wait on ourselves more, on account of Henry our youngest son, & James Noah's oldest son, being in the Army now nearly a year -- James was not quite 16 when he enlisted -- They are both in Co. G. fourth Iowa Cavalry, under Maj. Gen. Curtis -- Henry has been for some time in Memphis City Hospital -- Memphis Tenn. [*Tennessee*] able to walk about, slowly recovering from camp. fever -- My son Samuel Mills had a son <*Samuel*> William S. Cowles, by his first wife, about twenty years of age, in the third Iowa Calvary, who fell at Pea Ridge, Ark. [*Arkansas*] under Gen. Curtis, while fighting his way, with part of his Reg [*Regiment*], through the Texan Rangers & Indians, by whom they were surrounded. He first had a finger shot off, & then his horse shot under him, after which he had no way of escape, but was soon shot down --

My son Salmon has also a son by his first wife, who is about nineteen years of age, in the fifteenth Ohio (Inft [*Infantry*] (I think) He is under Buel, in East Tenn. [*Tennessee*] His name is Samuel W. Cowles --

My daughter Lucinda Stewart, who has nine children, has a son, Oscar Eugene Stewart, in the fifteenth Iowa Inf. [*Infantry*] He is nearly 18, & is about Corinth Miss. [*Mississippi*] He was one of the Reg. [*Regiment*] that just received their arms, & landed at Pittsburg landing, on the Sab. [*Sabbath*] morning of the battle, & fought valiantly through the whole two days battle, & came out unhurt, except lying on their arms two or three nights in the cold rain, after which he had to lie in the Hospital for some time.

I do not know what are God's designs by such terrible judgments upon our beloved Country -- But my mind was struck forcibly with the conviction from the first, & the conviction has been increasing up to this time, that God has some grand purpose to accomplish, by this mighty uprising, & awful chastisement. From the first I believed that such suicidal madness, & infatuation, as was manifest in the secession of the South, was a token that God was about to accomplish some grand design, & what greater than to overturn the vast & powerful system of slavery, which man could not do."

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Nov. 1, 1865.

My dear Elizabeth,

My own arrangements for your loved ones at Millbrook [*Connecticut*], have been years in advance of your request. We should trust our friends, & trust <u>for</u> our friends. Our heavenly Father loves them infinitely more than we do. How benevolent are his precepts, "Take no thought for the morrow," "Be careful for nothing." That which they mean, may we receive, & obey.

You & I have our lives lengthened from day to day, that we may be humbled & proved, feel our need of Christ, accept of him as <*our*> Savior, lay up our treasure in heaven, & become better prepared for its employments & enjoyments We have here no abiding place. For comfortable shelter, lodgings, food & clothing, for opportunity to show kindness, what occasion we have for gratitude! Of the multitudes that are now before the throne, who came out of great tribulation, & washed their robes & made them white in the blood of the Lamb, which of them looks back with sorrow at the trials appointed on earth for their discipline? -- It is the power of the Holy Spirit, & his indwelling, that we need. Our Savior says, "Ask & ye shall receive." Please look at this & the context.

As I was for some weeks, I could not think of taking a trip to Conn. [*Connecticut*] Now I am so much improved, that I may make you a call about or after the middle of November. I shall be glad to commune with you personally, & with you all at Millbrook [*Connecticut*] face to face. My stay cannot be long.

Give a great deal of love to your father & mother & to Marcus. Our Great Teacher seems to be educating Marcus by special means for what he has in store for him, both in future life here, & for what he will give him to do in heaven. I hope he lays hold of the promise, "My grace is sufficient for you."

Our Heavenly Father can overrule our mistakes for the highest good. Miss Fidelia Fisk, after severe bodily suffering & mental trial on her death bed, was comforted by the thot [*thought*] that God could glorify himself by forgiving her sins, as well as by keeping her from sin.

What a favor that he does not upbraid those who come to him in their deficiency, feeling their need & having their expectation from him. See James 1:5 & the context. Receive these teaching as fr. [*from*] our heavenly Father speaking audibly to you personally. -- The Lord bless thee & keep thee. The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, & be gracious to thee. The Lord life up his countenance upon thee, & give thee peace.

In long continued love your aunt,
Z.P. Banister. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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Newark, N.J. [*New Jersey*] April 7, 1866.

My dear Elizabeth,

Your favor of March 14, is before me. I deeply sympathize in your very heavy trials. It is obvious, that they are occasioned by disease of body, affecting the nervous system & the brain.

No pecuniary aid, no arrangement of kindred & friends, not even the presence of filial affection, & unvaried attentions of your children can afford any permanent or essential relief. You need the best professional skill, of some physician, that understands what <*medical*> treatment has relieved others, similarly affected. This is probably your only chance for recovery, entire or partial. Without treatment you must undoubtedly find your difficulties of body & mind increasing.

I am glad your presence & aid have been so great a comfort to your father & mother, & to Caroline. There is perhaps no other condition in which you can be so useful, as the one you are now in at your father's house. Where you in good health, & spirits, it might be as well for your sons to struggle on alone, & by bearing the yoke in their youth, gain strength of character by trying discipline, as other young men have done,

Our heavenly Father who appoints our lot, knows the lessons we need for our highest & best education for our good in this world, & ever so many myriad of ages hence. It is wise for us to receive filially what he appoints for those we love, as well as what he appoints for ourselves, Instead of rebelliously seeking to get rid of trials, we should seek to have them sanctified to us. Our heavenly Father chastens us for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness. (See Heb. [*Hebrews*] 12.)

It must cost money to you to put yourself on trial of a three month's medical & remedial treatment. If only one chance out of many for recovery or even relief, it is a call to you to appropriate your own funds in this way, How much more to be desired is your delivery from the burdens that press upon your tho'ts [*thoughts*]; & oppress your spirits, <*even*> to the cost of all your pecuniary means even to your last dollar, than any amount of cash in your hand, or in stocks, & your present wretchedness. Let your prayer in this matter be, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" I enclose a little tract, adapted to your wants & mine. Jesus Christ died, to save sinners from their sins. Will we allow him to save us? I came here yesterday. In the course of this month, I hope to be at Millbrook [*Connecticut*], & see you all. I love each one of you, & I thank Caroline for her letter. In tender sympathy, your aff'te [*affectionate*] aunt, Z.P. Banister, [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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Chicago Ill. [*Illinois*] May 7, 1866.

Mrs. Elizabeth Burton
Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*]

Dear Sister,

I take my pen to inform you that I am in this place having been released from military service by the muster out of my Regiment some three weeks since. I arrived here three days since, and stop at the Home of the Friendless, an Institution of which Abby has been Matron for about five weeks. The character of the Institution you can infer from its name.*

[*written along side*] * I send you last year's Report, from which if you choose you can learn more (Abby tells me she has sent one--therefore I will not)

She has found the care of it very laborious indeed -- I fear she cannot endure it long.

As my position in the army has <*too*> but recently <*been*> ceased I am not able to state definitely what I shall do. For the present you may address me here.

I <*judge*> fear from what I hear from home that you, dear Sister, do not enjoy so fully as we all ought the comfort of your situation. I do not doubt that there is much, very much, in it that is undesirable, but so there is in everybody's case. "We who have believed" (says the Apostle, Heb. [*Hebrews*] <*3*> 4:3) "do enter into rest" -- not "shall enter," but "do enter." And when I think of the good it was your privilege to do in the last days of our dear Mother's life, and that you still are doing while Father continues -- I cannot feel that you or any one else is warranted to call that a "mistake" that led you into a path where such action is possible. We sometimes it is true are compelled to bear a crop that is really for our good, but which we would no more take up ourselves than a child would choose a whipping. I sometimes both amuse and instruct myself by considering what the world would come to if every man and woman could carry out the

programme each lays out. I think the result of Phaeton's experiment in driving his fathers chariot were nothing in comparison.

I should be glad to see you, and impart comfort if I have any you could receive. But it is too doubtful whether I shall be able to visit you, and perhaps even more doubtful whether I could benefit you if I should. I could do little more than tell you to take a trustful view of the present and the future -- as to the past with all its errors and mistakes, and sins "let the dead bury its dead." I know no one can be happy whose happiness is dependent on such a condition as that he shall avoid all mistakes -- The promise respecting the good man "Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down" is worth more than any expectation <*any*> we can indulge that you or I or any body else will do exactly the right thing

Abby joins me in sending love to you and Father, Caroline & Marcus and all the rest -- Direct as below

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel Grant
911 Wabash Avenue Chicago Ill

[*written in pencil in another hand*] I meant to write to Sister C. [*Caroline*] to send with this but cannot get time to day. Love to all. aff. [*affectionately*] yr [*your*] sister Abby,

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

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

My very dear sister, Martha,

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to:*] Miss Martha Grant
Mill-Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

New Haven [*Connecticut*], Dec. 21 1840

Dear Sister

I am so far reovered that I now begin a letter to you although I am yet weak, & as you see can write but poorly. I do not know when I shall finish this, for I suppose I shall be unable to write long at a time. The wounds on my back are almost healed & I suffer no pain except that arising from weakness. I suppose you know but little about my situation for you have heard no particulars. I do not know what Mr. Gilbert wrote but suppose it was but little, but in fact there is not much worth writing. You can think how a person with two huge wounds in the places where mine are, having such an immediate connection with the shoulder & head, must be situated. My arms indeed I have been able to move to considerable degree, but till within a day or two I have

not suffered myself to move my shoulders, or to lie on my side. I can hold up my head without very much difficulty but the muscles in the back of the neck are much weakened. You will perhaps wonder how I lay in such a condition I will tell you, I lay flat on my back, & that too for about a week. I indeed lay so from the time of the operation, which was Wed. P.M. at 2 o'clock instead of eleven A.M. as was expected, until Sat about noon without rising, when on the Dr. coming they raised me up on the side of the bed, but I immediately became so faint that they laid me down again. The next day the Dr. dressed it when I got along with it very well

Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Yesterday after writing the above Mr. Hill's son brought me a letter from the P.O. [*Post Office*] which I soon foun<*n*>d to be from you. I was exceedingly glad of it. You write that you have some sleighing, but there is none here except what fell last night & this morning & that is not enough to make sleighing. There was a little <*sp*> snow here when I came here but it had all disappeared except the drifts. Last night there fell <*a th*> two or three inches of snow. In answer to mother's inquiries I reply that now I sit up most of the day time, wear all my usual clothing except a coat can use my arms considerably, help myself to food, have a good appetite & sleep very well & am very comfortable but shall be confined to my room yet a few days. I have <*been*> hoped to be able to attend church at Christmas either at the Catholic or one of the Episcopal churches, but fear I shall not yet as the Catholic church is but a few rods from the Hospital it is possible I shall attend there at that time Perhaps you would like a brief description of the Hospital &c. It is situated a little out of the thickly peopled part of the city on a slight rise of ground, in a pleasant situation, with a large and beautiful yard in front. It is a very large building & presents a beautiful appearance. It is very high, higher than you might suppose by knowing it to be three or four stories, for the rooms are 12 or 14 feet high The center part is three stories besides rooms still higher lighted in the top of which is the room for operations. The wings are also three stories. The room which I occupy is in the second story, is about the size of our east room. The furniture consists of two single beds, a stand, wash stand, three or four chairs &c. Coal is used for warming the room There are at present but two patients beside myself in the Hospital. There was one left yesterday but another was brought, the captain of a vessel, who yesterday morning brok[*e*] his leg the other is <*one*> a lady who has been here some years. Dr. Henigh has to day dressed my back, says I have got along very well indeed, all healed but a very small spot & that almost to the surface. You have I <*sp*> suppose been informed that there were three or four distinct tumors removed, though perhaps you do not know that the same are extended across to both sides, passing between two of the projectures of the spine. The operation was double or more that of last year, & extremely painful, the fever was but little more than at that time. About 50 persons were present to witness the operation that is including the surgeons. The whole medical class was present, Mr. Gilbert & Mr. Bull, of whom you have heard me speak & Mr. Hill steward of the Hospital. The operating room is constructed for the purpose of accommodating medical students & others with seats, made in a semicircle those farther back higher than those in front so that all may see, & in the center is a place with a low railing for the surgeons & patient. Mr. Bull could not endure the sight but left the room imme- on the commencement of the operation. I find Mr. Bull & his wife the same kind people as formerly; last Wednesday they came to my room & made a short stay & brought me some little notions which did me much good Mr. Gilbert has called a number of times & generally staid over night with me. I have not been alone all night yet but shall to-night

I mean to send this to-morrow but as letters either way must rest one day on the way I presume you will not get it till sat. I <*dd*> do not know as you can read it the pen is poor & I have no knife & I have to write just as fast as I can for it makes my back ache to bend down to write

It is two weeks to-morrow since the operation. Do not know when I shall come probably in a week or two. Yours aff. [*affectionately*] John

You must write again. I want to know all about things.

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[*Original not in file, from typed transcript*]

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF MRS. BURGESS, FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY HER HUSBAND. SENT FROM MILLBROOK, CT. TO MISS MARTHA GRANT IN SOUTH HADLEY, MASS. OCT. 31, 1842.

Ahmednugger
July 3, 1842

My dear friends; -- I have this morning returned home, after an absence of 15 days and oh! what a return! The voice of my dear Mary [*Grant Burgess*] does not greet me, for it is hushed in the silent tomb; -- & I shall never hear it again in this world. I shall never see that sweet face again this side of the grave. At my last return home, but one week before I left on my late journey, -- with what affection did she welcome me! I shall never forget the tones of her voice as she met me at the head of the stairs; -- "Is it you, Mr. Burgess? Has my dear husband come?" Our dear Mary died on the 24th of June, of the cholera. She was taken unwell about 8 o'clock in the morning & at about 5 OC. P.M. of the same day, her spirit left this world of pains & trials for a world where these are never known. I was not here, to go with her to the dark valley; -- but she had friends, who did all for her I would have done. Her Savior too, was near her & supported her. -- When the intelligence of her departure reached me I was at Jalna, about 100 miles from this place. I was then ill myself, under the care of a physician; -- so ill that to hasten my return would endanger my own life. As soon as I became able I set out on my return, in the safest and most expeditious way; & reached home about 4 1/2 OC. in the morning. Oh, my desolate home! Oh, my poor orphan boy! but God is with me, and supports me. Since the first anguish of feeling was over I have been tranquil, cheerful, and happy. In all that lonely way, returning, my peace of mind was perfect. God was my rock; never was I more full of hope and courage with regard to myself, or the mission. God has done it; He knows best how to carry on his own work.
Who shall dictate to him the means he shall employ? How easy for Him, to make an impression, by her death, which many years of faithful labor would not have done. We already feel that the influence is mighty. It appears an important link in that chain of causes, and influences, necessary to accomplish the work for which she came.

July 6th This afternoon, I went with my little son Edwin, to visit the grave of her who was so dear. A strange mixture of feelings arose on thinking that that beloved form was only a few feet distance from where I stood, and I could not see it. I can never see it again. Edwin has been quite sick. I have great reason to fear that he will never be well. Should he live he may be a great source of happiness to me. We often conversed about the happiness the dear boy would afford the survivor, should one of us be taken away. Should the Lord remove him, also, the stroke would be very distressing: -- but not equal to the one just suffered in the loss of his mother. My only prayer is, prepare me for Thy Holy will, and enable me to fulfill my course with honor to my Savior. Must dear E. [*Edwin*] go to? The Lord's will be done. If the Lord supports me, I can bear up under it; -- if not, I can endure nothing, do nothing. I regard the experience of the last week as of almost infinite value. Can I doubt that this stroke, which I now feel so keenly, will in the end, prove for my good. For some months past my beloved wife, & I, have often and freely conversed, on the subject of death. The importance of having our house set in order has been particularly impressed upon my own mind; & she has had the same feeling. This was especially the case just before I left home the last time. A gloom seemed to rest upon us. Edwin was quite sick: I was about to leave home on an arduous journey: the season was not the best for traveling; owing to the rains: yet there seemed no good reason for my remaining at home, excepting, fears, undefined fears. So after laboring hard, to have my accounts in as good a state as possible; -- & providing as well as we could against all emergencies, -- I got off on horseback for Jalna, on the 18th of June. I had the two-fold object in view of visiting Jalna, where we have missionary operations, & of preaching, & distributing books in the villages on the way. I reached Jalna on the 23rd. In the afternoon of the 25th I received the following letter from Mr. Abbott, written June 24th 1842.

> "Dear Brother: -- Our dear sister [*Mary Grant*] Burgess was attacked this morning with cholera, & we are all at your house, waiting with great anxiety, the result; & doing everything that can be done. An hour or two will decide the case. She says her Savior is

near to her; still she feels very much for you & Edwin. We still hope for her recovery, -- but you will trust in God, & prepare to hear that she has gone to her rest."

You may imagine the effect which such intelligence, so sudden, so unexpected, had upon me. After an hour or two of great mental suffering my mind became calm, & unusually cheerful. The mail did not come in the next day, which was the Sabbath. On monday morning I received the following from Mr. Ballantine June 25th 1842.

Dear Brother Burgess: -- Mr. Abbott's note of yesterday, informing you of Mrs. B's [*Mary Grant Burgess*] illness, & doubtless prepared you to hear the worst. We looked in vain, for a change for the better. She revived a little, but soon sunk under the power of the disease; & about 5 OC. breathed her last. We have this morning, followed her remains to the silent tomb. It is a day of intense grief to us all, -- for she who was the life of our little circle, has been suddenly removed from us. For you our hearts bleed, for we know what she was to you. But we hope God will sustain you. Indeed there is great cause of gratitude in view of the circumstances of her death. Her mind was clear, & unclouded, to the last. It scarcely wandered for a moment. Her hope was firm. Mrs. Ballantine asked her if she had any fear of death! She said -- "No -- not the least" She also remarked -- "How easy it is to die; no pain --" At one time she turned to Dr. Atkinson & said -- "How important is it to be prepared for death" I remarked to her, I suppose you feel safe and happy? She replied, -- "Yes" -- & added -- "I have done but little -- but for Christ's sake God will accept me" These expressions will show you the state of her mind. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar and Mrs. Ballantine had considerable conversation with her just before her death. The stroke was very sudden to us. In the morning we met her out on the road as she took her usual drive with Edwin, & we promised to go and take tea with her in the evening. She remarked that Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar was more feeble that Edwin had had a fevor night, & did not appear to be so well, but she said nothing about herself. We afterwards learned that she went to visit her schools before returning home; but finding herself unable to do anything in consequence of sickness & pain she rode home & took medicine -------

the funeral was attended this morning. Several of our English friends, and crowds of natives, were present. Many were deeply affected. All seemed to feel a deep sympathy with us, & especially for you. The funeral services were very impressive. Mr. Jackson officiated and he has been very kind in giving us much assistance thus God has broken in upon our little circle & who could have been better prepared than Mrs. Burgess? Oh how we loved her! who can make her place good? But she is in heaven & happy in the enjoyment of God. All connected with us went to your house, yesterday, to see her, before her death. May it lead them to think of that salvation which she desired to teach them. I know you will almost dread to come home. The thought of seeing your house desolate will be painful. May you be enabled to endure this, through him who is the source of all consolation. Little E. [*Edwin*] is with us. he appears to be gaining. He is happy in the company of our children. Poor boy! he does not understand his loss. Mrs. B. said several times, "my dear husband." "But God will take care of him & my little boy".

Yours in deep affliction --

M. Ballantine.

I leave you to imagine my feelings on the reception of the above letter. Oh, what would I not have given to have been there present. But God orders all things right & I bless Him that I can submit without a murmur.

July 8th -- Dear E. [*Edwin*] is worse, today; & I have but little hope of his recovery. I bless the Lord that I am able to say "thy holy will be done" ----- as I looked, today upon the dear one, my anguish has been great. When he fell sick at first I thought, if he should die, Mary would be left, but Mary was taken. Then thought I, dear Edwin is left. What a source of happiness he will be! Now it seems he must go too. Well -- so be it -- if I am bereaved -- I am bereaved. My only prayer is -- O Lord sustain me, and keep me from sinning against thee, & enable me to do all thou hast for me to do. What God intends to do with me I know not. One thing appears certain; if He does not support me I shall sink under my trials. I am willing to suffer all my heavenly father sees fit to lay upon me; only may he sustain me. O my poor frail nature! Lord -- have mercy.

July 9th E. [*Edwin*] is much better to day & I have more hope of his recovery. I have been thinking how Abraham must have felt when his son was restored to him.
July 10th Today I have been filled with joy, by hearing that one of our most promising teachers has expressed a resolution to become a christian. What glorious news! Another Bramin came in this morning as he was about to start for a distant village. His mind has been extremely tender since Mrs. B's death. He often used to call and converse with us in the subject of the Christian religion; and has sometimes manifested concern respecting his salvation. I have never, before, seen him apparently, so much wrought upon, by the spirit. We have strong hope that he will come out on the side of Christ. May he have the influence of the spirit.
July 12th E. [*Edwin*] seems to be growing weaker & weaker. The Dr. has but little hope of him. What have I to do but pray. O, Lord prepare me & the child for thy holy pleasure respecting us. I have often given him to the Lord; or rather, confessed with my whole heart, that I regard him as the Lords, & not mine: & I would not now, retract these conversions. There is something painful in the thought that you it must be two or three months before you and other friends will hear that Mary [*Grant Burgess*] has gone to her rest. How I would like to see you all! but that cannot be. I can only communicate in this poor way. It is a relief thus freely to express my feelings.
July 16th Our letters start for Bombay today; the steamers leave that place on the 19th I have never seen the time when all the powers of my soul were in such a state of activity. I have never performed anything like such an amount of mental labor in the same length of time. We are just making out our semiannual report & our quarterly meeting of the mission is at hand. Much labor has fallen upon me; much care respecting E.; writing to friends in America; all within thirteen days after returning to my desolate home. This is favorable; much better than if I was left to brood over my loss. Even when everything around me reminds me of my bereavement I can turn my mind with pleasure, & efficiency, to those things which concern my labors; can dwell, with the light on the goodness of God, the sureness of his promises, the thousand encouragements we have to prosecute our labors. -- -- My dear wife has left me, it is true; but she has only gone to heaven a little before me, -- & is beyond the reach of sin & pain. How I love to sing -- "Ah lovely appearance of death" -- & that line, -- "No longer a sinner like me". How much meaning it contains! O -- that my mind could always retain that heavenly savor -- weanedness from the world, -- which has pervaded it since Mary's death. It is a painful thought that I must remain & mingle in the scenes of temptation; that I must with such a depraved heart endure the <u>trials</u> <u>of</u> <u>living</u>. Oh how sweet would be the summons to follow my beloved wife! But then my poor boy! The mission, -- the poor brethren! I would if God wills still live & toil & suffer. I wish to be like a helpless child in the arms of my heavenly father. I am as nothing. With out divine support what would have become of me! That support has been granted. But I have not even the poor merit of having prayed for what I have received. I have prayed, & often too, for support, in this trying hour. But I never had an idea of anything at all adequate to what is the reality. Still there is nothing rapturous; only a perfect assurance that God will do all things right. God is a rock, God seems to have given me sober views which look into eternity; which look at things comparatively in all their connections; -- which enable me to see the inconstency of judging of all, where I can see only a part. Spiritual things seem clothed with a reality which they never wore before.

Dear friends farewell; we shall soon meet with that loved one who has gone before us. Perhaps you & she have met already.

Yours truly as ever,
E. Burgess

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY MRS. CYNTHIA FARRAR WHOSE HOME WAS IN THE FAMILY OF MR. BURGESS. THE STATEMENTS IN BRACKETS ARE TAKEN FROM OTHER LETTERS.

"You doubtless have heard of my long confinement at the Makabulishwur Hills, in consequence of feeble health. When I arrived here, June 3rd I thought Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess did not look so strong as when I left. She looked service-worn. As soon as I felt sufficiently rested from the fatigue of my journey, we entered into the arrangement that when she visited the two schools which I left in her case, on going to the hills, she would not stop to hear the girls <u>reading</u> <u>lessons</u>,

but would send them to me, at the house, until I should be able to go to the school. When Mr. Burgess with two of the native Christian brethren set off on the 18th of June for Jalna, little Edwin was not well; but the Dr. did not think that much ailed him; & he expected that he would soon be better. He however continued feeble. [all a mothers anxieties were awakened by the state of the child; -- & she seemed to quite forget herself in her desire to do constantly for him. She remarked -- "I fear this is Edwin's last sickness." Her rest was much disturbed at night, -- & we've all greatly feared that her own health would suffer. No doubt this fatigue & care made her much more easily the victim of the cholera, then raging here] On wednesday night the 22 both mother & child slept well, -- & in the morning, they seemed refreshed. She appeared well, he much better. We went out together for a drive, -- & on our return, stopped & took breakfast with Mrs. & Mr. Ballantine; -- had a pleasant time, -- arrived home, -- & had a quite pleasant day. The next morning, Friday the 24th, on her return from the drive with Edwin, she looked so pale I inquired the cause. She said she did not rest so well as the night before; -- & was not feeling quite well in the morning, she took a little medicine. I professed her going to her chamber & keeping very quiet; -- that I would see that little Edwin had his breakfast -- & was taken care of; -- & as soon as my rice gruel was ready I would send her some. All this was done. Between 9 & 10 OC. I observed the servant to carry her a cup of tea, which led me to think she was better. After a short reading lesson I dismissed my girls, between 10 & 11 O.C. to go up stairs; but from sickness, occasioned by medicine, I was unable to do so, for a little time. On my second attempt to go to her the servant met me, saying that if I was able to come upstairs, Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess wished to see me. I hastened to her, without delay ["from the time of Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar's return from the Hills, she had not been able to ascend a flight of stairs."] The moment I saw her a chill went to my heart. Clasping her cold purple hands I exclaimed -- "O my dear sister, how very ill you are"! "Yes," she said, "& -- I do not know but I am dying." I answered it may be so". To one standing by I said, go quickly for Dr. Atkinson. She said, "I have sent for him, twice, --- & I think he will be here soon. I then sent for the brethren & sisters of the mission, -- & for the European nurse, at the hospital Until they arrived, the two native girls Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess & I had living with us, assisted me, in doing what we could to arrest the deadly chill that seemed fast pervading the whole system. There was not the least action from the stomach, but an apparent cessation of action throughout the whole system. ["Mortification seems to have taken place, in the extremities, soon after she was taken. This shows the nature of the disease."] I asked her if she could cheerfully acquiese in the disposition, should God now in the sudden manner, call her to leave the world? She raised her eyes upward, -- paused for a moment, -- then said, -- "I think I can. Should this be my last sickness, how quick & easy will be my release from this body, -- & from the world! But -- O -- my poor dear husband! What will he do? -- And -- my poor motherless child! What will become of him? But God will be gracious, He will be merciful, I know He will. I can leave them in His hands; I can trust Him. He will do all things well." We spoke of the conversations & promises of the gospel; -- repeated texts of scripture; -- &, alluding to our work among the heathen, she expressed no regret for the sacrifices, she had made; -- but rejoiced that she had been accounted worthy to manifest her attachment to the cause of Christ. She was so composed, -- so cheerful, -- so rational, -- so natural were the tones of her voice, -- & the expression of her countenance, -- that there was no occasion for a tear. Oh how precious the recollection! I love to ponder on the mournful -- sweet -- scene of her last hours, -- her last days Yes -- on the varied scenes of all the days I ever knew her, o, how dear she was to me, -- to us all! & deservedly so. May the savor of her life so far as it savored of Christ, be as holy ointment to chastened souls, Nature weeps, but does not murmur. She frequently spoke of her family with tenderest emotions. She suffered but little after I saw her, except from a painful kind of restlessness which seemed to pervade the whole frame. My feebleness compelled me to retire as soon as those I sent for had arrived. They continued. with her until the last, -- using every means that wisdom or experience could devise, for arresting the process of the dreadful disease. When I was told that there remained no longer any hope of her recovery, I went again, to her bedside. She appeared perfectly rational & composed. As I took her hand I said to her, you now feel that you will soon be with your blessed savior; -- She replied -- "yes, -- & I feel that he is near, -- & precious." I then asked her if she had anything to say to me? She said "yes -- I have much that I wish to say to you but I have not strength." --

Between 4 & 5 OC. P.M. the door of the upper sanctuary opened to her. -- Jesus called, -- she cheerfully answered -- "I come to Thee." She entered in -- & is safe. From that peaceful pensive moment I shall see her no more, until the glorious resurrection of the just. Her remains were interred early the next morning; & at 5 OC. P.M. we had a prayer meeting here at the lonely dwelling; & a most excellent address from Mr. Ballantine from John 11. Here too, nature wept, -- but not without hope. Like her may we be ready; Like her, happy in prospect of our great change. -- Pray for us.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM MRS. BALLANTINE

Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess said to Mrs. Abbott, -- "Well, this is cholera: it is different from what I thought it was. I have not much pain." Mr. Abbott said to her, "What a comfort it is to one, in your situation, to be able to trust in the savior"! "Yes" -- said she; -- "I have lived very far from Him; -- but if I go, I think He will receive me. He appears near to me & I think I can trust in Him. What will become of poor Mr. Burgess"! An hour after this He said to her, -- "what a blessing, that we can cast all our care upon God, leave every want with Him."! -- she replied, -- "Yes, -- it is indeed; yes, -- all our cares; -- yes, -- yes." This we suppose she said in reference to Mr. Burgess, & her little boy [*Edwin*]. Upon opening her eyes, after they had been some time closed, she fixed them upon me & said, -- "Dear sister, do sit down". The Dr. now brought her some soda, & asked, "Do you think you can take this"? "Yes said She "if you think it best." This was her uniform reply to him, whenever he offered her medicine. About 3 O.C. she went to sleep, & appeared to sleep quietly for some time. When she awoke she said to me, -- "I am better," "You have been praying for me have you not"? "I think I Shall recover". The Dr. then brought her some more soda. She looking upon him & said, "I believe I have been wandering; & that made me think I was better than I really am". Then taking the drink she said, -- "How I want you all to take care of yourselves. I then said to her "You feel that you are almost home, do you not"? "Yes" said She. I then asked, "have you any fear of death"? She paused a little & said in an expressive tone, "No." I asked what shall I say to Mr. Burgess for you? She quickly said -- "My poor husband," -- "my dear husband; -- but he is a man of God, -- & he will be comforted. Then after a few moments of deep thought, she lifted her eyes to heaven, & exclaimed, Oh, -- to God be all the glory, -- all the glory, -- all the glory. A little after this she looked up to me and said, -- you will be kind to Edwin I feel that you will. She now began to sink rapidly: & when I supposed her almost gone, I said to her, -- "Miss Burgess do you know me"? She looked up with a peculiarly sweet expression of countenance, & said in a firm tone, "It is dear sister Ballantine". From that time She could no more be roused; & she sank away as quietly as a little infant to its slumbers. -------- She had her reason so perfectly, -- was so free from pain, -- & above all, so full of peace, that we must all feel that she was "let down, to the grave, most gently". I trust it has done us all good. Our native brethren & sisters have seen a Christian die; & we have all of us gained new, & clearer views of death, as it is to the child of God. --------- Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess was with us only a short time; but we do not measure her usefulness by years. We feel that few have done more for this people than she. Her prayers for them were many, fervent , & heartfelt; She had four schools to which she devoted a good deal of her time, energy & thoughts. These schools were in the city; -- & visiting them from week to week she became extensively known to the girls mothers & to many women in the neighborhood. Often would they collect around her in little companies, and she would tell them of Christ, & of his salvation. Since her death these women speak of her in the most interesting manner. "A more cheerful happy person", say "They we never knew." She had many calls from the natives, -- & no one was ever suffered to go away from her without some word of instruction. Often would she say to me, -- "Now speak a word to this person, -- or to that," -- when we might. It was evident from the first that Mrs. Burgess meant to spend, & be spent for this people. She labored with all her heart & all her strength. ---------- the native brethren & sisters loved her ardently: -- & they now mourn & weep. As for ourselves we feel stricken & afflicted. She always came among us with so smiling peaceful a countenance as to impart life and joy to us all ---------- we try to inquire why it has been necessary for God to afflict us so deeply? The harvest here is great, & the laborers are few. We hope we may now say, Lord is it enough; -- stay now & thine hand; -- & spare us to labor on; -- &, o, accept our labors. ---------- The death of Mrs. [*Mary Grant*] Burgess will be a shock to you & to all her friends. May an

abundant measure of grace be vouchsafed you, -- & support you all. I know you must all have ardently loved her, -- for she was worthy of your warmest love. She loved her parents, brothers, & sisters, ardently. She often spoke of them with great interest.

EXTRACT FROM ANOTHER LETTER OF MR. BURGESS. JULY 16

Little Edwin is better today. He appears to be gaining & we have strong hopes of his recovery.

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[*Addressed to*:] Miss Martha Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*] May 18 '44

Dear Martha,

To the great joy of us all, Tuesday eve has come and we can have a little rest from study. You cannot imagine what a sleepy set we have been since vacation, owing partly to the warm weather I suppose. Is it not curious that the heat should return with our returning here? I have felt a little as you anticipated since last Friday, though on the great whole as Miss [*Mary*] Lyon tells us about, I am quite happy. Cynthia Bowen has not returned yet, and as she is soon expected, and Miss Moore says "she would be clear killed up" if she should give another room mate, I am living an unsettled life as usual. A part of my things are in 39, and one draw full in 44, where I stay with Jane & Hattie Miles if I am a mind, and have permission to sleep with L. Pomeroy with whom I stay considerable. I love her very much.
There is to be general change of room mates tomorrow C. Huntington & L. Pomeroy are to room together. Augusta Wheeler & Hattie Miles in 44. & Susy Tollman & J. Miles are going to the <*second*> 3'd story. Tomorow I am going to stay in 47. with J. Chapman. I shall love to be so near Nancy F. She is delighted with her visit to Colebrook [*Connecticut*]. Says she did not see you half enough. Some of the most interesting items of her visit she will allow me to tell you when I go home. Julia & her brother G. came with her to Springfield [*Massachusetts*]. She arrived here a little while before we did Oh Martha you cannot think how much I wish you here to night. I feel like sitting down and pouring into your ears many many things that 'twould be foolish to tell any one here. I want to have you know what a happy, delightful ride & visit <u>we</u> had coming here. I think I never before enjoyed one as much. And a great many other things there are which would interest both of us, that must remain till I see you. I am writing in 44 Nancy just came in and asked me to write with her, to you. Told her I had begun first, and she might have part of this sheet. I suppose you are lying alone in your chamber at this hour, perchance a thought of your absent friend steals over you. She would dearly love to sit by your side to night & minister to your wants. good night Abigail --

[*written across side of first page*] Wednesday 10 o'clock. June 12. I have finished my extra work spent half an our in the reading room, & combed, washed and dressed for the day, and am now determined to finish this letter, which has been begun as you see by the date more than two weeks. You can easily divine the reason, knowing as you do what a busy people we are. They have told us a great deal about having leasure for reading, sewing &c this summer, but where it is, I know not. I was never more hurried Euclid, Smellie, Grammar, Botanical terms, with composition, walking, domestic duties, & the innumerable etceteras here take all the time, for the want of which I do not sing! Did you know those B. [*botanical*] terms were arranged by Miss Moore & printer for the special use of the Sem [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]? And did you ever study any thing so hateful. They are the most hateful. They are the most uninteresting of all things, without exception -- & I have a good mind never to take one up again -- Cynthia B. came back last Friday, & we are staying in 39. now. next week we are going in 3d story, no. 50 next to Nancy's room. Esther Cook is going to spend the summer in New Haven [*Connecticut*] with an aunt. I shall rejoice if we ever get settled. There has been a general change in the dining hall, arrangements some tables moved &c. all the the N. division on one side & the S. on the other I sit at Miss Lucy's table No. 7. Miss Bridge, between Miss [*Mary*] Lyon & Whitman -- Miss Moore as

usual I am on the tablecloth circle -- iron four every morning soon after breakfast, & lead on the ironing circle Sat. one hour I like it much better than working in the D. Hall.

Miss Moore has just sent word that we are not to continue our Smellie, we have so much to do

South Hadley [*Massachusetts*], June 5, 1844

Dear Martha,

There is a sort of strange feeling in taking one's pen for the first time to address a friend, however dear, but it shall not prevent my fulfilling the promise I made you. If what I can write will make one long hour seems shorter I shall think myself most happy. This is the eve of a long, pleasant recreation day; made doubly so by the enjoyment of a social visit in town. A party this afternoon went over to "Pearl city," they numbered 45 including their gallant, "President Hawk" They seemed to enjoy themselves much. Indeed, we have the prospect of a very pleasant summer; the young ladies seem more than usually contented, for the summer term, You know by experience how long it seems. The last two weeks have passed more rapidly than my most anxious moments would have wished. Especially after an equal time of vacation spent so agreeably. That was a pleasant visit; and I shall love to remember it. My stay at your house was not so long as my wishes would have said; but I thought you must be so fatigued with company that my longer stay would weary you. And how are you to-night? I will hope "better." Yes really so. I often wish I might run in and sit with you a while -- but instead can only think of you, but that is some pleasure as I know how you look. You must sometimes have lonely hours I think; but hope they are few and far between. And no doubt in such hours you love to cast "all your care on Him who careth for you" knowing that "these light afflictions which are but for a moment work out for us a far more exceeding & eternal weight of glory." I hope you are able to enjoy riding this fine weather, we find walking very pleasant these days, if it comes at the right time. Abby is now in No. 55. with J. Miles, 'till Susan's return, We hope she will soon be neighbor to us. I left her not long since busily engaged in writing to her New Haven [*Connecticut*] correspondent from whom she received a letter a day or two since. Sarah wishes to be remembered to you in love, Please accept much also for yourself and your dear mother, (tell her I shall not forget her.) from your friend and sister Nancy A. Toole.

Professor Hitchcock is to finish his course of lectures of Anatomy, Physiology in a few days, I wish your mother might be here to hear the conclusion

N [*Nancy A. Toole*] --

[*written across side of the page in another hand*] I am going to fill up all the vacant places in this. Do not you have very cool weather? we do. Yesterday a great many of the girls had fires in their rooms. The front yard is very beautiful all in bloom. I wish you could see it. The roses & pinks are particularly handsome The back grounds <*too*> are not to be surpassed by any thing -- On the whole I think this is almost the pleasantest spot on earth; and I rejoice that Providence directed me here. If I could only learn all I want to by, coming I should feel better satisfied Have to day finished my private examination in Gen. [*Genesis*] History, marked 3. I guess. We are all dreading Algebra. Miss Lucy is to examine us, I do not expect to get 3. in that. The bell rings for missionary meeting so I must go.

After missionary meeting we have had a recent letter from Miss H. read, giving an account of the interesting state of her school. There are a few cases of hopeful conversion She writes in the same happy state. Although trials must be hers, joy such as the world knows not of fills her heart. She writes that she had long watched over & prayed with a woman who was anxious for her soul, & when she began to hope she was a christian she almost felt like Simeon of old. "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace" she adds, "I would not now go if it is the will of my Father that I may yet do much more for him here." Our missionary meetings are among the precious things of this Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] I hope & trust many may go from here to various parts of the world to do good like Miss H.

Abigail –

Holyoke Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]
June 11, 1844

My Dear Martha,

Abby has very kindly given me a place in her letter in which I may write you a few lines, and I very gladly accept of the opportunity of doing so, for I love to write to those I call my friends And now if you would like to take a peep at me in my new home, I will just introduce you to No 55 in the third story, where Suzy & I are both seated writing. It is recreation evening, and as you may guess we are glad enough to lay by our studies, and get a little rest, if the work of a recreation day can be called rest. C Bowen & Anna both returned the same day, so that Abby nor I were either of us unprovided for as to a roommate, But I must stop no longer to tell you of our affairs for I wish to inquire after your health and happiness I should think you would be rather lonesome sometimes, though it seems to me it must be a good sort of lonesomeness. Would that I might give you a call tonight, and look upon you with my own eyes, and perchance minister to your wants. But I cannot to night -- for the retiring bell has rung & I must bid you Good bye. Give my best love to your mother, and in bestowing it upon her, forget not to reserve a large share for yourself. -- From your ever affectionate friend. -- Jane M Miles.

My Dear Martha Wednesday Morn.

I too may have a place on Abby's sheet, and though I would love dearly to write you a whole letter, I trust a little piece of one will be better than none at all. I must tell you what a long vacation I have had. I returned last Friday, having been at home four weeks. But was I satisfied, and ready to come back? no gladly would I have staid longer still I was not sorry to return. On Wednesday last my only brother was married that was the reason my vacation was so long. A very pleasant wedding we had (if any wedding may be called pleasant) instead of losing a sister as I have before I have gained one, and I trust a valuable one. I have to study some to make up lost time. We are all Botanising much this summer We have just commenced upon private examinations; you will remember how very delightful those are. Next week we go to the mountain if the weather permits and to day a strawberry excursion is intended. I should love to look in upon you this morn -- and give you one kiss. I trust you are better much. Give much love to your dear Mother. Affectionately Susy Tolman

[*written across side of third page*] I have written in great haste but I know you can overlook it all knowing in what haste we Holyoke girls live. My love to Julia Stillman

[*written across side of third page in another hand*] Don't believe you can read it all.
Do let us hear from you some way, if no one else can, Olivia can write for you
my love to her, Abby

[*written across side of fourth page*]
I do not suppose you will be able to read all this long letter at one time, but I know you will love to read it as you have strength so to do. How are you now, do you sit up any? and can you eat any thing, and is that distress in your chest & bowels removed? and are you happy, and a great great many other thing I want to know about you. Is your mother still well. I feared she would feel almost worn out after Joel & John were gone & all was quiet Give a great deal of love to her, tell her she is not forgotten here, the girls often refer to her, & wish they could see her again. I frequently go down to see Abby Allen and look into the sick rooms. It seems almost as if you would be on the bed & your mother sit by the window. Miss Ferguson has occupied your room for two weeks. She is now some better -- Miss Green, is sick of a slow fever, no others this term have been down. Dr. Belden visits the Sem.[*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] daily. He looks almost well. I have not heard a word about Dr. Hawkson <*since*> this term. Is not the thought of many things last winter pleasant to you? It is to me. I love to think of the time when you was here with me, and though the thought of your sickness is painful, yet the kind hand that sustained you & spared your life, is ever to be praised. How much have we all to be thankful for. it seems as if I realize it more & more every day. Oh that we might regard all our blessings as we ought. I have no more time now. Na[...] has come to sew with me an hour -- your aff. Abigail

Wednesday eve. The retiring bell has rung & I am sitting in bed Cynthia in a horizontal position holding the lamp. One way you will say to avoid being tardy Now my dear Martha will you be

able to answer that I want to hear from you very much, Joel wrote me you was comfortable when he left, & that he should hear from you before <*you*> he wrote again. I do hope you are better. If you can write a few words a day without hurting you, do. if not I would not have you, but I do want to hear directly from you. I have not written half I want to tell you, but some one has been talking to me most of the time, which you know is not very conducive to good writing, & Cynthia is now telling me a story. Miss Moore, Mary Brown, Cynthia and a great may others send their love to you -- we all want to see you. Perhaps you would like to know that you are not forgotten in our social prayer meetings, or private devotions. It is a comfort to feel that we are remembered by our friends, at the throne of grace. Abby.

Thurs morn. It is very pleasant this morn. for a wonder I am up at four o'clock, the first bell -- Do you ride these pleasant days? 30 of the girls went after strawberries yesterday, but did not get many You can hardly imagine how glad I shall be when the 1st of August comes. If you see our people give my love to them tell them I am well & happy. Delia Warren came yesterday. she has nearly recovered from the effects of her fall. Miss Lyon gave us a long lecture Tuesday upon "the principle of promptness," the immediate cause of which was the tardiness of the young ladies in returning -- 52 were absent the first night from Sections. They have been coming along every since -- Abby Allen was expecting to fill this part of the sheet, but as she did not come to do it, I thought it had not better be delayed. Miss Moore & Beed, Abby Allen Miss Founer & Adams send a great deal of love as also does your aff. cousin Abigail Cowles.

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Lockport Ill. [*Illinois*] Aug. 15, 1846.

Dear Sister,

We to day received the letter written by yourself Mother, John, and cousin Margaret. The news was on the whole quite as agreeable as we could expect though in many particulars far different from what we <*hoped*> should desire if it were in our power to choose John's fever and Ague is I doubt not much worse than it would be in a fever and ague country, where physicians and almost every individual by virtue of the principle "practice makes perfect", would be able without hesitation to apply appropriate remedies. It is the testimony of every one in this region that a transplanted ague is much worse than one that is a native. By the kindness of God we have as yet been preserved from any thing of the kind whether native or foreign (excepting the billious attack I had in the spring) but now is the season for such things and many around us are more or less affected with them. There have been no severe cases as yet but no one can say how long it wd [*would*] be before there will be.

But I will leave these items for the present, that I may say a few words upon a topic of which you make inquiry viz the views we should take of an over rulling Providence. I can say but few things concerning it and my views you can gather from them

In the first place I would say that the Bible differs from all other books in that in it God is every where acknowledged as the chief agent every where acting. It is he who raises up and casts down. At his pleasure who brings princes to nothing while he places the poor on high. Indeed there is no one thing which characterizes the Bible more than this. Read books of laws as elsewhere found, read history, and you find no such thing, or at best only to a limited extent. And that Bible also testifies most strongly against such as forget this truth. (Deut. [*Deuteronomy*] 8: 10-20) God warns directly those who would be inclined to say <*that the*> "My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth" and that not merely because it was not true but because such an assertion denied the truth "It is the Lord thy God that giveth the power to get wealth." He warns all these saying "I testify against you that ye shall surly perish."

But let any who can for a moment doubt this read the 107th Psalm where the agency of the Lord is so beautifully described. There it is the Lord who delivered Israel, who rescued the captives, sets free the prisoners, and saved distressed mariners. It was no accidental combination of circumstances, nor yet the wisdom or might of those concerned for these would have been useless unless the Lord had interposed. And how solem as well as instructive is the last verse that Psalm "Whose is wise and will observe these things even they shall understand

the loving kindness of the Lord." This intimating that while the truth was obvious it might easily be lost sight of by the careless & unredeemed . If men will not be wise, if they will not consider these things, then <*must*> may they fail to see the truth with wh. [*which*] the Bible is so full.

But while this is true I still think God never interposes at the present day by any means wh [*which*] counteract or interrupt natural laws. If he did so, if he saved the mariner when tossed by a tempest by sending an angel to bear him up, would it any longer require wisdom or consideration to see the loving kindness of the Lord? No. It would all be as plain as the sun in the heavens. Every thing that is done is so done as not to countervail natural laws, and hence it is some forget the hand that wields those laws as instruments.

Do you ask how this can be done? I answer just recall any events of your life which in your view are important and consider the train of causes that led to them. In every instance it is probable there were many point upon which the whole result depended and concerning which you were in doubt how to act. By the weight of a feather you could be turned one way or another. Now God who sees the end from the beginning might at that moment have interposed and presented in some way the thought that decided the whole matter. All such crises he can render the wisdom of the most profound as worthless as the folly of a child and they shall never know it unless they are "wise and consider." In this way alone (and it is but one of a thousand) our fortunes our lives our happiness lie wholly at his disposal.

Let me relate an instance. A man and his wife now residing in this place were a few years ago at Buffalo designing to come here. They started for the Boat and on their way there the gentleman stepped into a store to purchase some trifling article, and there he met a friend with whom though in great fear that he should miss the boat and in great haste to reach home, he conversed a short time and then hurried to the wharf, when to he was just 1/4 of a minute too late. They were much grieved and disappointed. But hark the result. That boat was the ill fated Erie, that trip she never finished and but one or two of her hundreds of passengers ever set foot on land again.

Now no philosopher I care not how learned can say or bring the least argument to prove that this event was not controlled by God. In a thousand insensible ways he could distain that or any other man. In a thousand such ways he actually does control us while we know it not.

One thing more. It is impossible for any man to pray to God who denies such a doctrine. For what does he pray? Not for the thing for which he asks for he believes God has nothing to do with it. The Bible then teaches such a doctrine, there is nothing within the whole circle of truth that is more rational, and why should we doubt it. I might write much more but cannot, now, If you continue to have difficulties write me again.

Your aff. brother
Joel.

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[*in pencil*: John Cowles Grant to Abigail Cowles Grant]

[penciled on back] I send this of Johns just received – send it to sister Caroline if you think best. I think his descriptive powers are pretty good

H March
Mrs. S.E. Edwards
326 Fed St.
Camden

Mr. An Mrs. Aaron Butler
Cape May

Harlem, Ills. [*Illinois*]

Dear Mother,

I have hardly written you a decent letter since I have been pedagoging but it was not for lack of inclination but rather of opportunity, for when in the schoolhouse the young ideas get noisy

& want to run around & play & that joggles my desk & ideas & when boarding around I find writing materials scarce.

I have got a gay little school of 36 promising youth all of whom expect I doubt not to be Presidents & Mrs. [*Harriet Beecher*] Stowe's in time, their ages vary from 4 to 20 & some of the boys could throw me out of the window with one hand if they possessed the inclination; one of my boys is going to be a lawyer or Bank Prest. [*President*] for he can't write legibly to save him, probably he will go to Congress if he don't he ought to.

Boarding round is the largest thing out of the penitentiary. I have as good as there is around, and I must say that I never lived so well in my life as I have here, all sorts of every thing & so much of it. I find one trouble that is sitting, eating, & cooking all in the same room, but am getting used to that so I don't notice it except when they have babies to cry while their mother is cooking, if they were not so dirty I would try to comfort them a little my self but as it is I let them cry.

The Scotch have a regular oldfashioned bluestocking Presbyterian Church a little way from my <*adec*> academy in which primitive religion is shown in some of its beauties; service commences at 11 o'clock, about ten they begin to assemble, they come in crowds, families & tribes, by ones' tens' & forties,' after discussing the marriages & deaths of the week past, the prospects of the weather for the week to come, each one meantime informing his neighbor that it is a fine day, they go in to hear words of burning, soul-stirring eloquence for an hour & a half; the complacency with which the Fathers in Israel sleep through the sermon is very refreshing & the regularity with which they wake for the singing & prayers is marvelous: all stand during the prayer, & sit during the singing; they have no choir or instrument, the Deacons saying they will "ha' na' sooch thing en Gods hus." The singing is conducted or led by an old cracked voice brother who makes terrible noises which all follow as closely as they can & for this interesting performance he is paid $60. per year: there is one old man just like Mr. Storms, who takes his snuff as regularly as he wakes up, & spills about half of it over his coat collar, making it snuff-colored, a very fashionable color just now.

I went to a scotch party N.Y. [*New York*] night & was very much amused, pleased & instructed. Some of the older girls who don't go to school & "went for me" & tried to steal my heart I judged from their actions, but I had seen such before & if any one <*was in the least*> had any advantage I guess it was,

Yr [*Your*] aff [*affectionate*] son J Grant [*John Cowles Grant*]

Box 300 Roscoe

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[*Original not in collection*]

Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Jan. 17. 1834

Dear brother Daniel,

You will not think that I address you because I am so much indebted to you for yr [*your*] oft repeated communications. I think you never wrote me a word. -- I hope a year from this time I cannot say this in truth. I wish to know much about you, write me in what things you think you have made some improvement the past year, & in what you hope to improve this year. Let me know something about your religious state. Are your Sabbaths profitable & delightful. God makes use often of the humblest instruments to build up his cause, & brother D. [*Daniel*] we may aim at being instrumental in doing this. The members of our school [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] who hope they are Christians meet every Sab. [*Sabbath*] & spend [...] hours in prayer, & hearing instructions from Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. Our subject to day was suited to lead us to prepare our heart for a visit from the Holy Spirit, & to put away every iniquity. These are very precious meetings. It was remarked that we were in danger of saying our prayers, instead of praying. I felt it to even so. Do not neglect secret prayers one day, dear christian brother, you will thus bring darkness, distress & leanness into your soul. And will you not seek to pray <*that*> whenever others lead in the church, & in the social circle, & in the family. Let your heart rise in each petition, or strive for it. But if your thoughts should wander, join heartily in the amen.

I received a letter from sister E. [*Elizabeth*] two days since. She wrote in very good spirits, I think, says her school far exceeds her anticipations. Miss Bridges has given up the primary department & assists E. [*Elizabeth*] They have 40 young ladies. She says some of them are ornaments to <*any*> the school & do as well as they can. She has changed her boarding place. She now boards with 18 or 20 of the young ladies. Their friends provided food, & the young ladies prepare it for the table. They have a matron to keep their fires, & attend a little to their dinner. She is pleased with the plan thus far. Her scholars have been studying Colburn's & Adams's Arith. Nat. & Mental <*Moral*> Phi. & Watts. reading chirography & spelling & composition. She writes so seldom. I thought perhaps you might not know these things. She mentions that the first Mon. in Jan. was to be observed as a fast. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] approves of such boarding establishments there.

I heard thro [*through*] Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] that Joel & some of my other friends had been studying Watts this winter. I was rejoiced to hear it. Elizabeth & I have been teaching it. I hope & think we must all be profited by it. I think it almost impossible to study it, without being profited. We have not yet exhausted it. I wish you to know it so thoroughly that his ideas will be at hand, whenever appropriate. What habits do you wish to eradicate what to perfect.

Yours, in love, Mary. [*Mary Grant Burgess*]

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

Andover Theo. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*] March 1, '43

Dear Brother,

If I have rightly made the calculation you close your school day after to-morrow, as that will make four months from Nov. 14, 1842. I have not written to you previous to this time because I knew not when you would be at home, nor where to direct a letter to you, away from home. I have however been a little disappointed that I have not received a letter from you, though I doubt not you have many very good excuses to offer, such as pressure of business residing among those mountaineers, &c., so that after all I suppose I must let the matter pass.

Our vacation commences Wednesday April 19, seven weeks from to day. At that time I hope to have an opportunity to see you. In the mean time, I hope you will do all that you can to get ready for your journey to the West, which you ought to begin as soon after navigation opens as possible. Some weeks since I received a letter from Levi Grant in which he states that chairs and all kinds of furniture are about the same price as in Ohio. Respecting cloth, [...] yarn, &c, he says that they are in [great?] demand than in Conn. [*Connecticut*] He says that apple and pear trees are articles that command a good price but I presume the season of the year in which you go will be unfavorable to the transportation of them. He says also that he has an excellent two horse waggon which he thinks will answer for both you and him for the present. He did not write particularly about the house, I presume because he had not at that time proceeded for enough with it to say much. I suppose that all he can do this winter will be to get the logs prepared, as when he received my letter, snow had fallen to a considerable amount. He says "the winter is delightful, the sleighing good, and no drifts at all." This however was under date of Dec. 17.

I think you would do well to take on as many of those things which you will want as you can, for even if the price should not be more there, than here, there is some advantage in having things by you and in not having to look them up among a crowd of [sharpers?], who will use every art to cheat you. At the very highest calculation you can get things carried from Albany to <*Chic*> Milwaukie for $2 a hundred by the steamboats on the lakes, and for $1.50 by vessels, and I have little doubt but you can get them carried for less, for this I believe to be the maximum. You can also be carried for $25 a person from Albany to Milwaukie, with a cabin passage in the steam boats on the lakes, and your board found you all the way. This much I regard as certain, I hope you will be able to go for less.

To day a company of Missionaries has sailed from Boston to Persia and labor among the Nestorians. They are eight in number viz. Mr. Perkins, Mr. Bliss, Mr. Stoddard, and their wives, and Miss Myers, and Miss Fiske who has been until recently at S. Hadley as a teacher [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]. Mr. Stoddard was a classmate of mine in College and for a year or two past a tutor in Yale College. He is a most excellent man as well as an accomplished scholar. These missionaries were all here last Sabbath, and received their instructions Sabbath evening. The Bishop, Mar Johannan returns with them. Mr. Perkins who has been connected with that mission eight years has published an account of his labors there which is full of interest. The Nestorians, as a people who, amid the oppression of the Mohammedans and the attacks of the Pope have kept the <*flame*> form, and to some extent the power of Christianity, so long, demand our sympathy and our prayers.

During the latter part of Jan. I visited Aunt Banister. She was usually well but the eldest daughter Frances was considered unwell with some disease which has long been upon her. Since that time I have heard that she is worse, and the physycians have told her she cannot recover. She is however resigned to the will of God and says "If God has more for me to do he can raise me from my low estate, if not I am willing to depart." She is of a very cheerful and happy disposition and when well has a most excellent talent for entertaining company, a talent in which she as much excels as her younger sister appears to be deficient.

Your affectionate brother
Joel Grant.

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[*Various envelopes*]

My dear Caroline,

My headache yesterday & to day tho [*though*] it threatens to become rich head ache, is not that, & I hope will not be, I hope your kindness to your father, on the confines of heaven, is a service to Christ, in love; & that He will grant you mercy in that day. 2. Tim [*Timothy*]. 1:16-18. [...] Mar. [7?].

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

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

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

Within the enclosed letter you will find (unless it has been extracted) some money which as I have not it at hand I will describe hereafter, which I wish you to use at your own discretion in purchasing some [l]and for me somewhere in your vicinity. It is a small amount which I do not expect to want for a year at least, and I do not like to lend it to anyone for fear I shall never see it again, and I do not know that I can do better than to buy a little land with it. In order to buy it to best advantage I think you had better devote a few days after harvest &c. to siding around the country to see what there is for which I will allow you as much as it will cost to hire a man, and 37 1/2 <*day*> cents a day besides for your horse. This will give you a recess and will improve your

health if it is out of order, and give you an opportunity to see the country, and become acquainted with the people, and the land. At the same time you can determine whether it is best for you or sister Caroline to purchase the lot which lies east of the one you own, and which as you recollect I value at $170 with interest and taxes from Oct. 1842. If you should conclude not to take it I think I shall get Levi or some one else to put up a log cabin upon it after which I think it will sell to a good advantage to some emigrant who [wo]uld like a pla[c]e t[o] put h[is] family. As f[or] the land you are to buy for me, I have but to say that I would prefer you should [buy?] it of goverment in tow lots of 80 acres and within 20 miles of Wilwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*], or if that cannot be, let it be uncultivated land within 16 miles of Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] and at no greater price than two dollars and a half per acre, or if you think it worth while to pay more, write to me. I think it cannot but be that land will increase in value in the vicinity of Milwa[u]kie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]at least as fast as [money at interest for?] some [time?] to come [if?] you [should?] [r]eally believe i[t] best to buy land at a greater distance from Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] than 20 miles, I will leave it to your judgement, though if the wise admits of it, I wish you to write respecting it before making a purchase. I should not like to have you spend more than 12 days in my service looking for land.

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

Your affectionate brother,
Joel Grant.

[*other side of paper*]

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

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

What do you think of father's selling out and going to Wisconsin? I do not know that it would be best but I wish some method might be devised to free him from the load of debt under which he now staggers, and which must embitter his old age. I do not know indeed that he could be persuaded to think of the thing but if you think best I will mention it to him some time.
You probably have heard of the death of Cousin Maria Cowles. Please write immediately or send a newspaper to indicate the safe reception of this. If you send a newspaper Mark the figure 4 upon it somewhere, by which I shall understand that you have received this safe.

[*Addressed to*] Daniel and Caroline Grant
Andover Theor. Sem. [*Andover Theological Seminary*]

July 7, 1843

Dear Sister,

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

I arrived s[a]fely at your father's the day after I left you, with no other injury than a burned face. Your people made many inquires concerning you and when they heard how cheerful and

happy you appeared to be, they were themselves rendered cheerful. They sent soon after some things by the Canaan people which I hope you have received ere this. I told your people they had better direct them to the "care of Dowsman & Hosmer, Agents of the Merchant's Transportation Co., Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]," and unless they have written to you differently I presume they were left there, and if you have not already obtained them you doubtless can by sending. You would do well to send to your people the <*indi*> names of the individuals to whose care you wish things sent.

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

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

Your affectionate brother,
Joel Grant.

Dear Brother

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

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

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

One $20 of the same bank No. 665. The Treasury note has been on interest at six per cent ever since it was issued and will continue to be so until Oct 14 of this year when it will cease to draw interest. It will be taken at the land office at any time in payment for land and can be sold at its full value I presume at the brokers. I wish you to inform me what mode of sending you money will be best, whether by treasury notes bills, drafts, certificates of deposit[e] or by what means. If I could have procured another Tre [*Treasury*] Note of $100 I should have sent instead of the bill and if you can not pass the bill without a loss of considerable you may return it to me. The Treas. [*Treasury*] notes I gave you were on interest till June 30 after which the interest ceases. Let me know how you managed them and also at what expense you <*re*> were in getting to your place.

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

Single
folio post.

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

Dear Brother,

Your letter of Sept. 1, 2 & 3 was received Sept 14, and though all its news was not as agreeable as we could wish we were very glad to hear from you, for we wish to sympathise with your sorrow as well as rejoice at your happiness. I was surprised at the account you gave of your

labors, for surely I think you never labored so before. But it may be you are trying to do too much. To get up with aching bones every morning when a little more sleep would prevent it is <*far*> very short sighted policy, and if you look no farther than to the gathering of your first crop, would probably prove to your disadvantage. But as the nights are now becoming long probably you will feel no more trouble on this account.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother, Joel

[G]rant

Dear Brother

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

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

My Dear Children

Sep 27 1843

With a variety of feelings I commence this letter I read your letter with [mingled?] emotion I rejoice that you enjoy health and I mourn that <*that*> you are not contented with your situation I think it wise to give heed to what the apostle [...] Paul said of him self he had learned in whatever situation he was in therewith to be content I do not suppose that we ought not to try to improve our condition, but not to be unhappy even if our condition is not just what we should wish I felt when you left us that you would enjoy a great deal I felt that you had much to make you happy that <*yo*> God had been very good to you in many respects that you were happy in each other and that you were so comfortably fitted out. I thought that although your situation would be retired yet you would enjoy each others society and it is an old mansion that if we have one friend we ought to think ourselves happy and I have often thought that man [Jim?] was a good one, now my children I am not very much disappointed that you Did not find things as you expected and as I hoped but I always [feared?] and I was tempted to tell you that I learned that you would not find in that man all that was desirable and then I would think I had not sufficient knowledge [t]o say anything I had heard some things about his father that I never [wished?] to hear about any man (in regard to the property belonging to his sisters) I had my [...] information from your aunt Jerusha Grant and one of her brothers married h[is?] sisters she thought that he had not done the thing that was right but I guess he never said much about it only to me and I would not have you mention what I have written I hope you have been able to keep your feelings to yourself the children <*will*> ought not to be judged by their parents but if they follow the examples of their parents and they are bad they must be judged accordingly it is very important that they (parents) set good examples before their children I have heard that I went to [Gherlin?] to school and that instead of making expense he had aclaim [...] the institution for his labor and there were many circumstances that made me fear that his love of money was so great that it would exceed his love to God and his neighbor but that will be the case every where you will find such cases every where all over the world and I hope you will never move on account of improving your neighbors I will tell you that I very much want to have you stay on your place and I think you will have good neighbors come to you good neighbors draw good neighbors and perhaps Mr. Knapp will come on and buy out some of the present neighbors or settle on some of the unsettled land but you must no expect every thing from Mr. Knapp and I hope you will not encourage him too much at least I hope you will not give him reason to think you can help him any more than he does you if you can be where you can put your teams together and change work I think it would be a good thing for you both but this company business is not apt to be very profitable for but one I feel that your place is well situated in regard to market and if it is not without its faults you will find that the case go where you will [Mr?] Slocum has been looking at uncle Lowles farm seven years and he has travelled all over the union and [...] to find nothing to suit him and now he is sick of uncle Sam's farm and people say that he would be discontented any where now my Dear Children do be contented do be happy it will do your mother and all your friends so much good you have your farm paid for and although your house is not a good one yet it will answer till you can add something to it at my fathers we had a log addition to our house the length or width of our house which was covered just as our [hovels?] are covered and without a floor which was a great comfort and I believe that if you should make a good log [room?] good height and well covered it would be a better want than to raise the one you now [have?] but I want to have you keep the one you have in such repair that it will keep out the storm my daughter I love your cheerful letters they breathe a happy spirit and I want to have you near you can make Daniel contended and happy I should rather live on very plain and work hard than to be in the condition that may [...] are here overwhelmed with debts that they can never pay if Mr. Knapp should come to you he will not probably come alone and it is my opinion that he will take [...] with him now my son do you sleep on a hard feather bed you mention [...] effect that your bones ache a hard feather bed always made my bones ache but straw has a contrary effect and I believe if you should my daughter try

straw the year around you would like it much. your father used to have an aversion to straw but now he is more [overs?] I hope it will turn out well do be good neighbors that is is the way to have good ones live near to god is the prayer [mother?] E [...]

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

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

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

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

Joel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It seems a sort of tantalization to be so near you and yet not see you. I sup-[*pose*] you must be regarded as about 150 miles off, for we are nearly south of Chicago and we must go to Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] probably to get to you. As soon as we can, we mean to come and see you, but that will not be just now, perhaps however, it will be in the course of the winter. I want very much to see you and being so near you makes my want still greater.

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

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

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

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

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

P.S. Since writing the above we have received a letter from John dated Richmond Va, [*Virginia*] Oct. 14. His school is small not promising as well as he hoped, but his health is good. He wishes to be remembered to you. Brother Phelps not succeeding with his Association in Ohio

went East as you know some months since. Susan was present at our wedding But Phelps was at N. York [*New York*] to ascertain if there was any place for him in some New Jersey Association The Ohio Phalanx proved a complete failure as all of them probably will eventually

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

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

When you were married and came to this western world, I had little thought of so soon following you; much less of coming as your sister. Almost the last words of Caroline to me were, "I hope we shall some day see you at the west." Vain hope, thought I, for <u>why</u> should I ever leave New England. But so it is. Norfolk [*Connecticut*] is no longer my home, but a pleasant village in Ill. [*Illinois*] where all is now new and strange to me, but where there are doubtless many congenial spirits, and much that will help to make life happy. The particulars of our wedding, journey, &c. I will defer till the happy time when we may meet, and have an opportunity to talk of these things. Neither can I tell you much of the people here. Several ladies have called, and seem very cordial, One who was prevented by a sick child, from going out, sent for us to spend Sat. eve with them. We went, and spent an hour or two very pleasantly, indeed all whom we have met, greet us with smiles and kind wishes. We have a good <u>boarding</u> place, <*with*> in a pleasant family, though from Joel's description of our <u>room</u> you can judge that <u>more</u> would be desirable. But as we care not with the idea that every thing must be for <u>our</u> accommodation, but rather to accommodate ourselves to circumstances, and be happy whatever they may be, we find ourselves contented in this small room, without door, or closet. Still we hope for better things, though it may be a long time before we have them. We should feel ourselves rich indeed, had we a log house like yours, or even two rooms in any other.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My dear brother,

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

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

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

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

returning his profession in Canton. Elizabeth cherishes an affectionate remembrance of "Uncle Daniel." Your affectionate sister

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

Dear Brother

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

My Dear Children

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

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[*Addressed to*] Miss Caroline Burr
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Rochester [*New York*] Dec 21st 1846

My dear Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

You perceive that I have disregarded all the rules of letter writing by commencing at the very topmost line in order that I may have room to say a <u>great</u> <u>deal</u>, You may be some what surprised at the receipt of a letter from R. -- NY [*Rochester, New York*] -- but in the name of Sarah Anna Sibley -- you will recognize an old and familiar acquaintance, no other than an old roommate & school companion -- , Do not think Dear Caroline! I have ever forgotten the kind & affectionate letter I received from you, I do not now remember whether I ever answered it, if not please accept my apology and receive this as an answer, although long in coming yet the friendship it breathes is never the less fine or lasting -- , but I am so anxious to learn what has been your destiny, that I can consume no longer time upon preliminaries, and you will not think me inquisitive, if I make many inquiries with regard to you, for I intend to give you the particulars relating to myself as minutely as you can wish to hear them. I believe you were long since numbered one of Mt Holyoke's [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] graduates. Are you still living with your parents in Norfolk or has some successful swain possessed himself of Caroline, to adorn, & beautify his home, in a neighboring village? -- remember me to your sister Mary [*Mary Burr*] & write me the particulars respecting her also. Any thing relating to Mt Mt Hol [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] -- will be received with pleasure, the fate or destiny of any we used to know there would be interesting. Elizabeth Smith, my roommate is married to a young Physician here, named Dean, she has one child, they are in moderate though comfortable circumstances,

you perhaps remember that she had a sister here, whose husband is wealthy, they are Baptists and it was through their persuasion that she married him, although she was formerly a presbyterian but it makes very little difference what his profession is if his is a Christian, we are not quite as intimate as formerly but are upon good terms, call & visit -- &c --

Rochester [*New York*] March 30th 1847

As you will perceive by my last date a long time has passed since I first commenced this sheet, my only apology must be that I commenced six long sheets to different correspondents at the same time, & have finished all but yours, but you will excuse it I know when I give you an account of my family matters, as I intend to do very minutely -- After I left you at So [*South*] Hadley [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] I spent the time until september very pleasantly with my aunts in Hartford [*Connecticut*], then my Brother came down to New York, and came for me on his way home, We went immediately to So [*South*] Hadley [*Massachusetts*] and arranged my affairs paid my bills, and left for Rochester [*New York*], I need not assure you I was overjoyed, once more to set my foot in the hall of my Fathers house, I met many happy faces, who all gave me cordial greeting, I recovered rapidly from my lameness, and have never been troubled since, The next september, one year from that time my only Brother, (of whom you often heard me speak) was married to a Miss Hastings of Clinton, near Utica [*New York*], of course I was there, quite a party of mine and my brothers acquaintances went down together, and we had as you may suppose a very agreeable time, there is a small host of their own family, fifteen children all living, an extensive circle of acquaintances & friends made a very large wedding I remained at the Dr,s while my Brother and his bride, took their wedding tour to N. York [*New York*] Hartford, Springfield &c., & designed to return with them, but the family would not consent to that at all, the Dr said he had lost one child, and it was but fair, he should gain another, so with much persuasion I spent eight months in their family, now you will say Sarah married some one there but do not be too hasty, and I shall tell you all about it, I returned home in May after my long visit, and my husband that is now, commenced paying his attentions immediately after, (we had corresponded by the way before I left Clinton), and we were married the folowing September, just two years from the time I left So. Hadley, what changes take place in the few short years of our lives?, with what rapidity we hasten from the cradle, to the grave?, so that we might so live as to be ready when the summons comes for us?, But I hasten to give you a description of my Husband and children, and to commence you will permit a wife to speak in her husband,s praise, God has indeed blessed me in giving me him in whom the virtues are all united, he is a devoted Christian, and to a perfectly amiable disposition, unites agreeable manner and a comely pleasant look, and although always pleasant he does not lack energy, he is enterprising in business, and although a new beginner as it were we are already possesed of a competence, have a fine house & garden of our own, we have nice fruit, grapes &c which we prize very much in a city, you will not think me egotistical if I proceed & give you a description of my children, for if I do not, I know not who will, --

I have two children my eldest Mary Alida, (named, for my brothers wife) was four years old in January, quite a girl you will say?, she makes me feel quite matronly sometimes, when I look at so large a girl & think she is mine, would you like a minute description? she is quite tall of her age rather light hair, but it is growing dark, blue eyes and a fair complexion she has never been to school, but “says she goes to school to her mother”, I teach her evy day, she has known her letters since she was two & a half years old, and can spell in words of one sylable, she answers a great many -- questions in Geography can count &c, I do not mean to insinuate she is a prodigy or any thing of the kind, only that I have taken pains with her, and have taught her carefully, she goes to sabbath school every Sabbath, in the Infant School, where I am a teacher, and can take care of her, she goes to church with us in the morning, & from there right into the school at noon, she has learned several little hymns which they sing, also bible stories, and learns a verse <*a verse*> of Scripture to recite, It is quite a task to learn a little child to sew, by perseverance I have taught Alida to sew very neatly, and when she was three years and nine months old, I had finished quilting a good sized quilt which she had pieced intirely by herself, and the past three months she pieced another which, is not yet quilted, I get all new cloth for her, and design to keep them for her untill she is a young lady that I may show her what she did when she was a little girl -- I mean to do the same by the youngest when she is old enough, for I use no partiality, they are

very happy together and are just near enough of an the right age to be good company for each other, they play, the livelong days and never see[m] tired of each others society --

But I did not design to occupy so large [a] share of this sheet with my own matters, but you will as you ever was willing to overlook a fault in me, do not fail to write me everything of interest relating to yourself, <*yours*>, and I know of nothing in regard to you which would not interest me, where is your good sister Mary [*Mary Burr*] now? remember me affectionately to her, Do you hear from So [*South*] Hadley often? I suppose you do, write me all about it, I occassionally hear something by way of my friend Elizabeth, but not very much, I suppose they have stricken me off the books of the Memorandum Society [*of Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], for I receive nothing from them, The Secretary wrote me two or three times with regard to it I replied to it and sent all the particulars of my life &c. -- untill I became tired & wrote that if they were not satisfied now I would not try any more to make them so, -- Do you ever hear from Miss [Erving?] or Miss [Jones?], or any of our old companions. I have nothing of my old complaint now and think the attack I had while there was owing to the climate, we all enjoy excellent health, I must addres you by your old name as I know no other, please wite me as minutely of your matters as I have of mine & belive me as ever your affectionate,

Sarah [Aprin?] Alling. –

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Prairieville
Milwalky [*Milwaukee*] County
Wisconsin Ter.-y. [*Territory*]

Piketon [*Ohio*], Feb. 22, 1846.

Dear Brother Daniel,

I once was informed of your P.O. address, but lost & forgot it, & this must be my excuse for not writing sooner. Is it possible it is almost six years since we last parted? & that we have not exchanged letters since? I can hardly believe it. Since that time, great changes have taken place in our father's family; you have assumed the responsibilities of husband & father; the bodies of our dear sister Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*] & her little son [*Edwin Burgess*], have been committed to the silent tomb, & our beloved Martha [*Martha Grant*] is still in the furnace of affliction, where she has remained for more than two years. Sister Susan [*Susan Boyd J. Grant*] gave me a pretty full account of her situation but I do not seem to understand much about her symptoms, nor can I, without seeing her, & I do not know when <u>that</u> will be. I believe brother Phelps is about to connect himself with an association at W. Roxbury Mass [*West Roxbury, Massachusetts*], if he has not already done it. I know almost as little of Joel, John & Marcus, as of yourself.

I am anxious to know more of your situation & prospects, both as it respects this world & a future. Horatio Burton a nephew of ours, spent six weeks with us last summer He had spent the preceding winter in Poelloit Wisconsin, with which country he was much pleased. -- he had not heard of you. What is the character of your society? (I trust superior to ours) & your religious privileges? & may I be permitted to ask, <*what*> something of the improvement, you have been enabled to make?

We have had a cold winter for Ohio. thus far & I fear in your climate, you would almost suffer, but I suppose wood is plenty.

Our "barn of a house" was finished, neat & comfortable, in Sept. after you left us, since which time, our family, then three daughters, has been increased by three sons, Ohilander, Edward, & William, who will be 20 months old, March 9th.

Mr. B. [*Burton*] is now wishing to get rid of his farm. He tried hiring for a time & though he had little difficulty with his hands, he wished to try renting. Having built a comfortable hewed log house, he has tried renting his farm to two men heads of families, first, for five years, secondly for three years, but in each case, before one year had half expired, such was the state of feeling between <*the*> us, that it took no small effort to settle it. In the last case wh. [*which*] was last fall, we lost considerable in the settlement. Indeed the older I become, the more I think of the

importance of acquiring absolute control over our passions, while young. My little boys are hard to govern. I fear for them, but O for more faith. Every good gift is from above, & with God all things are possible. We have enjoyed more peace in our family for about a year, than I once expected to enjoy in this life. Doubtless all we endure in this life is designed to wean us from the world, & bring us home to God. Strange how slow I have been to learn, for I have had many lessons. I have been a great backslider when shall I return? Never? I cannot think so. O that by the grace of God the time might not be far distant when I shall experience that joy & peace in believing wh. [*which*] the [world?] can neither give nor take away.
Feb. 28. This day is very cold. A heavy snow has fallen wh. [*which*] might be of some advantage to us, if we had sleighs as the ground was hard frozen upon which it fell.

Though Mr. B. [*Burton*] is about <*but*> he has not preached for sometime, he is somewhat indisposed, & so much afraid he shall be sick, as to avoid almost all exposure.

Mary sends her love to her Uncle Daniel & Aunt Caroline.

Your affectionate. sister, Elizabeth Burton. [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

Dear sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

Though I suppose I have never seen you I have almost become acquainted, by means of fiends. I know, at least, that your education would make you just such a sister & friend as I should most desire. though I know nothing of your religious sentiments. In my mind cold as my heart is there is nothing that so cements friends hearts together, as true religion. Indeed I am alarmed about myself & my children, (two of whom are quite ill,) my heart is so hard, & my love so cold. Do, sister, write me soon, sister Martha [*Martha Grant*] is sick & cannot write, mother is almost worn out with nursing so that I seldom get much that is calculated to revive my spirits from the east. I seldom attend public worship & never private religious meeting, & can very very seldom meet a christian, with whom I can hold sweet converse. My streams seem almost dry. I have forsaken "the Fountain of living waters, & hewn to my self cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water" Forgive dear sister, this strain into wh. [*which*] I have almost unconsiously broken

Kiss the babe for me, tell me all about her when you write, and believe me

Your affectionate sister

Elizabeth Burton

[*written across side*] Any thing about your New England friend would be very acceptable, If you ever know me, please tell me when & where.

I hope both will [write?] soon. Adieu E.B.

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

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

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

We have now the pleasure of saying to you that Joel is quite well. He has had no ague for four weeks. and is now looking quite like himself. His appetite is good, & for the three last Sab. [*Sabbath*] he has preached all day. Our congregation is increasing: a good deal of attention is being paid to Sacred music. and we are causing tracts to be given monthly to every family, together with an effort to increase the number of Sab. [*Sabbath*] scholars. Our Sewing Soc. [*Society*] is flourishing; New Year’s eve, the ladies gave an oyster supper, the avails of wh. [*which*] are to aid in finishing the steeple to our church. The frame only is up. Near $100 were cleared. considering the time we had to prepare in (three weeks) we think it was doing well -- It is near four weeks since we heard from our homes, or John [*John Grant*] -- we are daily expecting

to hear from both). John [*John Grant*] was then at Watertown. [*Massachusetts*] designing to spend the winter in the family of Mr. Woodard, teaching their children. and a few others. He then thought to have those tumors removed in the spring. hoping to be relieved from much of the consequent suffering, by inhaling the "etherial gas." of wh. [*which*] you have doubtless read. I hope much for him, but fear more.

I noticed in one of the recent papers an account of an uncommon outpouring of the Holy Spirit. in Mt. Hol. Fem. Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] "We could only stand still and witness the wonderful working of God." said the writer. A friend wrote me a few days since, that Miss Lyon [*Mary Lyons*] had been very sick. and is now feeble. I cannot imagine how they get along with so many of the important one's gone. How rejoiced we all shall be to get the Mem. [*Memorial*] Catalogue [*from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*]! It will inform us of the residence of many a loved one, and make us feel how far separate Holyoke's daughters really are. Three weeks since, I saw a notice of the marriage of Celia Wright. (sister of "Kate Wright") to a missionary among the Choctau Indians. His name I have forgotten. Did I tell you in my last that "Miss Reed," "Nancy Foote" & Miss Webster" that were, had each a son? I hope you see the Miss. Herald, [Missionary Herald *published by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] How much more are we interested in the missions where we know the missionaries. Do you hear from home often? Where is Mary [*Mary Burr*] now? I hope we shall not have to wait quite so long next time before hearing from you.

[*written along verso side*] I did not [take?] at all. when you said some of Daniels brothers & sisters did not write particularly enough, for Joel says I am too particular altogether. and that I ought not to write so long letters.

[*written along front side*] We have had a little sleighing. but it is gone, and we are now having an ice storm. I dread the wind of March and April. Should like to take a peep at N. England [*New England*] faces & scenery next summer. Perhaps we shall though we cannot now decide certainly about it. I fear Joel's health will again suffer if he should spend the hot months here. Hoping soon to hear from you. I remain your aff. [*affectionate*] sister Abby. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Kiss little Abby for us both.

Are you sister C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] learning Phonography? I cannot get time.

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

[*March*] 11, 1847

[*Date supplied from date stamp:* Lockport Mar 13 Ill. [*Illinois*]]

[*First two pages in phonographic shorthand. Numerous sums of money are mentioned*.]

March 12 Friday, morn. 47.

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

We were very glad to receive your letter yesterday. It seems so much more like living as brother and sister should, to have frequent communication, and know of each others state. We are so near, that of all others, we ought to <*be*> write often.

You may have heard from John [*John Grant*] before you receive this, but lest that be not the case, Joel [*Joel Grant*] thinks best to send the letter we received Monday. It was enclosed in one from John [*John Grant*], written in part, the day before the operation. He says if he does not survive the operation his friends have not cause for grief. He feels that all will be well with him. It is a great comfort that he can trust in his Heavenly Father, now in this time of deep affliction and that those to whom he is so dear, can supplicate God in his behalf. We are very anxious to hear again from him. Let us all thank God for providing him with friends who sympathize with, and aid him, especially for so disposing the heart of that kind family where he has spent a part of the winter, and some of whom are constantly with in the Hospital.

If John lives, I shall feel more anxious than ever to go home. It seems as if it would be easier to give him up after seeing him once, and not him only, but all my friends -- Some ten or 12

of our ladies intend spending the summer away, most of East. If I go before my husband it will be in compay with some of them. Aff. [*affectionate*] your sister Abby

[*written along* side] In your next will you please return the enclosed letter from Martha W. as I suppose it will be of no service to you after reading it. and it may be to me. Kiss that dear little Abby for her Aunty's sake. I am glad Mr. Curtis has left P. [*Prairieville, Wisconsin*] he is not the man to minister to you there, though I doubt not but he is good.

Joel feels somewhat agueish, but I hope will not have it hard. He will not be very well, I fear till he has breathed purer air than is found here. The travelling is terrible now.

I hope Daniel will be able to sell that land –

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

Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*], Dec. 28, 1847

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I received your letter of Nov. 7, about a month since, and have delayed to reply to it for two reasons, the first of which is a very common one, viz. that I have been busily employed otherwise, and the second and most important is that I have not known what to write. The apparent importance of writing something however has at last led me to take my pen.

It seems that you have sold my 40 and now have a team; whether your investment was wise is more than I can determine, and it being already made there is the less need that I should as the action can not be recalled. But as I am now the owner of a team perhaps it may not be amiss to say something about the future control of the matter, though even here I can do but little more than to suggest some ideas which perhaps are even more palpable to your mind than to mine. In the first place take good care to curry and to feed them well. Be careful also in muddy weather not to drive them, or if you do so to take very light loads. Remember "the die is cast," if this speculation fails I know not where you can look next. I know not where you can stable them, nor in what shed you can shelter your wagon, but this I trust is known to you.

But I wish to write you something respecting the religious bearing of your business. It is God alone who can give you success; none but He can save you from the thousand dangers of failure and consequent loss both to yourself and me that attend you. This truth should be acknowledged, not merely with our lips, but in some way that is calculated to carry more of the feelings with it. I have become satisfied that it is every Christians duty to give, at least, one tenth of his prosperity to God -- to consecrate it to the promotion of his kingdom on earth. This principle I have acted on for the last six months and I mean to do it while God shall give me life. Now as far as I have any share in the team you drive, I wish this principle applied, & I should feel much, very much safer if you would apply it to your share. I wish therefore to have you <*state in some*> ascertain what is the amount of my capital you have invested in paying for <*them*> it. I propose something like the following. Horses, wagons, and harnesses are of so perishable a nature, that if you cannot pay for them in the three years, it is not probable you ever can. The business will be far from a profitable one, if you cannot do as much as this. This will be 3 per cent a month for 36 months (allowing about 3 months in which to pay interest) I propose therefore that you at once enter on a plan of paying that amount month by month for that object. I think you can find no difficulty in doing this; certainly you cannot if the business is to be any other than a losing one either to you or me. As nearly as I can estimate from your account of the matter you have invested or are to invest about $237. dollars in the team, $163 of which you have already paid. Aside from this you seem to have used $15 paid by Mahar, $29 paid by some one else, and $10 or more from the store <*which goes to pay*> in payment for the lot, making in all $217. You ask also to be permitted to use $29 coming to me early in Jan. which will make $246 -- not lacking much of $250. I give my consent to your using the note of $29 come due in Jan. and as all the rest that comes from the lot will be used soon we will call the whole lot invested in the

team, that is $250. Three per cent on this is $7.50 per month which I shall expect you to lay aside to pay for the principal this, beginning, if possible, Nov. 1, 1847. or at least as soon as Jan 1, '48. If you cannot do this your business will be far from a profitable one, I am confident, and <*unless you can*> the loss of the whole team will eventually fall on me.

I cannot give my consent to the investment in a team of the mony that is to come from Mahar next spring <*in a team*> unless you can make the payments I have just mentioned. I am owing nearly $300 which those funds are consecrated to pay; I cannot therefore venture to place them in so uncertain a state. But this I am willing to consider upon, viz. If you will pay $7.50 a month from Nov. till May (which will make $45) I will consent to the investment of a part of it, otherwise I cannot.

Mahar is sufficiently correct in saying that I gave my consent that all the taxes that had been laid previous to the sale of the farm might be deducted from the amount he was to pay. If the taxes have been laid since I sold the farm, no deduction can be made.

I wish you would write to me as often at least as once a month, presenting a clear and distinct statement of what you earn with your team and also of your expenses. Such a statement will soon show you whether you can live by teaming, and also whether I can expect a remuneration for the investment of my property. Of course you understand that it is no security for you to call the team mine, for it is property that will not avail much as security. I like the proposal to have the deed of your lot taken <*from*> for me, but not because it gives me a security that is of value, for if you cannot pay otherwise, do you think I shall take the lot from under you? Unless I am willing to do that, such security is of no worth to me. All my security lies in the hope that you will manage business well, and that God will smile upon your efforts, and add his blessing.

I presume you will appreciate my motives in what I have written. I have endeavored to be accommodating to every member of your family. I shall still endeavor to help if God gives me the means. But I now am poor, yea $300 worse than poor. I have lent brother John $1000 (with the interest it would now be $1200) and that is sunk beyond hope. How much <*what*> I have heretofore lent you, I have no knowledge, but believe it is not less than $60, which together with what you now ask for will make $300, and perhaps by next May $350. It is plain that I must stop the practice of lending money where it is so uncertain whether it will ever return. The $250 you may take, and may God's blessing go with it, but with present prospects ought I do more? I think you will feel that I ought not. Still if you can show that teaming is a business that holds out a prospect of supporting you I will do so much as to lend you a part of what you may earn between this and May, but the Mahar money must not be touched.

If you have not forgotten your Phonography I should like to have you write to me in that, as I care not to have every body read our business transactions. You can write it first in long hand and then copy it is Phonography: You must not suffer yourself to neglect writing for in a few years you will forget entirely how. I see you have forgotten very much already.

I hope you will consider carefully the subject of benevolence and if you do not feel able to consecrate one tenth to God, try one twentieth, and do whatever you do cheerfully, laying it aside as a sacred treasure, and taking of the best you get, that is money for this purpose.

I have as yet not employment. I have been preaching for two sabbaths in West Avon, and perhaps shall settle there, but do not know. Abby has for the most part recovered her health. John is teaching in Woodbury [*Connecticut*], but his school is small only about 30 now, and will not have so many in the summer. Marcus goes to school to him. Father and mother are well as usual as are also Mr. Burr's people. Am sorry to hear that you suffer so much from ague. hope that a change of business will relieve you. My love to Caroline and Abby. <*and*> In haste

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel

I believe Mother intends to write soon but I have filled this letter so full that I cannot well give her a chance in this.

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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*] 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
Prairieville
Wisconsin

[*From*] John Grant
Apr. 1848
Mill Brook Ct
April 22

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*], Apr. 21, 1848.

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

It is truly a long time since I last wrote you. It ought not to have been so long, but I have always felt that I was not quite ready or quite strong enough. & so I have deferred.

I am now enjoying a little rest from my labors in school. I closed my school three weeks ago & commence in three weeks again. You of course know that I have been in Woodbury Ct. [*Connecticut*] only four miles from Dea. [*Deacon*] Woodward's – some of the family having attended my school all the time thus far. [Ann?] Maria the whole time – Martha all but five or six weeks - & Burr some weeks. Have had a pleasant school tho' [*though*] not quite so large as I wished. A little time I had 33 – but my number did not average above 23 – for the whole time. I shall probably have as many as 23 – the coming summer in time to continue 11 weeks only from May 15. I hope to have a large & profitable school next winter if I live & am in health. I have got along very well this winter – have pleased my pupils generally & their parents & have earned some reputation in my business, tho' [*though*] not without effort & some trials

I have had pretty good health all winter & have had strength for my duties, but not a great deal to spare. My general health is good enough & it's only my back that gives me trouble which is easily fatigued – it is no worse than usual & I think is stronger. I hope I am to continue as well but am not without my fears.

You are probably aware that Joel is about to be settled in Avon [*Connecticut*] – is not ordained but has gone there to live. They are keeping house - & seem glad to be located, tho' [*though*] the place is not so large as he ought to be located in – society is small – salary only $450 & parsonage It is not at the church on the turnpike road bit south of it or rather between it & Collinsville. I visited them last week – found them well, but hardly settled in their new home.

You have been informed that Marcus spent the winter in Woodbury [*Connecticut*] & attended my school – improved his time very well. I do not know what he will do this summer. He is now with Joel helping him plant potatoes &c. altho' [*although*] we expect him home soon.

It is as you can readily imagine very lonely here at home – no brother or sister here. I shall probably not spend the whole of my remaining vacation at home, but do not know how soon I shall leave. Geo. Woodman is to be married soon – probably in a week two & I shall attend the wedding & not return to these parts. Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has invited Martha Woodward to come & stay a few months with her to assist her & be company for her, giving her such opportunities for improvement as she can. She will go on in a few weeks.

Our friends are so far as I know all well. I have been about but little & have not seen them all. Cousins Margaret & Isaiah are to teach in the same school at Falls Village this summer.

Uncle Luther is very feeble & probably cannot endure much longer, tho' [*though*] he may live many months.

I am sorry to know that you suffered so much from ill health in the early part of the winter but hope you are restored long ere this & that you are prospered in all your concerns Let us ever remember in whose hands we are & live as tho [*though*] this world were not our home – for how short is our time here.

I hope you will write me soon as convenient at Woodbury & if I do not write again till another vacation you may rest assured that you will not be forgotten. Mother sends love, but says she is too tired to write.

Your very affectionate brother
John –

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Daniel Grant
Waukesha
Waukesha Co
Wisconsin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

So it seems you are again without a home, and are somewhat perplexed to be able to tell what you had better do. Probably you will have decided before this reaches you, yet I will venture to say just a few thoughts. As you are out of business at present would it not be as well to try California? According to all accounts the success of those who go there may be presumed to be good, in some cases excellent. It strikes me favorably, if you can get some one to bear your expenses and then divide equitably the results of your labor, inasmuch as that will involve no pecuniary risks. Indeed I suppose it would be impossible for you to go on your own responsibility, as the expense of an outfit would be quite considerable. For a single traveller I find the outfit at Independence Missouri (& it will cost $20 at least to get there, probably more) to be thus stated by Col. [Gilpin?] a man who has been over the whole ground

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

----------$200.00
Provisions 150 lbs. flour----------$3.00
75 do bacon----------2.00
20 do coffee 1.50 50 sugar 4.00 5.60
Salt pepper vinegar etc.---2.40----------13.00
$213.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Millbrook
Ct March 3d

From Mother Grant disapproving of Daniel going to California –
March 1849

late *Feb. 1849*

My Dear Children [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

I have for a long time wanted to write to you but I have never been very well since I was sick last fall and now for several weeks I have had a cold which has made me quite unwell but I now feel quite well. We received your letter along time ago which was a great relief to me I felt anxious about the barrel I felt that we did not know how to lose the contents and it rejoices my heart to hear that you had a dear little son which I hope will prove a blessing to all the friends and to learn about Dear Abby and that Caroline had been carried through her confinement so comfortably I was sorry that Daniel was home with his wrist and that he was troubled with Dispepsia but if it must be so I want to know it I do not hear from you near as often as I should like to but yesterday we received a letter from Joel stating that you Daniel was thinking of going to

California which was to me inteligence of a very unpleasant nature and I thought I could delay writing no longer but must say to you immediately that I cannot endure the Idea your health is poor <*and*> and for you to think of going to California in pursuit of health I think you will be disappointed should you do it your Physician may recommend it and so I might think favorably of it if you <*was*> were in circumstances to go there and live at your ease and have a Physician and nurse to attend to you <*and*> but under your circumstances I feel that your prospect is nothing more than an increased state of suffering and then how can you be separated from your Dear family dont indulge a thought of any such thing Joel seems to think it might do but I feel that he has incorrect views he said to me that he did not know but it might be well enough for Marcus to go but I shall never give my consent to have any of my children go and your father is very much opposed to it I understand that you have sold your place and are gone to live with Mrs Root I am glad you have kind friends there but I hope you will make arrangements to return <*n*?> in the spring to Conn [*Connecticut*] should I live it will be pleasant to me and I hope that I shall be able to contribute to your comfort I am in the decline of life but should the Lord see fit to continue my life and give me strength I shall always want to do what I can to make my children comfortable I think was you here you might enjoy better health than you do <*there*> where you are but if you must be sick I had rather you would be sick here than abroad There are a great many gone and going to California <*and many that are gone*> Chauncey Canfield and <*Albert*> Alfred Cooper and Samuel Seymor Erastus Seymore, son of Lewis <*an*> Andrews Daniel Andrews' son is talking of going Mrs Andrews died the winter past so that he has no mother to feel bad about his going and if you should live there will be no hurry about your going there is such an extent of territory that is called the Golden region that it will not be exhausted for a great while to come now I hope that whoever says go that you will not regard it _____
Marcus has been teaching this winter in Danbury Quarter and I hope that he may have health and strength <*be able*> to labor and with the blessing of God he may be made happy I have not seen any of father Burrs people this winter I have not been able to go out myself but very little and your mother and Mary [*Mary Burr*] I suppose have been very busy I expect Mary is to be married about this time but I do not probably know as much about it as you do I hope that when the weather is warmer we shall see them more I hope that Mary and her husband will call on us before they leave but perhaps they will not I do not think of any special news of Joel and his wife and and babe but they are now better John is tutor in [W?] Haven yet he had another tumor removed from his back the forepart of January but he was able to return to his duty in about three days after the term commenced he was well felt no inconvenience from the tumor but knowing there was one commenced he thought he would have it removed while he was well____

Your uncle Luther is much as he has been though rather finding other friends usually well Martin has taught our school this winter I hope you will not set your hearts on glittering dust I want you should be comfortable I hope you will cast all your cares on Jesus and not forget to pray. I want you should not neglect to to pray God to bless your dear children both spiritually and temporally Kiss them many times <*to*> for me and tell them them that grandmother thinks much of them I have had grandmother Burr's letter to read and I love to read about Abby my dear children I want to have you write to me immediately and let me know your plans may the lord bless and direct us is the prayer of your affec mother Ely

Dear cousins,

As I am spending a few days, with Aunt, and there is a little space here, for a word, to assure you of my kind remembrance, I gladly [improve] it. Though you have so long resided at the West, presume letters from <u>home</u>, and news from old friends – are ever <u>acceptable</u>. Norfolk [*Connecticut*] seems much as usual. There have been several deaths among children recently from <u>croup</u>. Nothing particular has occurred that will interest you. Please accept my love and best wishes – Cousin Margaret

.

Hope you will be able to train those dear '<u>little ones</u>,' in the good and right way, and that they may prove <u>continually</u>, a rich blessing.

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

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

My Dear Wife,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daniel

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

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

P. Burr [*Pamela Burr*]

Jan 25>

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

Newark [*New Jersey*], <Jan.>
Feb. 1, 1851.

My Dear Sister,

Your letters of Jan. 15 and 29 were both duly received. The latter (i.e. Daniel's letter) I forwarded to Joel by last evening's mail. Accept my thanks for both these favors. I ought to have answered the first ere this time, but not feeling the obligation specially urgent I have delayed.

I rejoice with you in finding the intelligence from our kindred in California, so generally good. It is so comforting to know that they have health, if they may not gather gold as we had hoped they would. I cannot but regret that the brothers should have separated, for how precious must be a brother's kind presence, in such a land of strangers.

I was at Joel's when the last preceeding letter came. Did not know but Joel informed you when he
wrote you sending the sheets from California.

I spent [five?] days at and about home. The weather was very cold. I only went to Norfolk village [*Connecticut*] once – spent only two or three hours there. Father and Mother were very well then. But you have heard from them since I have. I have no tidings direct from them. The rest too [seem?] well as usual. Cousin Margaret is feeble, but <u>better.</u>

Uncle Luther as usual. Joel, and wife and son very well. I did not take my Christmas dinner there – but left here Christmas morn – reached New Haven about noon – and Avon next day P. M.

Your Abbie seemed very good indeed – especially after the first timidity passed away. Mother indulges her a good deal, but perhaps none too much. Aunt [N]elleton's family were at Father's during their absence. By a letter from Avon of about a week ago, I learn that father and mother will get home this week – and their there now probably.

I am glad you are so happy in your present circumstances. While we cannot but be anxious for dear ones far away we can hope and must, and meanwhile ought to use and enjoy the blessings and comforts with which a kind Providence richly favors us. I am glad you find so much that is congenial in the family of Mr. Hill. You cannot fail to find an enjoyment in your sister's [*Mary Burr Hill*] society which you would nowhere else.

Of myself, I have nothing of importance to say that is new. I am not now boarding at the Hotel as before but in a private family – find it in the whole quite as pleasant – and it is somewhat less expensive. My school still continues the same numerically and I enjoy it as before.

Joel wrote me that he found some religious interest among his people which encourages him. I heard something of the revival in Norfolk when there. I hope to hear still more.

Mr. Backus writes me that he spent a good part of his College vacation at Dea. Woodward's. I judge from the visits he made with [Martha], <...> that she is quite received – He speaks of his vacation as very happy. Much love to little Edward from Uncle John. A kind remembrance to your sister and her husband. Write soon again –

Your affectionate brother

Jno. Grant [*John Grant*]

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

Marysville [*California*] May 23 1852

My Dear Wife

Your letter of April third together with others I took from the office yesterday

I sent a line to S. Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*] for Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] expecting he would leave N. York [*New York*] the 10 Apr. but as his journey is delayed that line may be lost & I will write again I am anxious to see him but shall not direct him to come into this quarter he must take his own course though as I wrote in my last I shall if I have an opportunity give him all the information in my power

I have not <*seen*> conversed with a man who has arrived here within two months past but says Cal. [*California*] falls much short of their expectations & without exception they wish they had not left home yet it may not be so with Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] I think it is well that he has made the undertaking

The labor of the miners is harder than farming I do not labor as many days as I did in the Wis. [*Wisconsin*] <*but the labor is harder*> Yet I labor harder than I ever intend to again after I return

You inquire about a claim I mentioned I don't recollect about it but suppose it must be the same that I have mentioned several times a share that I work for a share of itself I own the share but it was conveyed to me as security through the transfer is a bonafide sale The owner of the share was all the time drunken & I took a transfer of the share to secure myself from the danger of trouble he might be the means of causing me & also to put it out of his power to dispose of it in a fit of intoxication

You write as though you thought we have conveniences as you do at home but it is not quite so with miners

We can't always do our cooking as we would or have the conveniences that we would if we were stationary a miner very seldom can form even an opinion how long he will be able to stay where he is therefore he is obliged to do with as little as possible for the expence of moving is very great

The bell is now ringing for church I shall attend today though I do so very seldom I[*t*] makes me so homesick I can not endure it

I sometimes do washing & mending on the sabbath It is necessary <*man*> I see no way to avoid it I do not think it wrong under the circumstances I[*t*] is true many almost all the miners make their calculations to do such things on that day but I try to avoid it. Your affectionate husband

Daniel Grant

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[A*ddressed to*] Mrs. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
Present

Will you dear Carrie please accept this collar from Hetty and myself

Yours affectionately

Kate Hill

March 14th, 1854.

[*On reverse*] from Mother Grant Apr. '54

Millbrook [*Connecticut*] April 27 1854

My Dear Dear Daughter [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I have long been expecting to see or hear from you but as I don't I take my pen to enquire why it is so—I am about as well as usual and I have no news to write only that Edward commenced going to school yesterday he is in perfect health and has been since you left other friends well for ought I know. I think about you and Abbie a great deal I will say to you that if A feels unwilling to be left I would wish you not to leave her at present you know that my time is short and that I shall not be able to do anything for her very long and then if she would spend some time with her Aunt I should enjoy the anticipation very much I cannot bear the thought of having her left feeling as she did when you left her to go to Flemington [*New Jersey*] the first time yet I would not wish anything but what would be for her good and in reference to that I would wish you to decide Eddie often speaks of mother and Abbie wonders they donot come I have feared that some accident or sickness had befallen you but hope not let me know soon much love to Abbie may she remember her Creator in the days of her youth may you forbid that we should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for our dear friends may the Lord bbless us and keep us is the prayer of your affectionate

Mother E Grant [*Elizabeth Grant*]

Much love to Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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

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

Hamilton [*California*] Sep. 11 1854

My Dear Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

I was just in time taking up land to meet the low prices, just as I expected, I should have taken land sooner but every year I thought prices would be down, till I ascertained that farmers produce could not be imported so as to make it cheap, & I thought it would be a few years before Cal. [*California*] could supply itself, but Cal. [*California*] is not only to supply itself, but is to have a

large suppluss & no foreigh market. <*as I*> I am not disappointed at the result, < > It is the most natural thing in existance, that I should be just in time to make nothing, but rather strange that I have not about a thousand dollars to <*loose*> lose in the concern. Well I have one hope yet, though faint, that is my river claim. We expect to work next season, & if there is anything there take it out, so you will not look for me home for more than a year yet.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thine entirely,
Daniel Grant

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

Bartons Bar [*California*] July 7th 1855

My Dear Carry [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A purchaser will be better satisfied than without your name

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

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

We are now working on the dam.

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

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

Kiss the children for me

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. C. Grant
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

San Francisco, Cal. [*California*] March 3d, 1856.

My Dear Beloved Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I had no intintion yesterday morn of trying to describe a day in S. Francisco [*San Francisco, California*], but as there are some incidents which interested me, I think they may not be altogether uninteresting to you, & to begin with the morn. I will try.

I arose about my usual time (six oclock) & after my mornings shower bath, attempted for the first time since I left home to dress myself like a civilised man.

I had the day before purchased a few articles of clothing & with other things some white shirts & a black silk cravat, the first in this Country

It was quite an undertaking for me to don a white shirt "with a standing collar" & it was after seven before I was ready for my mornings promenade, but I was at last in the open air the streets were as usual alive with carriages & pedestrians moving in all directions. I took my accustomed walk to a high sand hill in the south part of the town (I forgot to mention that it was sunday morn.) which overlooks the city.

No incident worthy of mentioning occurred during my walk but <*I?*> as my rout was through China, as it is termed here, that is where the China population live & trade, it may not be amiss to notice there market.

With the heathen Chinaman the sabbath is as another day, their market was filled with such eatables as Chinamen are most fond viz. pork, chickens & fish, of the flesh kind & vegetables which were strange to me. Other articles were inside their shops & as I cared not what they had there I did not examine. I shall have occasion to mention the chinese again & will now return to breakfast.

My breakfast consists of coffee, beefstake & cornbread, after breakfast a little rest, then the electric machine which ties my arms in knots, after which I generally spen[d] the ballance of the morning in reading or writing. So far this is the description of every day.

Being desirous to attend church & also being a perfect stranger here I examined the daily papers to learn where to go, but no notices fell under my eye that quite suited my fancy. I therefore made inquiry at the office of the hotel where I am stopping, (it is a temperance house for someone to attend church with me, but no one was at hand who wished to go to church.

I was however told <*where*> that probably Dr. Scotts church on bush st. would suit me better than any other & received directions how to find it. I immediately repaired to church, was told at the door that the seats were free & I could sit below or in the gallery. I chose the gallery where I had a good seat. I was not yet aware what denomination worshiped there but thought I could soon learn.

As I was watching the gathering congregation the sound of the organ fell upon ear. O! what a sound the first I have heard in Cal. [*California*] It caused my hart to leap into my throat. I scarcely knew what to do with myself, but imagine if you can what effect it had upon me when the <*q*> choir commenced a chant. I was surprised. I cannot describe my feelings. In an instant I was transported in imagination, across the american continent. I was <*in an*> for a moment by your side my dear wife, but it was but for an instant, black reality snatched me away & I was again sitting in the church trying to listen to the chanting of the choir, but I could not listen, my thoughts were <*far*> with you. I was in short quite homesick. My eyes overflowed with tears, I wished myself away. I longed for solitude but I could not well get away. amongst my purchases were a pair of boots which I had on. They made an awful squeaking, so much so that I dare not attempt to go out therefore I was compelled to remain. The services continued. When the conggregation rose for prayer I rose with them. By so doing I was brough in sight of the communion table. I perceived it was covered with the emblems of the sacrament & as the minister was engaged in prayer was several times overcome by my feelings. How vividly did every sound, every act, every sentence bring to mind my home, my friends & all that I hold dear. How often did I think that you probably were attending afternoon service in your church, at home, at the same time that I was tending morning service on the Pacific coast.

I soon ascertained that the church was Congregational. Eleven new members were added to it, most of them by letter. One family from New Haven Ct., [*Connecticut*] a man his wife & daughter.

About one third of the conggregation I should judge were ladies, & of the communicants one third gentlemen & so two thirds ladies.

Notice was given of services in the Chinese chapel at three oclock. A Chinese convert was to be baptised by Mr. S[pure] the chinese missionary in Cal. [*California*] He , the china[man] has been recently converted from heathenism. The first convert under the labors of the Rev. missionary. The chinese have a very pretty chapel erected by subscriptions & the aid of the missionary soc. [*society*]

I attended the chinese meeting in the afternoon My mind had become more quiet & though at times my eyes would fill with tears I was pretty well able to control myself. I enjoyed the meeting. In the eve. I again attended church at Dr. Scott's place.

Dr. Scott is a very smart man. The <*g*> choir in his church consists of four persons, two ladies &c.

I ought to let the close of the service in the eve. close my narative, but a little incident occurred on my return which I somehow cant help naming. I strayed from my way <. . .>& if I was apt to get lost probably should have been on this occasion, but it is difficult for me to get where I cant find my way out as long as I have my liberty.

On my way a round, I passed through some streets which were pretty quiet, not so many promenaders as in some parts of the city. As I was walking a window was thrown open by my side & a female voice called for help. I turned aside to see what was the trouble when I perceived

a man in the room where the voice came from. As I walk to the window The man came to the door & opened it. It seemed that he was trying to make some disturbance with the woman I just said come friend don't be making disturbance here & he walked away with me I suppose the woman is "one of them" & I did not care much for her anyhow Though as I was not sure of that I was determined to rid her of her present trouble & then let her take care of herself

I have written one sheet to you which will go with this

You inquire in your letter what nursing I have I am not often so sick but that I can wait on myself when I am some friend is generally to be found

I will now close Don't <*laygh*> laugh at me now for writing such a bundle of nonsence

Give a kiss to the children

Entirely thine
Daniel Grant

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Norfolk Ct. [*Connecticut*], May 4, 1856

My dear beloved husband [*Daniel Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

<*I sent out to you*>

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

Write to me when I shall look for you.

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

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

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

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], May 5th 1856

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*]

I wish to address you not only as a brother by the tie of humanity but as a brother through sympathy with one to you the dearest object on earth and I wish to speak to you upon one particular subject and ask you forbearance if anything I should say seems to you more than I have a right to say – C [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has told you of the changes that have taken place of her sorrows, and her hopes, and I have seen through your last letter your failure to realize those fond wishes for which you "have endured" so much and your wife also. Let me entreat you to take one hours calm consideration of the subject of your return home, look upon it in all its bearings, consider that those here now need the comfort of your presence more than ever, and though your lack of sympathy of some of whom you have a right to expect it. You are certain of the sympathy and confidence of others, and above all if any one resolves before God to perform a duty which they have solemnly decided to be a duty they are sure of strength to perform it. Though it require much self sacrifice; and its burdens seem impossible to bear. (My " strength is sufficient for you saith the Lord") ("God is truth") With assurances like these before you let the troubled waters of your soul grow calm, think of the joy of reunion with those you love most, and that more than half our troubles come from anticipation of evil. Decide then and act before the hour of weakness has time to come again and my word for it you will find less to bear and more strength to bear it than you anticipate. Here you will be almost sure of enough of the things of this life for comparative comfort and though you would have to sacrifice much of self in returning be assured that Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*] would have to sacrifice as much in doing that which would be her duty did you positively command but which love for you and her children, and past experience otherwise forbid.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I received letters from Mary Burton and sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] recently from which I learn that Mary Burton is going into the Grand River Institute as Assistant or Associate Principal two weeks after she graduates which will bring it about five weeks from now. She seems pleased

with the prospect and will I doubt not, do well. My sister does not wish to return to Painesville [*Ohio*] another year but will pursue her studies in Canton [*Ohio*] where she can have every advantage so far as teachers are concerned that they have at Painesville. She has set her heart upon teaching too but I don't think Pa will be willing that she should go from home for that purpose. My precious "little Jennie [?]" as Boyd calls her is a great comfort to Mother and a great treasure to all of us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

himself if let alone -- we think him a little better just now, but I cannot feel much encouraged as long as he has them at all -- The discipline of someone in his care, is more than every other trial --

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

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

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Care Mrs. Samuel Fletcher

Concord. N.H. [*New Hampshire*] May 2, 1859.

Mrs. Daniel Grant [*Caroline Grant Burr*],

My Dear Friend,

Since I was at your house, I have thought of you with deep & tender interest. By writing to me at once I can hear from you here. Since I came here tho last of October I have spend my time in the family of Mrs. Fletcher. Her house is to be rented a year & to day her occupant has taken possession. She & I board near the homestead two weeks perhaps.

Possibly I may remain in Concord longer. But if you wish to write me, now is the best time. The weather has been very fine here for several days the roads very dusty, Crocuses, daffodils to pansies are in bloom.

Will you not tell me all about your family? individually. In your family worship, where are you now reading in the Bible? The advantage is much every way by reading a whole book in course. In the family of Samuel Fletcher Esq. while he lived, each had a Bible in the morning after breakfast & read around two verses each. At the time he departed to heaven last October, they were reading in Pslams. Now they are reading the book of Jeremiah -- I have attended public worship almost every Sabbath morning through the winter. Lessons in the S. [*Sabbath*] School at noon. I have formed very profitable. In love your aunt. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]
Please tell me of your children & give them my love.

Concord, N.H. [*New Hampshire*] May 2, 1859.

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Grant [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*],

With your leave I propose to make you a weekly call, or to remind both of you of me, by the arrival through the mail of the "Albany Cultivator," Today the postage stamps have been enclosed to pay for it the current year. A small book may be expected with the first package. Afterword only the Cultivator from week to week. By your paying the postage in advance from this time onward it will be but little. Perhaps you may like to stitch together the package of No's that came at first into a book form with paper cover, & often you have read them, loan them for a short time to Marcus [*Marcus Grant*], for his perusal instruction & entertainment. Tho you may not either of you be able to buy many of the experiments in horticulture or in improved agriculture, you may enjoy knowing something of what is done elsewhere, you are called to do the best you can with such field as you have. But we shall never do the best we can unless we aim at an ideal above our reach of attainment. He that is faithful in that wh. [*which*] is least, is faithful also in much. In all we do. We are sowing for eternity, & shall soon reap the harvest of our own sowing. May we each of us sow to the Spirit. In best wishes yours Z. P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Nov 20/59

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

We received Carr's [*Caroline Burr Grant*] short letter with its one item of intelligence and its promise of a future letter which we hope will contain more -- Am glad that you rec'd [*received*] the Bundle and hope that it will be worth the expressage -- Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] has gone to evening meeting and I thought I would chat a while with you. We finished husking our corn yesterday and it was just in time for last night the very pleasant weather of the last two weeks was suddenly blown clear out of he country by a decidedly cool north winter that has lost none of its intensity by a days acquaintance, We have a little snow sprinkled over the ground and should it not get warmer will have a good ice by morning -- put [pumpkins?] in the barn today out of the way of Jack frost and some of the better ones in the cellar and garret for winter use. Our corn crop did not turn out so well as we expected quite some of it did not get ripe in the flat part of the field of the last planting, many others complain of the same defect. In consequence if so much soft corn shall feed a young steer that I wanted to keep another year, a fine growing animal that would be that time weigh 800 pounds of meat. Have had some rats in our cellar lately for the first time since we kept house and find them troublesome stock. to entertain as they help themselves to whatever they like and take more than they want to eat as that. Have caught several of them in a trap and think we have them all -- Aunt Nancy had a letter from Aunt Eliza a few days since. She is well but says that the hard times has reached them and that they are economizing to raise money to pay interest and payment on farm in the spring. Had dried 20 Bu [*bushels*] peaches around the stove and was drying all the apples that she would. Father [*Ebenezer Burr*] was quite poorly again a few days ago and did not sleep for several nights, is better again but feels very weak today. Daniel [*Daniel Grant*] better not put on all the coats that he has as I think that we will have colder weather before next harvest. Have not received any answer from the person that I wrote to about Virginia land so that the fever is likely to die out for want of fuel to feed upon. The land is said to be quite hilly but fertile and the climate such that cattle need not be fed in ordinary winter more than 4 months what a saving of labour over making provision for 7 months as you have to in Conn. [*Connecticut*] and we do here almost for the same length of time. Were it a free state it would be very speedily taken up and made productive, they have but very few slaves in that part of the state: I mean to see it sometime if I live -- A person can not get as good prices for produce in countries so far from market but you can raise them at less cost and you can have about you almost all the necessaries if life with less outlay of capital and labour than in the older settled parts of the country -- but then you miss some of the comforts of society and refinement -- Should I ever [...] like several families of my acquaintance to go and settle in the neighbourhood. Hope that you will find time to write us a good long letter before long and that Brother will let us know how he is getting on -- I will do some ditching should the weather soften a little, and get my threshing along as fast as possible. How tired I get sometimes of that which many people are now craving and how little we think of the blessings that we enjoy in times of prosperity. Many will be the sufferers that would gladly do something for their daily bread this winter and can not find is to do but the fountain of charity will not all dry up and many will still be able to spare of their abundance. Hope that you will have as good thanksgiving and that you may be truly thankful -- And that we may be also

Affectionately
William Hill

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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 welfare, 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 strange 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

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Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sat, P.M.
Dec. 8. 1860

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

We were very glad indeed to hear from you again, tho' we must admit we deserved it not. I have often said "let us write" and your brother has said "yes, very soon," and so the pleasure of doing so has been deferred from day to day. There is nothing in our state we would hide from you, tho' you would not be interested in the minutia in writing; if you were here, I should like to tell you of our hopes and fears, or joys as well as trials, for I know you would sympathise. The past summer has been one of peculiar trials and deprivations to us, but we have suffered for no <u>really</u> necessary thing, and have learned lessons of patient trust, and felt the goodness of our Heavenly Father in doing for us those things we saw no way to do.

I have faith to believe we shall be carried along in the way we are in here, tho' it is impossible to say. The boy from Chicago came to-day, is about John's age, the son of an old friend who used to live here. Very many have told us if Mr. G. would persevere, he would ere long find himself doing well, in this family school arrangement, over our house/place is well calculated for it, also good grounds, & plenty of good water, soft, & hard -- The church is in a dilapidated state, and we are doing what we can, for that. So you can see with church matters, school, & social obligations, there is no idle time. Tho' there is no excuse in our neglect, in that.

I have had the same girl (one of my "group of 15") to help me since May 1st except two weeks. I tried to do alone but had ague so badly, that I was obliged to have Hannah back She has been away now two weeks attending upon her sick Mother last week I did nearly every thing, and till Thurs. of this, when the same pain in my chest & shoulders came on, and I escaped a chill, by taking quinine in advance. Have an Irish woman now for a few hours each day. We have a lady (whose husband is in California) and her son boarding with us, so I have to have every meal just so. This Mrs. Stone kept house for her brother in our house last year. Have not had as much headache for a few days. shall get over <*them*> it if the ague is every out of my system. Have written but little of late, for my head would hardly let me do any thing, tho' I have kept along with my sewing. (mending) Those pants you gave me, sister, have done John a great deal of good he wore them about two months, tho' I had to mend them often to keep them on. A pair of partly worn one's were given him yesterday, have also got him a new pair to make. Mrs. Stone is going to assist me in making them. We are to have a Donation party next week. We hardly expected one. The times are so hard, and every body feels so poor, but our friends were anxious to then give expression to their desire for our good. I shall be surprised if we receive much.

This letter will <u>not</u> be very connected. I have watched the baking of biscuit & gingerbread

[*written across first page*] while writing, and must still continue the watching. Am glad Abby can be with cos. Ellen. She will do her good in every way. Should like to have a child with her for many reasons. She knows, & will <u>make</u> others do those many little things that are so often overlooked, & yet are very important.

Hope Daniel may be prospered in his new undertaking. It has been a comfort to us that you could be at Father G's to aid and comfort them the past summer. Do not think we are unappreciative of your letters, or Marcus or Aunt B's. we are not & will try to be more prompt in future

John will write to his grandmother ere long. He hates to stop play, long enough to write to any one. He has to work a good deal & then wants to slide or skate.

[*written across middle pages*]
This day is mild as May. We <*have*> had a few days of severe cold two weeks ago. The canal has been closed since. Had a letter from Mary Phelps to-day. I never hear from Parney. We deeply sympathize with John & Gertie --

[*written across last page*] Gertie's father is in Chicago, we have invited him to visit us. glad you tho't of us thanksgiving day. we also tho't & spoke of all the dear friends at home
Love to you all from your aff sister
Abby.

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[*Joel Grant probably to Daniel Grant*]

Lockport, Ill. [*Illinois*] April 16, 1861.

Dear Brother,

Your of the 26th March came to me about a fortnight since and I have delayed unwarrantably to answer it, partly because other things demanded my attention, but mainly because I did not see how to give any useful advice with reference to its main inquiry -- that concerning Caroline's relation to our Father's family. We were glad to have your prompt information concerning Mother Cowles' sickness and death, and are greatly obliged to you for calling so often, and writing so particularly.

With reference to the mortgage deed I have made inquiries such as satisfy me abundantly that witnesses are in no sense necessary, but I will yet ask the Judge of our County Court and if he intimates that witnesses are of the least necessity to give the paper validity, or if intimating the contrary you and Caroline feel still any desire that witnesses should be had I will have them drawn again as Mr. R. is perfectly ready to have them.

With reference to your inquiry respecting the hold which your Creditors might have upon property of your wife invested in Ill. I can give no <*other*> better answer perhaps than that the fact of the property's being in Ill. will make no important difference -- it will still be subject to the laws of Conn. [*Connecticut*] in the particular respecting wh. you inquire. My impression is however that in Conn. they could have no hold upon property invested in your wife's name. Such is the assertion of the "American Lawyer and Business Form Book (Ed. 1854, p. 194) in treating of the special laws of Connecticut. If you can ask brother Wm C. Phelps you will be likely to get an answer in wh. you may rest. Nor will you need to speak of it as <*I am*> invested in Ill. for that will make no difference so long as you both reside in Conn.

I am fully satisfied that Caroline's services at Father's are worthy of reward, but it is not so easy to see how arrangements can be made to secure it. Father is scarcely able (I fear) to give it, and if he cannot it seems cruel for his children to leave him. I know the situation of Caroline must be very trying; any situation in which we become subject to the necessities of another is so. And yet if there is any means by which Caroline can secure a reward I shall be glad, or any means by which I can help her to do so, I will gladly do it. When you write again please tell me what <*I can*> you would expect, & whether there is any visible means by wh. Father can make the reward. But for the entanglements of oft repeated illness, and long continued sickness in my family I would offer to pay a part of compensation myself, but under the circumstances I suppose no one would expect it. At all events let Caroline continue till we can understand the matter better. I do not see how we can have her leave -- indeed your letter intimates that she has no present thought of doing so. God's Providence will rapidly change things in various ways ere long no doubt, and solve many a question that now seems dark

I should be glad to come East and see these things as they appear on the ground but I have no expectation of doing so -- indeed it is more than questionable whether I shall ever go East again.

We have news by telegram of the taking of Fort Sumpter -- No doubt this is but part of the deep humiliation and shame that must come upon our country for its complicity with slavery & slaveholders. Probably Mr. Lincoln [*Abraham Lincoln*] & his counsellors saw this result before it took place, but something must be done & they undertook the only thing it seemed possible for them to do --

Write again if you would ask me more, I promise to answer sooner.

Your aff. brother,
Joel Grant.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Millbrook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
Flemington [*New Jersey*]
Dec. 20, 1861

Dear aunt Carrie [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I cannot think of much to write; yet I wish to send you a letter so as to get one from you.

I used to help mother [*Mary Burr Hill*] a great deal before our girl came. I dried the dishes, and sometimes washed them. I often made the trundle-bed and set the table and we children almost always put ourselves to bed and <*ourselves*> dressed ourselves in the morning; We often took our bath alone. When Allie [*Alletta Hill*] and I went up to grandmothers and aunts Hates [*Henrietta Hill?*] I got myself and Allie ready without troubling mother at all.

Allie and I have learned that verse you sent us "O that it were my chief delight." I wish you and Eddie [*Edward Grant*] would come again this winter.

Your aff'.ate niece
Mary P.B. Hill.

Please give my love to uncle Daniel

We expected to send Minnie [*Mary P.B. Hill*] letter yesterday with mine but it was not ready and she was not very well at noon and I thought it doubtful whether she would have it ready to day. The winter is here ground partly covered with snow and the ice making slowly. Think that war with Old England will be avoided, and hope that our army with not suffer very much this cold weather I often think of the sufferings of our soldiers, and would like to see the war ended in some way.

Our Sunday school children expect to have a nice time at the Church to morrow. They have a Christmas tree and all the scholars will have something --

Yours in haste
[*Mary Burr Hill*]

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant

Paducah, Ky. [*Kentucky*] Jan. 7, 1862

Dear Sister,

The reception of a letter from Abby, in which she says that Mr. Russell has sent her the semi- annual interest on your loan, ($45) and asks how she shall dispose of it, suggests to me the propriety of writing home, a duty I have for some time been contemplating. I am now expecting as soon as the troops here are paid (which well be in a week, or ten days at the farthest) to return

home for a few days, and I have ventured to write to Abby to hold the money until I return to Chicago when I will see the Draft & all else that appertains to it. I have now been from home four months, and during all that time have not been able to send any thing to my family, for the reason that, since Sept. 1, we have not been paid. There has been sad neglect* in this matter, the more inexcusable as the Govt. has during all this period had a sufficiency of funds, and by the law of Congress the troops are to be paid every two months, which in our case would have been Nov. 1 and Jan. 1. Many of our soldiers have families (judging from our own Regiment about one seven) and in most instances these families are directly dependent on their wages for support. The disappointment has been serious therefore in their cases.

In these circumstances I have ventured to say to Abby that for the few remaining days that will laps before I get my pay she may retain the money, and I will <pay> forward you the Draft before I get home as I pass through Chicago. The only difference it will make with me is that I shall thus avoid carrying just that amount home.

It is not easy to get leave of absence here. The exception has been that we were on the eve of great events – a great expedition down the Mississippi, or elsewhere, and very few have been able to get away. After all we have done nothing, more than to hold and fortify this place, and another point (Smithland 12 miles above here) on the Cumberland River. What has kept us back we can but partly see, though I feel that God himself is holding us in check until we see clearly the way to act as our present circumstances demand, and assail the South in it weakest point. – Slavery. Should we advance without attacking this I should expect or at least greatly fear disasterous defeat. Whether our rulers will see the true nature of the crisis, or seeing it will dare to meet it, it seems at present doubtful.

Beyond all questions the times must be very hard in most parts of our country, and I often think of my acquaintances and friends who are, or are likely to be, overwhelmed by them. Many must lose their all. The shrinking of values in real estate, the stoppage of most kinds of business not directly connected with the war, and the low price of produce must ruin pecuniarily vast numbers. I feel that it is, indeed, a Baptism of Fire through which our nation is passing.

In securing the position I occupy I felt myself doubly fortunate, perhaps I ought to say triply. I felt glad to be connected directly with the defenders of my country*, I rejoiced in being placed in such a position as to do something to keep up the principles and practices of religion, and in which my labors are well rewarded. But as matters go, I fear that association with the defenders of the country is but likely to prove a great honor, for every thing seems to be another link in a chain of blunders. The other two objects I hope I am securing in a good degree.

We hold our services now in a Church belonging to the Campbellite denomination. It is new – large (holding about 500) and neat. They have no minister at present (<an is the> and this is true of every congregation here) and there is some diversity of feeling on the part of the few members of the Campbellite congregation still remaining in town with reference to our occupying their <Ch> House. I received a letter from one of them (a secessionist) professing to be in the name of the Congregation requesting me to preach there no more, though our first entrance into it was by his consent. On inquiring it was evident that he had acted without authority from the congregation, and after consulting with the Col. we concluded to go on as usual, and shall probably continue to do so long as cold weather lasts. The regiment marches to the music of a band to and from church

I have been well since coming into the service. I get permission to leave for three weeks <in view> <in the> in order to take home the spare wages of the regiment, of those who have been in since Sept. 1. he who received least has $52. I hope that on an average they will send home $30, or about $30.000. I shall not have charge of all this, perhaps not of more than a third. I am to leave as soon after pay day as I can arrange the accounts. It will be a good deal of work, but I shall undertake it cheerfully. I shall ordinarily leave the money at the nearest express office or deposit it in Banks and send Drafts. If you write me within two weeks after receiving this direct to Lockport, afterwards direct to me as Chaplin 12th. Reg. Ill. Vol. Paducah, Ky. at least till you have an intimation of my change of place. I should like to know where I can address Aunt Banister – or something about her.

The weather has been very pleasant here this winter thus far. We have scarcely had snow, and but little freezing weather, while most of the days have been even warm in the middle and after part. My love to all your aff. brother Joel Grant Chaplain 12th Reg. Ill. Vol.

* This neglect is attributable to our Gen (E. F. Smith) not to the Govt. directly.

* Yet it is the final result alone that determines the desirableness of any position. Duty is always safe

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Newburyport, Mass. Aug. 30, 1862
My dear Caroline,

Young generous letters of February last, rich in family intelligence & genial in spirit, I highly prized. Wishing to reply in some degree worthy of so valuable an epistle, & being so limited in my writing that I could not, at my present time, I have delayed in hope, till I am constrained to allow myself just to speak to you in gratitude & love, as I see not when I can do more. - How are you now, & how are all your loved ones? – Through different sources, I have learned that your father & mother are not so well as they were half a year ago, that your daughter has not been well, that she has gone to Austinburg, Ohio, & that is about all. Whether your brother Joel has officiated as Chaplain since last spring, I have not heard.

Through the spring & summer I have been a sufferer, from what my physician supposes may be the scrofula, manifesting itself in various forms of inflamation. Just at present I am in a more comfortable state than before since last winter. There seems an abatement of my difficulty. Perhaps it is subsiding.

Generally it has not seemed like the breaking down of my constitution, & a general failure. So many of the functions of the system have had such a degree of healthful action, that in my best state, my aspect would be suited to give a stranger the idea, that I might be pretty well. – Not having been well enough to journey, or even to be away from the comforts, which had become necessaries , I have had no definite plan for going any where, & cannot at present form any. A large amount of discipline has, for many years, been applied to me, as if on purpose to lead me to live <u>in the present,</u> & moment by moment, unto Him who created & redeemed us. I blush with sorrow that I have been so slow to learn to live constantly for eternity. As to the [future?] in this world, it is doubtful whether I [see it?], & if I do live a little longer here below, what is before me, that I nearly look into it in sober thought or even in imagination. Earthly props are taken away that the soul may lean wholly upon the Lord. When we assume the burdens of the undeveloped future as we are pruned in imagination to do in our want of faith, <so> much is subtracted from our present strength for sustaining our present burdens. What depth of meaning, in the words, Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, & all connected in Mat. 6: 24 – 34.

The note from my aged brother was most grateful to my feelings. My heart has responded, tho my pen has not. When you next write, as I hope will soon, perhaps you can tell me of his scripture reading, & of subjects which interest him. – I think of your mother as quiet & sustained in her sufferings, & as looking forward in hope to the time when she shall be absent from the body & present with the Lord

Assure them both, & Marcus & Daniel, & all kindred of my love best wishes always. In love & sympathy y'rs

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

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] May 16 1864

Dear Brother & Sister

Carrie's letter came duly to hand and we were very sorry to hear of the death of Erastus's little boy and of the painful circumstances attending it. Though there is His satisfaction that the dear one is safe from all harm and enjoying that presence & loving kindness that is better than life and they now have certain treasure in heaven which may help to draw their heart where their treasure is --

I enclose you a certified check for the interest on my note for one year and owe you an appology for not attending to it sooner. Will you be kind enough to give me the date of that note

as I have neglected to put it down and would like to make out the mortgage from date unless you would be likely to want the money when you have decided what to do -- We have not heard from the Rail Road a decided answer Though I think there is a pretty good chance for me to get the appointment. Will most likely know by the middle June or it may be before as they expect to open the road by the fourth of July -- Have had a very good offer for part of our farm 150 dol. per acre and have some considerable notion of selling it think we could get that price for the larger half of it independent of building lot, on the [front?].

Want to hear from Daniel in regard to his visit westward and hope he will give us a detailed account. I went down to Maryland fore part of April and found that really desirable properties were as high there as here, that is properties near R Road and Baltimore with good buildings & good land in good order -- Like the land North of City very well it was easy to work. Generally well watered buildings in general not desirable -- Found the low priced land similar to that in the State of Deleware, lying in large tracts and comparatively poor -- We have had a very fine rain and the country is now beautiful a feast to the eye to contemplate Grass looks luxuriant, wheat growing finely -- Little Carrie is growing finely and begins to say many words but does not make any sentences as yet is healthy and a great eater -- Gets rather more indulgence than some of the others did at her age probably because she sits at my elbow. Will pack and forward that carpet [warp?] soon --

My feelings are about as they have been for sometime I am not so anxious to lay up a large Estate as to see those about me enjoying life in a sensible way and when I am so situated that I can afford to spend the amt of money necessary for such [end?], and wife & family will make themselves comfortable will be situated to my hearts content. Think with what we now have and situation on R Road can afford to do it or could by selling and change of situation accomplish the same end -- My friends all appear to be wise and I the only fool among them which is bad for them and worse for me But (that which cannot be cured -- Must be endured) I cannot see that it is at all necessary for you to go to Idaho and am not satisfied that your welfare would be better insured by that course than any other -- Still work at the shop most of the time and find that it is just the same hard and to me disagreeable work that it was years ago but perhaps a little worse now on account of my unsettled state of mind.

Shall be glad to hear from you both, and and to see any or all of you at any time -- and to do anything in my power to forward your happiness --

We have Glorious news from the Army and have hopes that we are beginning to se the beginning of the end. We are to have a draft in our Township this week for 38 men to fill up our quota of calls to date, I shall have to run the chances with the others --

Head my life insured in a Mutual Co of Newark, the other day for the sum of 3000 dols in favour of Mary and by the payment of 101 dollars (and interest on that amt in notes for 4 years) for ten years secures the policy without further payment should my life be prolonged beyond that time --

It is very evident that but few of us think enough of the future life and that too many that are considered as christians are as anxious or more so about the good things of this life. It is much easier to have Ideas than to carry out those ideas into actual life -- Too many forget that it is the little graces and kindnesses of heart and action, every day self denials, that make the charm of life. We are too apt to think that our own ends must be accomplished without regard to the happiness or welfare of others -- Christianity is doubtless the cure for most earthly evils but must enter into <u>all actual</u> life to work its cure and bring about its greatest good -- day by day, -- hour by hour -- every where -- constant as the sunlight -- Gentle and refreshing as the falling dew. May it be our portion and of all others --

Affectionately yours
William Hill

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Newburyport. Aug 10, 1864.

My dear Caroline,

Thanks for your letter. Every day I have been wishing to write to you & could not. Last week I was so [prosnate?] with heat & being tired, that it seemed plain that I must not attempt to

take a trip to Conn. before Sept. I am often [north?] year all in spirit. My love to your father, mother, husband & children.

The rain of a week ago, revived the vegetable and the animal world here. The red sun & floating dust shows the dryness now. Three children have died of dysentery within a few days more children are ill with it. It is said that 150 children have been carried off north it in Cleveland, Ohio within a month.

Our daily prayer meeting fr. 4 to 5 p.m. began the first of May is still continued. It is a means of grace & have made it a point to rest beforehand and attend. Tho I have not attended much the last [...] weeks. I am better & have to be present to day. It is held in [Cong?] Pres. Back North & 2nd Advent churches [around?]. This week it is not the Whitfield ch. in State St. very near. Asa & [Joshua?] that felt, that help must come from God alone. In him alone, is there help for you & for me, & for our country.

Abbie wrote me a pleasant & good letter from Winsted, Ask her to write again. In love.

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

Ms. L G. Hill is at Cleveland, Ohio. She goes then to see Licencta.

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Newburyport. Aug 18, 1864.

My dear Caroline,

My letter of last week must have reached you soon after your last was mailed. I am sorry not to see Daniel before he leaves.

The enclosed I found today in a periodical. My own thoughts are there [lothed?] so much better than I could express them, that I hailed the idea with delight of transcribing them for your husband & yourself, as suited to aid you both in your embarrassments, & your earnest wish to know the [...] of [dirty?]. The government of God is the model for the parent, & for the teacher. May light be shed on your pathway. The great thing is the good of those whom our heavenly Father has committed to our training, that we may train them for his service & glory, [ending their?] socialticrate their powers that they may better receive & understand his wrath & have moral capacity & obey him on earth & in heave.

With much love to you all In great haste, yours

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

A copious rain fell here yesterday refreshing the <u>very</u> thirsty earth. The Monthly Record of the [Frice?] Paints [Heans?] of Indies. Try for Aug 1864 -- N.Y.

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[*Elizabeth Grant Burton to Caroline Burr Grant, 1866?*]

Dear Sister Caroline,

Your <u>most</u> <u>welcome</u> letter came seasonably to hand, & I have too long waited for a <u>convenient</u> opportunity to reply. Thank you for mentioning so many circumstances of interest Indeed your letter is quite a little history, wh. will bear reading over, & over, & over again. I hope you will excuse me if I do not produce any thing one hundredth part as interesting

I am looking forward with pleasure to the time when your daughter will be with us. The spring term of our school has opened more prosperously than I expected, but as you say, it might probably be better for her to rest, or teach the coming summer. This school produces so many teachers, that all <u>our</u> <u>schools</u> are in demand, & if Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] really wishes to teach, she might probably stand a better chance in Conn. [*Connecticut*] than here.

Please inform us, if she succeeds in engaging a school, & how soon she may add one to our little family circle, <u>now</u> <u>so</u> <u>much</u> <u>broken</u>. Will not her mother & father, & brother accompany her on her journey? If all cannot as many as can.

Last week was Mary's vacation wh. she spent at home. Lavinia spent a few nights here, also, with her babe 4 months old.

I saw your sister Mary when in Conn. before her marriage. Where is she now? Please tell me about her.

Mary rec'd a letter fr. Philander last Thurs. He has been out of health for some time, suffering fr diarrhea, extremely, & in this, he speaks of his throat being very sore & mouth swollen so his artificial teeth will not stay in their proper place, besides being so weak, he can hardly walk. He says he that morn, (Mrch 30,) placed himself under the care of a surgeon. But I rejoice that he has found his uncle Joel, or that his uncle Joel has found him. He says "I like him much better than I used to." (he always was greatly in love with him since he knew him) Doubtless they seem very dear, meeting thus, in a far off land, & under such trying circumstances. He says "he is absent now, on business to Cairo, but will be back next Sab. & hold services in the 12th Illinois, when I expect to attend." He says, "O this wicked rebellion, that has brought so much misery & woe into our hitherto happy land. Surely none but Satan could have originated <*so*>such an unholy, unrighteous cause. I hope and pray God that the end is close at hand when peace, honorable peace, will be proclaimed throughout our land." This encourages me to hope the poor boy is not a stranger to prayer, & I do hope & pray that God may make the interview with his uncle J. a blessing to both, & to all the dear boys fr. this place. He says nothing wd afford greater satisfaction than to meet the family circle around the old fire place, but though the privilege is denied him & Wm. it may be all for the best, & by their present mode of life they may acquire an experience that will be a life long benefit to them. The Lord grant it may be so.

I have felt so sad & lonesome, since Mary went away, yesterday morn, I am in no mood to write any thing to interest, but I promised to write you & send her love. I hoped she would join me & we wd together make out something to you, worth reading, but you have some idea how one week may be occupied with a little visiting, resting etc. It is gone, as it were, before it is begun.

Wm. was in Paducah Ky. when he last wrote. I have felt less concerned about him as he is farther from the seat of war. But they have rec'd their equipments & we know not how soon he may be called to battle. We know not how many more noble one must fall a sacrifice to this rebellion before we can come out of this furnace of affliction Doubtless we need chastisement We have been proud, we have boasted in our own strength & that our name w'd endure while the world sh'd stand.

[*written across front page*] Doubtless we deserve far more chastisement than we have yet rec'd, & we must not despise the chastening of the Lord.

I hope our nation will come out of the furnace purified & prepared to appreciate her privileges

Has Mr Burgess visited you yet? Did one of his children die, besides little Edwin?

We rec'd aunt B's picture It is good.

With much love to all your family

I remain

Yr aff sister

E. Burton [*Elizabeth Grant Burton*]

[*written across front page*] I am rejoiced to hear that father & mother are comfortable.
[*written across middle page*] Raphael Marshall & wife made us a short visit while aunt Olive was with us.

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[*from Daniel Grant*]

Ottawa May 23 1866

My Dear Wife

Last Sabbath I wrote to you but as I have a little time to day I choose to improve it altho I have nothing of importance to write. It is rainy weather or I should be as busy as ever. Received yesterday the deed. It has not been as long as I thought since I sent it to you. It went and back in trifle more than three weeks, very quick.

Your statement of Dr Bidwells opinion of the black walnut is not very favorable for me. A medicine I prepared in this, from the butternut with rheubarb mixed in was a better medicine apparently than rheubarb root and if it was true that black walnut would work as well I was

anxious to prepare some of it but if it is astringent it will not do. I have now however a medicine that works like a charm but suppose it will wear out pretty soon. It is gin and black cherry bark. Where the laxative qualities lie I cannot say. I have tried rheubarb for a good while but it takes a good deal to have the desired effect.
May 24. It does not rain this morn. but rained a good deal during the night. Is to muddy to work in brick yard The weather is very unfavorable for brick making. Hope it will be better.

I am sure there are plenty of better places for farming and stock rasing than this but this is pretty good especially stock raising but farther south is better for both. The summers are probably more endurable here than farther south as according to report there is almost universally a breze wh. tempers the heat but report is very uncertain and the weather is frequently such as was never known before.

Brick making may be as good here as any where or it may not but I know it can be good here but He who holds our destiny in his hands can make the best directed efforts a failure. I have written to Joel two or three times particularly requesting him to state the price of land in Ark. but all I can get from him is "it is very cheap" an answer so indeffinite I cannot tell whether it is 25 cts. or $25, per acre. There are objections to going to Ark. it seems the same as you made to going to N.C. The state of society is objectionable. Mo. is in the same predicament. I have been of the opinion that these troubles would get quieted but it does not seem to be any nearer if as near now as it did at the close of the war. Altho it is but few out of the whole number who suffer yet cases of murder are frequent especially in Mo. A few days ago a man was enticed away from this town and hung. There are conflicting reports about it and until I can give a more definite version I will not try to give particulars Some say he was a quiet citisen others that he was a horse thief. He did not reside in town but on a farm a few miles out. He was in town on business when he was enticed away. Horse stealing is of almost nightly occurance somewhere in the country. It seems that rebels are generally bold and defiant whereever they are. It is perhaps as quiet here as any where. Robberies are common and murder not very unfrequent all over the country.
May 26. I have just taken up the pen to record that it is still raining. This is indeed dry Kansas. We worked some yesterday but perhaps it will not amount to much Rained a good deal last night and some today. Kansas is not a mudy state like Ill. but where it rains so much it must of course be muddy Vegetation looks fine and crops are apparently doing well but we cannot judge so well of crops now as a month later.
An effort is being made to build a Presbyterian church here with how much success I am unable to state but think it will be built.
A church is organized and an appointment made for a meeting tomorrow. The Baptists are to give way and the Presbyterians occupy their place of worship The sacrament is to be administered
May 27 There seems to be a failure in the fulfilment of the appointment by the prebyterians today A Mr. Chapin of Lawrance was expected but has not arrived. I have not exactly identified myself with them but they claim me as one of their number. Without any consent of mine and entirely without my knowledge they have appointed me one of their trustees. I told them when I heard of it that I thought they might have found a better man but I suppose I shall become one of them. Dr. Sawyer the baptist preacher gave us a very practical sermon this morn. He talks so plain to professors that it would seem that there are but few real Christians and I believe he tells us no more than the truth There are getting to be the usual number of denominations in this town. The baptist are of course much in the ascendency. A respectable presbyterean society can be found here as soon as a place of worship can be obtained. The protestant methodists and Cumberland presbyterians have places where they hold meetings. The Episcopal and Wesleyian methodists are represented here and there is a right smart chance of United brethren. Some of these sects are little known in the east

[*written across first page*] I am yet unable to give anything like a true statement of the murder case mentioned within.

Several men are arrested & bound over for trial for the murder. I say bound over. I should say committed. They are in jail

[*in pencil*] June 5 And still it rains. Wet wetter wetest

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Romeo, Mich. [*Michigan*]
Nov. 13, 1866.

Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook, Ct [*Connecticut*]
Dear Sister

Yours of the 4th inst. has been on hand a few days, but as my answer to it depended on the answer I should make the Church, I have not felt able to reply before now. If I should make my home in Colebrook I should be glad to do anything for Eddie that might be possible, i.e. if I had my family there -- otherwise I hardly see how I could do him justice. But all reasoning about the matter is out of place, for I shall decline the invitation, & consequently can do nothing.

I have felt not a little tried by the necessities that <*that*> like so many chains hold my arms and limbs fast, so that I cannot do the thing that I would. It would be pleasant to be near Father near Cousins Orville, Martin, &c. -- also near so many acquaintances; <*but*> and moreover to do something for the Church at Colebrook, or at least attempt to -- but I cannot bring matters about so as to open the way. There are many reasons; but the situation of our Son Willie seems to be one that is sufficient to settle all. We cannot leave him and go East, and we cannot remove him at any expense that is within our reach. I have tried to find a way in which this difficulty may be met, but cannot.

There are other reasons, but I need not mention them. The insignificance of the salary is not, however, one of them -- for my taking pupils or in some other way I believe I could make it meet the wants of our household -- though it is not enough in itself. We need $250 a year for Willie, and any untoward event would raise the expense very much probably double it -- and if we are to keep John at school, you know how much more that will require.

I think your best way is to send Eddie to Flemington, though I cannot of course decide. I think that kind of school will be nearer what he needs -- moreover his Uncle there (if he shows a good scholar -- and otherwise faithful and capable) will surely find some occupation for him in time -- a thing he will never find in Winchester, I fear. Moreover I think the influence of Mary & her husband will be good upon him, probably quite as good as that of the school at Winchester.

My love to Father & Marcus. I am glad you can stay with them -- though sorry that there is occasion for you longer to live without <*a real*> your family around you. Still Father's is a home to which any of your folks can come

I remain here for a month longer at least -- then I presume I shall go to help John awhile -- all uncertain however.

Your aff. brother
Joel Grant
Romeo Mich.

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[*Susan Jenkins Boyd Grant to Caroline Burr Grant*]
Canton Nov 25, 1866.

My dear Sister,

It is a long time since I recieved your kind and very acceptable letter giving us the particulars of the illness and death of our dear mother, but having just mailed a letter to you, when I recieved yours which would be essentialy an answer to yours I did not deem it necessary to write immediately and the time has slipped till now and it is still unanswered. Since that time I have heard from you indirectly several times, but it is a matter of much regret to me that my husband does not keep up a correspondence with his brothers, but he has long since ceased to write any but business letters, all such he answers promptly, but writes no others. I think this maybe in part owing to his business requiring that he should write so many letters. His health is very good, his duties at the bank are very light and he has much liesure time. He has prepared a

lecture this summer which he read at the anniversary of the Young Mens Literacy Association, and after wards to a few who wished to hear it and has since been invited to read it at Salem and Youngstown. Our Methodists Baptist ministers though not willing to endorse it all yet complimented it highly.

We are but a small family now Libbie Mary & Martha having gone from us, though we have a Miss Frey a music teacher who has been with us nearly two years. She is a niece of Mr Calhoun the Missionary to Mt Lebanon. Jennie saw Abbie at Oberlin this summer and hoped to hear from her after her return but her letter written just after her return still remains unanswered and we do not even know where she is now.

I hear from Mrs Shurlleff that her mother has gone to Iowa but does not seem much better. How sad it is that her mind is in such an unhappy state especially as she has no daughter near her to look after her

We have heard nothing of Joel but that he was east in the early summer Where is his family and what are his plans for the future? Of John I learn nothing satisfactory. I judge from what I do hear that an operation seems desirable and yet circumstances make it doubtful if it is expedient. Can you tell me anything about him. I do not like to write and ask as they always seem to shrink from speaking of it.

I would like very much to see you all again. It would seem very strange to be there without mother but I would like to see you and father and Marcus but between the interests and the cash and at the wish I shall be likely to do as the ass between two bundles hay keep still and go nowhere.

The last that I heard from Daniel he was in Kansas is he still there? and do you purpose going there in the spring? If so you may some time visit my daughters in the west.

Jennie is teaching a school of about 20 little children in the conference room of the Baptist Church and is studying German at the same time and is pretty busy all of the time. Boyd attends school but is still not at all inclined to study.

We are making arrangements for building a new Presbyterian Church next summer, The sewing society connected with the church has laid by $1000, made within less than two years for the purpose of furnishing the church when completed. The Methodists held a Centennary meeting here a few weeks since at which recieved donations from the congregation to the amount of $13,000 for the educational fund. Last week they had a jubilee for the Sabbath School at which the reports were read, stating that the amount raised in the Sabbath School since Sept was $500. This however is our richest congregation, and the liberality of other congregations is not to be infeered from it. Our town is growing steadily and is constantly increasing its manufacturing interests. With much love to all friends and hoping some time to see you here I remain your affectionate sister

SB Grant

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[Letterhead] Rev. E.M. Boring, Secretary
Residence, 290 West Madison Street
Mrs. J. Grant, Matron
911 Wabash Avenue

Home for the Friendless,

Chicago Ill. Jan 4 186 7

Dear Sister Caroline,

Your letter is just rec'd and read, and if I delay replying, it may be a long delay; so I sit down at my table a large pile of letters waiting, but this shall be the first answered.

I am truly glad to hear from you & all about <*y*>our people. Father is really infirm; how he must miss his early activities! I often wonder if it is not the same sort of paralysis that affects Father G. that has earlier shown itself in poor brother John: none of the family seem to have very good health. I am glad my husband can be a comfort to John in this time of his trial. How much he has to endure: You and I can well sympathize in this life separated from our husbands. It is not pleasant, not the way to live, but circumstances make it best. I look forward with hope knowing that the same necessity will not always exist. I am more than paid for all my toil & care, by the certainty of knowing that I am helping my husband & that by this means we are able to do as we

wish at educating John. Mr. Grant often has said "Is it best to spend so much upon John, He will not make a better business man for it & may be that is all he is fitted for" &c -- &c – But I am hard to pursuade on that point, if God spares my health, he shall have a thorough education & I believe God will call him to do something for Him. I want him to be what he will make the most of a man at – a th<*r*>orough earnest Christian man. I expect him to be a Christian, to act upon the highest Christian principle in every thing, when J. wrote me he was going to teach, I wrote him that of course he will not think of beginning his life work without asking God's blessing. He said he should do it, & does open his school with prayer every day – Isn't that a thing to thank God for! I give thanks often as I am engaged in numerous cares here, & ask God to do yet more for him, to lead him upward to the intensest devotion in His cause. John's geniality, and hearty good nature insures him friends always.

Eve. My love to father & Marcus, and all your family when you write to them – also to the friends whenever you see them. We are having a good deal of snow this winter, but not so blockaded by it as in your vicinity. It has been snowing fast all day and is yet (10 o'clock). How quiet these days & nights must be with you! They are so full of noise & bustle here, so hurried to get [thro?] with the meals, & all the work, so many calls to see to & entertain. I am thankful I can do. God give me strength to go on – with much love, I am your aff. sister

Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

Write often –

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[*attached envelope addressed to*]
Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Oberlin [*Ohio*], Feb. 25th 1867

Dear Aunt Caroline:

I did not think to have neglected answering your good letter so long. Housekeeping cares, new, and perplexing (sometimes), as you can imagine they would be to a beginner, together with the labor of getting regulated in our new home, must be my apology. Beside, I received news from Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*], which assured me that, for the present, she had no difficulty in deciding that it would not be wise for her to attempt to go on with study here. Another letter, which came last week, gives the cheering intelligence that she is much better—feels as well as before. I know not what is best in the case but am strongly inclined to think, as she expressed herself in a letter to Mr. Burr – part of which I had the privilege of hearing – that it will not be best for her to return to Oberlin to study, until her health is fully established. Has not the confinement of regular, student life proved too much for her <*her*> in every instance in which she has tried it? I thought it would be so much easier for her, here, than at Holyoke [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] that she might get along without breaking down, but the result of the experiment, renders it questionable to my mind, whether she ought ever to try to go through a course of study. She has, already, a very fair education, and might so improve herself by reading and private study (as she is able to bear it) as to attain a higher degree of intellectual culture than half our graduates. If her health should continue to improve, what would you think of her taking a small school in the vicinity of Grinnell in order to test her strength? – If she bears it well, perhaps it might be safe to return here in the fall, and resume study. I am glad she has the disposition to do something for herself. If she is able I doubt not it would do her a great deal of good to earn something toward paying her own expenses. If I were in her place, I should be very doubtful about the expediency of expending now, what would be likely to take just so much from my final portion, or what I might otherwise have, upon my settlement in life. I know, by experience, what a satisfaction it is, to be able to help one's husband in procuring a home and home comforts. If she had not a definite prospect of having a home of her own, before many years, perhaps I should not think of this; or if she had rigorous health, and could make the most of her time in study, with a prospect of being able to replace by her own earnings, either wholly or in part, the expenditures of

her education, the case would be different. You will not understand by this, that I do not esteem the improvement of the mind, above every other temporal good; but, as I have often observed, time spent at school is not the only way of attaining this.

I cannot see how her absence for a time, from Oberlin, will at all affect her affairs with Mr. B. [*Almon Burr*] He is evidently deeply interested in Abbie, and judging from what I hear and see of him, is not a man likely to change his views hastily. He expressed himself to me, as decidedly of Abbie's opinion that it would not do for her to try to study, at present.

Mother writes that it is a great comfort to her, to have Abbie with her. She makes herself very useful there, and is probably gaining somewhat in her knowledge and efficiency in domestic matters. Whether she thoroughly enjoys so secluded a life, I have no means of knowing. If she can be comfortable and happy there, I know she would be welcome to stay for any length of time.

I spoke of "housekeeping cares" when I commenced my letter. I believe I wrote you of our having rented part of a house (the first floor) for six months, dating from the 7th of Jan. when we moved here. By that time we think we may safely calculate upon the completion of our own house. I do my own domestic work, entirely, with the exception of part of the washing, and we enjoy being by ourselves, very much indeed, and I am becoming quite accustomed to my new responsibilities as housekeeper. I should like much to be able to get along without hired help, permanently, but there will be so much to do in getting ready to go into our new house, that I shall try to find a good strong girl when spring opens.

You have perhaps noticed in the papers accounts of the great religious interest here. It has been unusual, even for this place, and continues in all its power. Prayer meetings, twice a day, (in the afternoon and evening) have been kept up for months, beside the usual meetings of the week. The number of hopeful conversions among middle aged persons, men in business, engrossed in the world, and apparently entirely indifferent to the subject of religion, has been a source of great rejoicing.

You will be glad to know that I had a dear good letter from brother Thedie, last week expressing the hope that he had commenced a christian life. He was such an amiable, conscientious boy, before that this seemed the 'one thing lacking'.

I have no special news from friends. Should be very glad to hear from Uncle John, but do not. Since I have been so busy, I have not been faithful to my correspondents, and consequently do not hear from them so often though my interest in all that concerns our friends and relatives is as great as ever.

If Giles were at home he would wish to join me in sending much love.

Your affectionate niece
Mary –

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Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], Aug. 27, 1867

My dear Caroline & Marcus,

Your kindness, your faithfulness to your aged father & friend, have not been unnoticed by Him, who loved this suffering friend, better than any of us have the power to love. The great question as to a preparation for an exchange of worlds is doubtless occupying the minds of each of us. I make a few extracts from <*th*> a letter of a modern patriarch, who had passed more than half a century in the faithful service of God, & in great usefulness to man <*(for more than half a century.)*>

"When I attempt to think distinctly, of what my views & feelings shall be the moment of his death, I feel lost in the obscurity of the subject. I seem to dread the awful surprize that will burst upon my mind. But my only relief is, that the Great Shepherd, who accompanies his sheep thro' the valley of the shadow of death, will be their guides afterwards, or will furnish them with a convoy of angels. We need not trouble ourselves about the particular circumstances of our future state of existence, if only we are found among the number of Christ's sheep. For all his people he has provided suitable mansions in his Father's house. Some will occupy much higher places than others; but if we are admitted into the very lowest, it will be enough.

I have often resolved to begin to make special preparation for an ascent so certain & so near, but I find I can do nothing towards it by my own exertions. Dying grace is commonly reserved for a dying hour. The best preparation is to be found watching, & actively engaged in our Master's service. In thinking what will make death easy, it has occurred to me, that a lively faith is all that we need. To have a humble, confident trust in Christ, will bear us up, however the waves of Jordan may swell around us. Let us not torment ourselves with unnecessary fears & scruples. We must trust entirely to the mercy of God, & the merit of Christ & if we do so sincerely, we shall be safe."

At the time of exchanging worlds, perhaps your father had no distinct consciousness of leaving this state of being, no consciousness of dying. What must have been his emotions on waking in the likeness of the man Christ Jesus, our Almighty Savior: on first seeing Jesus as he is in his glorified state, conscious of sympathy with him of union with God, of being accepted in the Beloved, of assurance of having communion with Father, Son, & Holy Ghost forever, & of serving & glorifying our Creator, Redeemer & sanctifyer as long as they & he shall exist. Must not this be a heaven worth living for, worth dying for? Unto Him that loved us, & washed us from our sins in his own blood be glory & dominions for ever & ever, Amen,

In tender sympathy, Z.P.B. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Norfolk March 5. /68.

Dear cousin Caroline,

I have thought very many times of late, that I would write you, for, I knew you would be interested in hearing of the last days of our dear mother, and that you would remember us, in this time of our bereavement, and loneliness.

We cannot tell you, how much we miss that calm, placid face, how changed our home seems, our work, taken from us. In her weakness, and dependence, she had become so dear to us, we had, for so long made our plans with reference to her comfort, that she had become as it were, a part of our life, and the care of her seemed necessary, almost to our happiness.

Yet, while we mourn our loss, we rejoice in the glad hope, that, for her, the conflict is over, the victory won! that to her. The happy time has come of, endless peace, and rest. And she looks back upon the path, by which she was led, and says, 'It was the best.'

The memory of her sweet patience, and cheerfulness, during all those weary years we have to cherish, and with gratitude to Him, who, while He chastened, graciously sustained her. During the weeks preceding her death, she had very little appetite, and gradually lost strength, on Sat. Jan. 19, D. and I, assisted her in walking from her bed, to the lounge where she lay for a short time, then, with our help, she walked into her bedroom, which she never left more. During the day (Sat) and Sunday, she was able to take but little nourishment, seemed very weak, said but little, in the afternoon of Sunday, she was attacked with vomiting which soon exhausted her little strength, and at a little before 4 o'clock on Monday morning, she passed gently and peacefully away.

We trust the dear Saviour in that last hour, was her support, and comfort. Nearly her last words were – 'I can only trust in Christ.'

Thus our 'dear ones' are being gathered home, 'one by one.' How precious the hope – that, through trust, in that same Saviour, who carried them safely through, we shall meet them, in His blest presence, to 'go no more out forever.'

Mr. Eldridge is nearly well again, preaches as usual. We have fine sleighing all the time, cousin Marcus, has been out for us once, this winter, and we passed a day, or two, with him. He is really quite a housekeeper, but, I think he feels very lonely. Shall you not be able to take care of him one summer more? I am sure he hopes you will. It is the only pleasant arrangement for him, just now, perhaps in time he can make some change.

What do you hear from husband – Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] and Eddie [*Edward Grant*] Is Eddie where you see him often? I know you have many anxieties. Try to leave all with 'Him who cares for you.' Write us when you can find time. [Dise...??] desires to be remembered to you. Please remember us very kindly, to sister Mary and family –

With love, and best wishes of cousin Margaret.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Care Wm. Hill Esq.
Flemington
N. J.

Rec'd letter sent March 1868 – from Mary Shurtleff
Oberlin, Ohio
March 25th. '68

Dear Aunt Caroline:

I have waited a day, since receiving your letter, in the hope of seeing Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] as I wanted to inquire more particularly about her health before I wrote. But for fear you may be unduly anxious about her, I conclude to write today. I saw her Monday (day before yesterday) and she seemed as well as usual – said she had been doing the washing, and had had a fine day for it. I think she has about given up her plan of going to Cleveland, though I am not sure. The last time she spoke of it, she said the teacher of drawing, in Cleveland, had been sick for some time, and her place had not been filled, and she should certainly not want to go until it was. She has gone into two classes in French, and is taking lessons in drawing, here. I do not think her health is as good as it was during the winter. She has spoken of being sick, not able to attend her classes, several times. Yet I do not know that there are any indications of permanent poor health. In speaking of it, she attributed her feeling poorly to the "spring weather."

Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*] came back from Cleveland quite worn out – was sick with fever for a time, but is better now, has commenced study, and teaches one class, though he does not look as vigorous as usual. Probably he and Abbie have not fully matured their plans for the future, and perhaps this is the reason she has not written you. I have been glad to learn the Mr. B. does not call upon Abbie nearly so often as he did last fall. That will be better for both of them, so far as study is concerned. I think Mr. B. is anxious that some plan should be devised by which Abbie can have some opportunity for study and improvement and yet not do enough to endanger her health. If the matter is left to them I think it will be managed so that she can remain here or near here, as Abbie seems to dread the idea of going to N. J. I really do not know whether there is any serious objection to allowing Mr. Burr to make Abbie's arrangements for her or not. What think you? I feel as if I should like to have her a little more independent of him, at present, if she could be as well provided for by some other <way> friend. Your plan for having her with you at your sister's, with the opportunity she would there enjoy for French, would strike me as a pleasant one, but I see she does not so view it.

I cannot give any advice, as I really have not an opinion of my own as to what is best for Abbie, though I fell greatly interested to have the best thing done.

I am glad you are thinking of getting settled. I think it will seem so much pleasanter and better <for> to you all, to have a home of your own, even if it requires a separation from those you love, and a removal to the west. If you do go west, cannot you make Oberlin as visit as well as Grinnell? We should be so glad to have you.

You have probably heard, through Abbie, of Phil's marriage to Rubie [M....?], on the 5th of Feb. They made us a visit, of about ten days, just after, there returned to her home in Madison, until two weeks ago, when they started for the west, stopping here on their way. We liked Rubie very much. She is a few months older than Phil, so is nearer my age than any other member of the family. She is industrious and seems to understand all kinds of work, though she is not very strong She is intelligent, well educated, refined in her manners, and best of all, a Christian. We think she will be a great acquisition to the family. I do hope mother will feel more cheerful when she comes to have such pleasant company.

Thedie is attending school – if he goes on, will enter the Freshman class in Iowa College next fall.

- My health has been quite good since I last wrote – I have been quite busy, providing bedding for our new chambers, getting them ready for students, etc. We rent three of our chambers to students, real nice young men, one in a room, but do not take boarders. We enjoy being quiet

and by ourselves. I feel a good deal more at leisure, this spring, - or perhaps I should say less pressed with work – than for more than a year before.

Before closing, I want to tell you how nicely I think Abbie got along last winter. Besides teaching, she accomplished a good deal of sewing, so that I almost feel like taking back what I said about her "lacking dispatch." I am called away and must close. Mr. Shurtleff joins me in sending love. Your affectionate niece

Mary.

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

Letterhead:
[Rev. E. M. Boring Mrs. J. Grant, Matron,
Residence, 290 W. Madison St. 911 Wabash Avenue.
Home of the Friendless,
Chicago,] Sept. 21, 1868.

My Dear Sister,

This Monday morning I have been the rounds, every thing is moving on time, & I have hoped to get a quiet half hour for you, so here it is.

I told John to read to you the long letter I sent him, telling him all about my journey home, & the pleasant visit I had with Mr. & Mrs. Shurtleff – etc – he did not say whether he did, or not & I have given him a scolding for not letting me know – I was delighted with Oberlin, should like to live there, but to be any real part of it, it would be necessary to be connected with the literary life there.

I called upon Mr. Jesse [Malthies?] family; and we remembered old times together, for a little Mrs. M. was my teacher when four years old, & remembers the chapter in the Bible & the reading in the back part of the spelling book on my 4th birth day, & the pride of my father & Aunty [....?], etc. etc. – Isn't she your cousin? It seems as if she said so. They have a pleasant place.

Prof. Shurtleff's place, & house are very pleasant, not more so than the occupants.

John wrote me that he liked Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*] very much, which I am glad of, and I want Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] to ask Mr. B. if when he sees J. as I hope he will in N. Haven [*New Haven*] – he will not specially seek to help him into an active Christian life – nothing but work develops strength, spiritually as well as a physically. The decided influence of one young man over another especially of the one on a higher plane of spiritual life, is often more than a Mothers.

Tues. Morn. My half hour was shortened & not a quiet break till after ten. I tumbled into bed with a sore throat and sort of miserable feeling generally. Morning always brings relief – it is damp & cold.

I feel very much refreshed by my visit with you all. It was pleasant indeed, & soul - refreshing – and will do much to help me thru the future duties.

I spent Sund. & Mond. of last week with my husband – he is very well.

I wish you could step in now, and tell me what your plans are. Have you decided about going West, & when! I need not ask all I want to know about, for you know I an interested in all that pertains to you & yours. What will Edward do, & when does Abby go to F. And what do you hear from Daniel?

Later – Have just heard that Phelps & Susan will be here Wed. evening – they have written to Joel to come – [wish?] you & D. cd. be here also.

I can never find words to thank you for all the kindness to me & us all, wish it was in my power to do for you an yours something compensatory – Love to all & a great deal for yourself from yr. aff. sister Abby.

Love to Marcus.

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook, Ct. [*Connecticut*]
Bristol, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 22, 1868.

Dear Sister,

I was glad to learn particularly of your state on Abby's [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] return from her visit to Mill Brook – glad to know that she met so many of you – Mr. Burr [*Almon Burr*], your daughter Abby, Edward etc. It must have been a pleasure to you all, and I am glad that some of you can meet even if it does not seem best for me to meet you.

My own writing has been somewhat suspended to you and Daniel. I wrote to Daniel last January after I arrived at Chicago, and hoped to receive a reply. Up to the present moment no such reply has been received. I did tell him in that letter what course it seemed to me he had better take with reference to your property; i. e. that he had better leave it all in your hands. On my wife's return she told me that Daniel felt grieved at what I wrote, and (if she received a right impression) had represented me as writing some things of which I have no recollection. Probably he drew some inferences that I did not intend, and confounded them with what I wrote. I will at an early day write him again.

It must be about time for Daniel to come into possession of this Tax Title lands, in case he has not realized from them before this.

I suppose that Edward's future course is not yet determined. So far as you know any thing what it will be please let me know.

I am glad to hear that Mr. Russell has become the Pastor of the Colebrook Church. It seems to me the best arrangement possible.

I do not suppose that any of us are likely to see a state of things such as we desire At all events, I am confident my own affairs have no likelihood to come out as is desirable. I am pleasantly situated <u>now</u>, & I ought to and trust do, heed the apostle's exhortation "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content." We have, up to this moment, paid John's and Millie's bills, but we make no provision for the future. I ought to bless God – and in some degree do so – that my health is better. For three or four weeks I have felt none of that numbness that so tired me for more than a year. My <u>scrofulous sores</u> (I know not by what other name to call them) are also much better, indeed <u>almost</u> well. There is however a great difference between <u>almost</u> and altogether, but I hope in a month to be able to report altogether well. When I can do so, I will describe the treatment I have used.

I enclose a "spelling Test", I thought it would interest you because of its reference to your sister's Uncle Hill, also as a Test by which to try your friends as to their skill in spelling. If you wish a fair test you must not let the copy be seen, for even a glance at it will take away the fairness of the trial. My love to Abby, Edward, Mr. Burr (of whom I am happy to hear good opinions), Marcus and the rest. Let me hear from you as soon as convenient. Your aff. brother, Joel Grant.

Rec.d by Mail the Herald's sent by Marcus. I enclose the Postage which I forgot to send before. Rec.d also Conybeare & Howson's Life & Epistles of St. Paul by Abby. We had our first frost the 16th inst. a week ago to night. It killed vines and injured corn, tho the most of the last was ripe.

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant
Newburyport [*Massachusetts*]. May 25, 1869

My dear Caroline,

I was glad of tidings from you, re'd yesterday. When you learn the whereabouts of my small carpet bag, which I have used since 1841, perhaps, you can secure it for me at some future time. I place a factitious value upon it. I could have new material fitted to the old frame here, tho I cannot well procure a new one. I loaned it to save Miss Emerson the extra trouble as [....?] [.....?] cast her, I wrote on the label of card, "To be left with Mrs. Phillips" This may have been written with pencil, & obliterated. Give yourself no solicitude. "<u>Be careful for nothing,</u>" is a

precept with an important meaning, for us to obey externally, & in spirit, how forcible the teachings of Jesus to us in Mat. 4. 24 – 34.

To be in harmony with the great truth, “sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof,” required confidence in God’s ordering all things after the counsel of his own will. While he continues our lives, he has a place for us in this world. What we need to do, is find & to occupy this place, heartily doing & submissively suffering his will, in what he appoints for us. What a loss we should sustain, if we had not the record of the words of our Great Teacher, who cares for us, & pities us as a father his children. <There is> Not a sparrow falls “on the ground without your Father,. But the hairs of your head are all numbered Fear ye not, therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows” The discipline of each of us, is imparted in love, & wisdom. It is our part to be in, harmony with the world, & with the spirit of God; also with his providential dealings with us. Your trials & mine are <u>real,</u> therefore, we may lay hold of the promise “My grace is sufficient for you.” God’s people are not to be saved from trials, but supported in them. Perhaps you may like to see how many promises are connected with the idea of trials, like Isa. 43’2. The how impatient that we “consider him who endured such contradiction of sinner against himself last we be wearied & faint in our minds.”

Have you ever found all the expressions in the bible “I will be with thee,” & noticed the connexion?

“While place I seek, or place I shine, I find there’s happiness in none, But with our God to guide my way, ‘tis equal joy to go or stay.”

A sheet of light note paper, in the envelope with these sheets, in case you wish to send them to Daniel. My salutations to him. Very truly yours

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

If you do not send the inclosed sheets to Kansas please take care of them for me, [...?] sent some to Mary Shurtleff that Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] will see before they shall be on their way to Iowa.

Edward would be worth more to himself & others thro’ life, by helping Abbie every day about house. Learning to make bread turns to great account with many a man, and he can do what requires less skill. It will make him more elastic & social, & easy, & benevolent.

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[*Envelope addressed:*] Mrs Caroline Grant
Care of Mr A.W. Burr
Oberlin
Ohio

Fr Mrs. Anderson Apr. '71

1871
Flemington April 23rd

My dear Mrs Grant,

I received your letter last Thursday morning, and would have answered it immediately only that I knew Mary had written you, and supposed you were in the possession of her letter, about the time I received yours, I was very glad to hear from you though sorry you should have been kept in suspense regarding the state of M's health, Her recovery is tedious, she improves; but it is slowly, and some days she feels pretty well, and on others, quite miserable, but she is able to be about the house and give directions. From the the beginning of her sickness, Hetty and I have tried to do all that we could to relieve and assist them, the bread baking, and the heaviest part of the washing has been done either at mothers or my house, and for several weeks I did the regular-= weekly sweeping through the house. and went out any, and every day that I <u>could</u> <u>spare</u> from my own duties, to do any thing to advise, and help in any way. Minnie is a great treasure to that household, she has been so womanly, and so untiring in energy during her mother's sickness and withal so cheerful, that it has been a pleasure to see and help her. My sister, who has so great a charge at home, was not able to be with them so much as I was, but she did considerable in altering, mending and making some of their clothes, and in doing their ironing at her own home. I have not, dear Mrs Grant told you all this, to praise ourselves, but that you may know that they have not suffered for want of attention, and that Minnie has been relieved

of that which we feared might be too hard for her, when continued for weeks. She seems very well. and to my question, "Minnie "aren't you tired?" she always says no auntie I am not tired, I like to do. Both she and Alletta drank tea here a week ago on Saturday. Alletta has not been kept from school at all during Mary's sickness.
My mother is very miserable, can not walk without a cane, and suffers in various ways, she had a very severe term of palpitation of the heart last week, we felt quite alarmed as she seemed almost exhausted with it. Miss Allen is pretty well tho. she was more feeble than usual last week, and a little rheumatic but when the weather is fine she likes to be out in her garden.
Tell Abbie I often think of her, and would enjoy seeing her and the baby very much, I hope they may all be induced to visit Flemington, before a great while.
Annie Pierce, (Emery she was) has a lovely baby, he is not so pretty, but very sweet, blue eyes, and fair complexion, very large and very good natured. She calls him Fred. She is very fond of him and I hope he may be spared to her.
We all love our present pastor, Mr Mott very much both in the pulpit and out of it. I wish you could hear his prayers & sermons. I trust that I hear him with profit, I know I ought, much more than I do, I often feel grateful to my Heavenly Father for sending him here He is very kind and attentive in visiting my mother.
You ask about Louis and Frank. The former was married last November, He and his wife are living at Branchville, a small village about 10 miles from here, where Lou is in business (the mercantile) for himself. They commenced housekeeping on first of April. Frank, returned from Iowa, rather more than a year ago, he is now at Hamilton Square, where his aunt and grandmother live, engaged as engineer in an India rubber manufactory. We hope he may do well, and keep his place, it is much more satisfactory to us to have him there, than so far away from home. Lizzie and Charlie go to school and are doing well we think, Rev Mr Woodhull a friend of Mr Mott and through his influence brought here, is the principal of the school. is a very fine man, and a good teacher we think, Charlie is in his department, he has an assistant teacher -- for the younger ones, Miss Ioanna Higgins, perhaps you may have heard of her when here, Lizzie's teacher. It is more expensive to us to send them to this school, but we feel better compensated, because we think they have superior advantages <*than*> to those of the Public school. Charlie has grown so you would scarcely know him, I suppose, he is as tall as his auntie; He is learning to work as well as to study. and is quite persevering in what he undertakes, for which I am thankful as it is an essential trait, in one's character I think. I hope and pray that he may develop into a good, and an upright and noble Christian man that is my highest wish for him. and; May God help him.

The weather here is quite cool and we are needing rain very much. Our garden is all dug and ready to finish planting, we have peas and potatoes up, but they need raid to bring them on. Mr. Anderson has gone to Trenton to-day, he is the sole trustee and executor of his step-fathers estate, and that takes him there quite often to gather with his own business. He has been quite well for him during the past winter, but has a cold a present. I hope it will soon pass away.
Mother and sister join me in love to yourself and Abbie. I hope you will write again, I shall always be glad to hear from you Please remember me to Mr Burr.
I have heard of sister Mary. this (Tuesday morn) and she is feeling better. Good bye.

Your aff. friend
E.H. Anderson

I should like to hear of Mr Grant and Edward. I suppose they are well.

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

Oberlin O.
January 1st 1874.

My dear Mother,

Almon is very sick, the worn out body must have rest. Mr. Finney was in this afternoon and thanked the Lord in his prayer. "That Thou hast laid thy servant upon his bed to rest, before he was dead from over work."

Jan 2nd A's sickness commenced with bilions fever & inflammation of the ear was [latern?] down about two weeks ago. Has now run into Typhoid. Has also had inflammation of the kidneys in connection.

The prospect is that he wont be up for several weeks yet. The children [slay?] down to fathers a good deal. Father is also having a long sickness, but is not so nervous as Almon. We have some man to watch every night -- now. So that I get some rest. Mr Finney has been in to see Almon again this morning. Every one is very kind. I dont try to do much about the housework, what the girls cant do I let go.

I will drop a line in a few days to let you know how he is getting along. If he should not get any better or the children should get sick (it is a very sickly season here) I may be glad to have you come for a few weeks if you <u>can</u>. But as things are now I think we can get along very comfortably. I have received all your letters. Pettie was pleased with the little card.

I cannot write more now

With much love

Your aff daughter
Abbie.

I have received [no.?] dressed from Mary Burton.

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[*Stationary*] Home for the Friendless
No. 911 Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Ill. [*handwriting starts*] May 1st, 1875.

Dear Sister Caroline,

I was very glad to get your letter yesterday, and you see my effort at promptness in replying.

You have not been forgotten in these long winter months, but you have shared like the rest of my personal friends, in the results of my care. Business letters <u>must</u> be ans. but those of affection can wait, and the love does not grow cold -- The anniversary of my dear husbands death was living once so [...] again, realizing afresh the agonizing <u>fact</u>. God helps me to look upward, to have alittle more faith & trust. I try to see beyond the transitory state to the mansions prepared for those that love the Lord. "Perfect love [castitle?] out fear", I want that assurance, that will make me fearless in view of death. I have so many precious memories of the past, my life has been so full of rich blessing, that I feel called upon always to Praise the Lord.

It is sad to have our family so fast going: brother Phelps, & Aunt B: [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] we are fast leaving the places to others. Sister Susan & Jennie spent a day with me, on their way back to Omaha -- Sisters love for the husband of her youth showed itself so beautifully. Have heard from her once since she returned to O. I hope to see sister Elizabeth during the summer -- & it may possibly be go on to Omaha --

It must be delightful for you to visit sister & daughter & grandchildren, all at the same time. I had a letter from Abby recently, and John C. said he would like to answer it. so she will hear from us some day.

I sent the Cook Book, the day after yours was rec'd -- Hope Mary will like it. Of the Edition of 5000, 4500 have been sold --

We are in the midst of calcimining painting &c -- have been for three weeks. How glad we shall be to be through: next month, I hope to go Hannibal Mo. for a week, to visit Mr. Turner -- 'Guster is here, is queer as ever; she often asks for Mrs. Caroline Grant & says she loves her next to her Mother --

Lottie Somers remembers you, and Amanda Hahn well several others -- Mrs. Ostrom is gone, & Mr. Bell, and Mrs. Kelly,

I have written to brother Daniel this winter, & know of the state of things there: have several acquaintances in the grasshopper region -- I know they have suffered, but I do not think

half as much as if the grasshopper had not visited them -- then there had been no excuse for a call for help which they really needed. Daniel writes pretty cheerfully, I hope he can so arrange as to come home before long. He knows best what he will be satisfied with --

Miss Bowman, Hough Johnson, Mary G. & all the rest send love to you --

Have sent the memorials. Your Af. sister Abby. [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

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[*Addressed to*:] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]

[*Note on envelope*:] Dec. '78

Speaks of qualifications for a teacher – of Almon taking Thanksgiving dinner with Edw. Miss Rice goes to Germany

[*Note at top of letter*:] from Abigail E. Grant Burr
Hallowell Me [*Maine*]
Dec 4th 1878

My dear Mother,

It is some time since I wrote you. Things have been going all kinds of ways. We are still to remain here, but do not know for how long. Rev Mr. Gay of Bangor is canvassing for the school now, has not been able to get money yet, but has awakened some interest among people. Miss Rice who has been with us so long sailed for Germany last week. It was very hard for us to lose her. Almon [*Almon Burr*] has been hunting for a teacher to take her place, has been gone nearly a week, and has engaged one now whom he has not seen. It is very hard to find one with the proper scholarly attainments, and the needful characteristics, for she must be able to teach well Greek, Latin & German and be a<*n*> wise and aggressive Christian woman.

We did not go to Oberlin Matters were too uncertain here.

Almon took his Thanksgiving dinner with Edward. Ed's [Engineer?] invited him. I thought it very pleasant of him, and pleasant of him that he had invited Edward too.

The Old South Church in this place burned to the ground Sunday morning between the hours of three and six, it was the one which we attend. It will throw a great burden upon this feeble society. But we have now a most excellent pastor Rev. C. T. White recently from Palmer Mass.

I am much better in health than when I last wrote, and hope that I shall be well through the winter.

I was glad to hear so much about Aunt Mary's people. Thank her very much, for her kind offer with regard to us. Our fall has been reasonably mild. We are having a little snow tonight, but it is melting as fast as it comes. The wind is whistling though, as though it might turn colder soon.

The children are well and I think that Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*]
will write you in a few weeks.

With much love to all
Your aff. daughter
Abbie E. G. Burr [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

It does not seem to me advisable for father to make any plans about coming to Uncle [Collars] to live, <*he would be*> [*several words erased*]

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[*Addressed to*:] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
(Care D[r.?] Collar)

[*Note on envelope*:] In Oberlin when Harold was sick
Apr. '79

[*Note at top of letter:*] from Abigail G. Burr

Oberlin Ohio
Thurs eve. Apr 3rd 1879.

My dear mother,

I am at Father Burr's with my little sick boy. Almon [*Almon Burr*] and Carrie started for home on Tuesday, and if they had no mishap reached home this morn, at about three o clock. We started from Hallowell [*Maine*] two weeks ago last Tuesday, at about ten o clock in the morning, reached Boston at half past five in the evening, and left there at six on the Hoosac Tunnel rout, were delayed on that, so we did not make connections at Troy, so did not arrive at John [Frazier's?] at Madison O. (where we were to stop over one night) until between seven and eight o clock on Thursday morning, several of Almons classmates were there to meet us, and we had a very pleasant time. We left there for Oberlin at noon Friday, where we arrived at five o clock in the afternoon. We had a very pleasant time for the first few days. Minnie Hill took tea with us on Saturday eve. Sunday was communion, and a great many united with the churches. At the Second Church where we attended, forty two united on prof<*f*>ession of faith and a few by letter, it was a very impressive occasion. Monday eve we took tea at the Hall with Mrs. Johnston, Tuesday eve at Mary Shurtleffs. Minnie also was there. Wednesday was so rainy that I remained at home all day and no one came except Prof. Newton. Thursday we spent in making and receiving calls. Went to Mr. Maltbies for one place. I do like Mrs. Maltbie very much. They seemed pretty well, though I think Mrs. M. is not very strong. I have forgotten just what they did say about themselves. Mr. M. I did not see.

Friday just before noon Harold was taken suddenly ill, headache and vomiting. we thought at first that it was a sick headache, but as the afternoon progressed and he continued to vomit and a high fever came on, we feared scarlet fever, we sent for the Doctor, he didnt seem decided what it was. Saturday he thought it bilious fever, but Sunday he began to break out and show other decided symptoms of scarlet fever. We were over him day and night until Monday night when he seemed a little more comfortable Almon took care of him alone that night as I was about worn out I had a very bad cold too. We had all expected to leave for Hallowell on Monday, but of course could not. Almon stayed over one day longer, and will be one day late at the opening of the term. We thought it best for Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*]
to go with him, if she is sick will have to have a nurse, there seemed no way to take care of her here. I have my hands full with Harriet. [Utica?] is no place for her to be sick, and no one in the family to take care of [him?] Celia teaches all day long and is not able to do any thing here. Nettie is an invalid Mother is not well, and if she were is so very deaf as to be useless in taking care of a very sick person, and there is no room in the house for a nurse. I hope the dear little thing will get along all right.

Friday morn. Harold had not had much fever for the last two or three days, but is very weak, and does not seem to gain much, his spine seems some affected, could not sleep last night because of pain in the back of his neck, he does not sit up any yet ex. to be held in my arms for a few minutes, or be propped up by pillows while he eats. Of course he is very fretful and wants me to be with him constantly. I have been having a very bad cold which with the care of Halley has made me about sick, but I am much better now, and I sleep the larger part of the night. The Shurtleffs are in their usual health, little Mary is a very lovely child. Mr Shurtleff is going away on a financial trip again soon We were invited down there last Saturday eve to meet Theodore, and some other friends. Theodore was not able to come, for what reason I do not know. I received a card from Almon today. They had reached Boston in safety. I hope that I shall hear tomorrow, that they are safe in H. Minnie Hill seems well, she appears well. Almon has a fine account of her from Mrs. Jonston. Mrs. [Joth...?] & she will make a fine teacher. I can spend more time now.

With love
Abbie. [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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[*Printed:* Water Color Work Studio of Crayon & Ink Work
Benton & Rogers,

Artistic Photographers.
Large Work a Specialty.]
Hoosac Falls [*New York*] July 23 1880

Dear Aunt

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

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

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

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

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

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

Love to yourself Uncle & Aunt

Your aff nephew
S. R. Hill

Hoosac Falls

N.Y.

July 18, 1880

My dear sister.

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

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

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

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

Love to Uncle & Aunt

Your aff. sister

Mary B. Hill.

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs Caroline Grant

Clayton

Mass [*Massachuetts*]

Colebrook Sept 16th/80

Dear Aunt,

Was very glad to get your letters, glad to know that you take an interest in Father & Mother, Charley took me home Sunday night, & asked Mother if she would like Marion to come & stay a while with her, she said No: one Benton was enough thinks can have one of John Robart's sisters said she did not want Aunt Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*], so did not send, Julia's sister could not come was not well, When home Sunday night Mother said she was some better than when we were at Uncles, has been taking hop tea; that is good for the nerves, does not get up in

the morning as early -- says gets more rest, I do hope she may get better, it does trouble me. but as you write I take it to the "Lord in prayer," & it is a help to me many times, then again it does not seem to help me as much, Oh dear! there are times when I do not know what to do, I am alone now for a few days. Father Eunice, & Anna, have gone up to Monterey, coming back Saturday, it seems nice to be alone, only three of us not a large family. E- expects to be married before many weeks, Cousin Nellie Northway is to be married next Wednesday C. & P. will go over home Tuesday night so I will be there to help Mother get ready in the morning, says she cant get ready alone & I am very glad to help her, mean to help her put up some peaches when we get back from wedding, Thursday after C. & J expect to start for brother Alberts, will be gone about a week, Ralph & wife are well or were yesterday,
Sunday evening You see it takes one some time to get a Letter started. have not had a good opportunity to send Ralph was here yesterday for about an hour, says thinks does feel better, Father, Eunice, & Anna was there to tea last night, E. said Mother told her to tell me she was better, so glad, but suppose she is not well, C. & J have been over to M. Phelps this evening, a pleasant time Must stop now & go<*t*> to bed, C. joins with me in sending love to you

[*written across first page*] & Uncles folks Hope you will write me again glad to hear from you & would like to have you visit me,

aff

Mary

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Care of Bea J. N. Collar
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
Flemington N.J. [*New Jersey*]
May 8. 1881

My dear sister

Your letter was gladly recd. Had been anxious to hear from Aunt Emeline & you all. What great cause for thankfulness that our dear aunt is granted a cheerful & a comfortable "passing away". I hope she may <*be*> welcome us all in the Happy Land. Have thought much of you all to day & wondered if her Spirit were still with you. How is aunt Jane? I would like to see her. I hope Uncle Collar is in comfortable health that he may be able the better to pass through this season of affliction

About cashmere shawl. You ask whether I would prefer it or the petticoat. I would like the New Haven [*Connecticut*] people to have their choice. I should be perfectly satisfied with either or neither.

Regarding the "Turkey red" & green quilt aunt spoke of giving to Aletta. I dont see <*ho*> why there should be any hard feelings. If aunt Emeline were living when Aletta was married & she were to give her that as a bridal present no one would think of saying a word I presume.

I have no doubt they do value that old fashioned comfortable more than either of the others. There is such a craze <*now*> in these days over antique things. If any of aunts underclothing is left -- please keep it rather than send it here -- it would fit you so much better & the stockings also would no doubt <*be*> suit you better.

How events are crowing upon you. Aunt leaving, Daniel coming, Edward married &c. As your day is so will I hope be your strength.

Love to all & aunt Jane,

Your aff. sister

M.B. Hill. [*Mary Burr Hill*]

We are all pretty well -- Mary not very strong -- but better than she was.

[*written across first* page] If the Cashmere shawl were to fall to me I should let you have it -- & I say that I think you must ought to have <a> one of the good shawls to wear in place of yours that is so much injured by that tear -- Being constantly worn the one side out -- it will soon become

rusty. I <*think that*> have fared well & I think the New Haven people have fared better than you in the division --
I would not do any thing myself nor have you do any thing to make hard feelings -- But as you asked about the <*shawl*> shawl -- thought I would speak my mind. I only think you need not be afraid to take it -- that's all -- However it goes -- do not feel badly.

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[*Addressed to*:] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Clayton
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]
(Care of Bea Collar)
Hallowell Me. [*Maine*]
May 21st 1881

My dear Mother,

I want to write you a few words this evening but cannot find my pen. and do not feel quite energy enough to go to the study for Almon's [*Almon Burr*]. so will you please excuse me if I use a pencil.

The card telling of Aunt Emmelines death was received. Of course after the messages that I had received from you and Edward, I was not surprised to hear that she was gone from us. and I sympathyse most sincerely with the large circle of friends who have lost in her one ever kind and helpful, thoughtful for their interests, and interested in them as people rarely are in one another even though they be close of kin, and dear Uncle, my heart is especially sore for him in his loneliness. May the dear Lord comfort him, and be company for him. I hope that you are all in reasonable health.

I read in the *Chicago Advance* of the death of Aunt Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]. Have you heard any thing more of Aunt Gertie [*Sarah Gertrude Day Grant*]?

We are in our usual health. though Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] does not seem strong. and her eyes are troubling her very much. I have been having one of my bad headaches. and am not quite over it yet

With much love to you all
Your aff. daughter.
Abbie E.G. Burr . [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

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[Pokeipsie?] Dutchess Co. N.Y.

Dec. 23d 1883

Dear Cousin Carrie

12-30. I am just home from morning service & here 3/4 of an hour before dinner. I am determined to begin a letter to you trusting I may be allowed the time to finish it this year. I have had you on my list of correspondents ever since Mr. B. wrote you in the summer or fall. I do not know whether he answered your very agreeable letter in reply to his -- which is lying open before me. I asked him to leave it with me as I wished to write to you. He left us Sep. 17th for the West. He has been in my entire care for so long -- that when the parting came I felt I had nothing more to live for. That my work was done. He left on the 8-15 -- P.M. train. Took a Sleeper to Niagara (I urged him to stop at N. Though he might as well take all in he could as the [outlay?] was large to begin with) For days after he left I was miserable. It did seem as if I could not suffer more had death caused the separation. When I heard from him from N. he too was suffering & the stop at Niagara in his distressed state of mind -- was a mistake. He wrote very blue -- & said the roar of the Cataract sounded like a funeral dirgo. He remained a week. Then went to Racine Wisconsin to <*see*> visit an old classmate of William's College Col. [McMynn?] who had been writing for him. There -- to his surprise -- he met another classmate a D.D. & the three had eleven days of real enjoyment together. From there he went to Chicago & visited my relatives. I have three cousins very handsomely situated there -- One on Prairie Ave. and one on Indiana Ave. There also he had a delightful time. The daughter of Cousin Morris Johnston was married a week ago &

a full account of the wedding in the C. paper -- I sent it to Mr. B. or would sent it to you. It was an elegant affair. They are all very rich. Are Baltimorians. From there Mr. Burton struck out alone & for [himself?]. And then I trembled. He went to Lincoln Nebraska stayed there some weeks & then went to Seward -- remained there awhile & went to Aurora Hamilton Co. Nebraska. He is there now. I expect him back in about 2 weeks. It will be a sad [Christmas?] without him. The first we have spent apart since we were married 18 years ago. Mr. B. has kept well all the time. Indeed his health has improved It has agreed with him. The weather has been delightful & the climate out there very fine so far all has gone well. He expects to turn his face homeward on the 26th unless my nephew -- Dr. Yarnall of Washington wishes him to attend to some more business out in Iowa for him. He has considerable land out there. Mr. B will return to Chicago. I want him to return by the way of St. Louis & Washington & Flemington. I have only 8 gentlemen cousins in the first named place. And my old home is in W. & his relations he would see at F. He says when he starts for us he doesn't think he can stop any where. I hope & pray he will get back safely. You know we moved here the 25th of last June. We were in our house in Hudson from the Middle of Aug. to the middle of last June. Were indeed very sorry [Jim?] could not visit us. Had I not been taken sick I intended writing for Mr. & Mrs. David Burton to visit us also -- but you know what an unhealthy winter it was & I took cold & was quite delicate for several weeks. I was up & about -- but had to be very careful. It was in some respects a very pleasant sojourn in the dear old home -- but O.' so sad to me! I could not go into that house where I had been so exquisitely happy -- after so many sad changes -- & take up the thread again & go on. O' No! At every stop I missed the loved ones that had been with me & joined with me in my happiness. My babes had died there. My dear husband broke down & I nursed him 3 years there. I missed him when I went back -- he was so changed. But much better than I ever expected <*him*> at one time he ever would <*so*> be. He wanted to return to that house & live out some of those pleasant days again. I do think he enjoyed every day of it until Spring and then we had an offer for the whole place (home & office) & I urged his selling & leaving H. altogether. Like Mrs. Thomas Carlyle when they left Craigenpultock -- I wished to "burn our ships" and to prevent the possibility of return. If Mr. B had been able to resume business -- I should have contented myself in H. but as it was the place has grown stupid & Mr. B would have gone into the old ruts again. I saw plainly he could not resume the practice of law -- then why stay there? Our choice lay between Albany & this place. We finally decided in favor to the latter. I wished Marie to have every advantage in the way of education. I wished her to go to Vassar College and therefore Pokeipsie is the place to prepare. She is now in Dr. [Height's?] Academy. He says she can be prepared in 2 years but I don't wish any crowding, She can take 3 if necessary to health. She is very well now is a tall fine looking girl -- I considered very bright -- is doing finely in Latin. Takes to languages as a duck does to water -- Not a very elegant comparison I admit. We have a delightful boarding place. Many have called upon me here and I have had invitations to Receptions -- but I care very little for that kind of enjoyment now. I love lectures & Concerts -- We are now enjoying the Lyceum season of 1883 & 1884. They wind up Feb. 15th with a grand concert. The next lecture Jan. 11th will be by Rev. Joseph Cook of Boston Subject "God in Natural Law..." we are to have Gough once more. I do not rave over him. P. is a lovely place. It is so much nearer to N.Y. which is an advantage. We do talk of furnishing rooms & going with "light housekeeping take our breakfast as our home" & our dinners out. If so we will be glad to have you visit us. I am sorry you did not come to us in H.

Monday 2-30. Our dear daughter is busy arranging her [Christmas?] Cards. We Miss dear papa so much. I have just heard from him will be so glad to get him back. It seems impossible that he is so far away from me. My dear church will fill up the vacuum. Service at seven a.m. than the carols at 9a.m. Then full service at quarter to eleven when we are sad & lonely at the loss of our dear ones. What a comfort to be able to attend such delightful services in our Mother Church. There is every thing here to make it a pleasant [Christmas?] but his absence. I hope dear Cousin Carrie we will some day -- not far distant meet & enjoy some long long talks. You dont know how I miss Aunt Collar. To feel she & Uncle C. are both gone! They will spend their [Christmas?] in realms above. Where is your home now? Has Mr. Grant gone East as you thought he would & as he [...] in his letter to Mr. B? I shall try & write soon to Flemington. How are they all in N. Haven? Has Mrs. Braley any child or children? Not much happiness in this world without then. I would rather have 2 dozen than none at all. I had six. Had Mr. B. kept his

health I suppose I should have had 6 or 8 more. As he lost his health & his business it was a blessing to the dear children that they were taken from him the troubles of this world. I do not believe in having many children unless you can do well for them. I do not believe in raising up paupers. Have as many as you can do a good part by & no more. ------
Dec 25th 3-15 --

Marie is [...] by & sends love. She has been enjoying her [Christmas?]. He have been to church Have had an elegant dinner. Heard from my dear husband & he is well. We have much to be thankful for. Mr. has me wish you a very happy New Year I should love to hear from you.

Your affectionate cousin
Mary H Benton

104. Montgomery [So-.?] Pokeipsie

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[Addressed to] Caroline Grant
Bolton, May 15, 1884

My Dear Niece,

Mary and I were anxiously waiting to hear from you & often spoke of you and were glad to hear of your safe arrival in Flem. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] where you must be a help and comfort to them

What around about way you took & accomplished it so quickly you must have been quite courageous. I hope you will not long be disabled by the accident you met with & trust you will be careful not to over exert yourself in that warm climate. It is time for <to> you to have some rest. No doubt it will be a great comfort to all the family to have you there even if you cannot do hard work. You will all help each other bear the sad loss of the dear departed one I was glad to hear how bravely they were bearing their sorrow and striving to do as their dear mother would have them

Please remember Mary and myself to Mr Hill and his family and assure them of our deep and heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement. We feel that the character of our dear relative was one of singular worth and loveliness.

Her own beautiful example of resignation forbids the murmur we could hardly repress that one so fitted to live should be taken away so soon. But she is gone up higher.

I am glad I went there when I did and saw her once more and her dear family (with the exception of her son who was not at home.) It is a pleasant remberance.

You did not tell me how long you intended to stay there nor what were your plans for the future, I shall hope to hear from you again soon when perhaps you can write more particularly Thank you for all you did write & think you wrote a great deal in the space you had to write on.

I dont know as I have any thing of particular interest to communicate in regard to our families. Not much change since I last wrote you I may have mentioned that Sam went to Waltham to see if he could get a chance in a machine shop & could not at the time but one man said he might want him some time and would let him know if he did. He has not heard from him and we did not think he would but Sam still has hope. He helps his father on the farm & his father is grafting some for people & he sometimes takes Sam with him and teaches him The father has $2.00 a day at that work Sue is taking another term of music lessons of the same teacher who speaks very encouragingly of Sue's progress She says not one in ten of the scholars she has taught would learn as fast as Sue does. She reads notes readily. She usually practices an hour in the morning before going to school & an hour after school & plays any little piece when she feels like it for her own amusement. Mary, Bessie, Sam & Mollie practice any leisure time they can spare & they have really made considerable progress. Mary intends Mollie shall practice an hour a day half hour at a time but she little rather play out with the little girls. We are getting along slowly with our sewing. We are about finishing off the seventh dress since you were here and now we only have two more to make & then they will be fitted out for the summer.

I have had only one hard cold since you were here & it passed off in less than two weeks Mr Wallis has been very well. In pleasant days when he feels like it he gets out and does little jobs on the farm but spends most of his time reading the papers. We are all in comfortable health

not very strong. Amory has to lie down almost every day an hour or more. He works very fast & then needs to rest.

It must have been hard for your daughter to have you leave her, but I presume she cheerfully acquisced under the sad circumstances I shall want to hear about her & Erastus & Edward & Daniel & all the friends Mary joins in love to you & all there S G [.?]

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

Daniel Grant Esq.

My dear Sir:--

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

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

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

Hoping for a favorable reply

Sincerely Yours

Ralph J. Haughton

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

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Bittersweet
Flemington N.J. *[New Jersey]*
Oct 4th 1891

Dear Aunt Carrie

Have intended to write for the last two Sundays but did'nt find time one evening I went to Church and last Sunday afternoon went to the Sunday School Anniversary with the children, and that took all the afternoon we did'nt get home until half past five, and in the evening I did'nt feel equal to writing. We have been without a girl for more than three weeks now, and while the boarders stayed were kept pretty well on the go, but they have all left now, part went last Monday morning, and the other two on Wednesday. It is a relief not to have to fuss over meals so much. We began churning again the first of September churn two and three times a week and get from ten to twelve pounds of butter at a churning. We are having a very warm Fall, need summer clothing yet, and have had no<*t*> frost as yet. The thermometer now (4-30 P.M.) registers 80° on our front porch. Fruit is very abundant in this part of the country, the apple orchards are loaded, peaches very plenty and cheap, and Father says he never saw finer corn in his life. Father and I were out for a ride Wednesday. Father had business in Annandale and he rode over there, and took me with him. It is about twelve miles from here, and we had a perfect day, and the roads were in splendid condition.

Peaches are almost over and how good these last ones taste.

Mrs Grey was buried a week ago Tuesday. She was in Oswego with Helen at the time of her death. Was buried here in the Cemetery. Helen, Mrs Charles is still here, visiting at Voorhees! She and her little daughter, the youngest, called the other day. I had gone to Mission Band Meeting, and did'nt see her but Alletta & Auntie were home.

Sophie came home from Sunday School to day feeling very happy because she has been promoted to the big room Mrs Bell Thorton (Bell Mott) is her teacher. She received a copy of The New Testament this year for learning the little catechism. She was also promoted to the next higher room in day school this Fall. She has learned to read very well indeed, and is fond of reading to herself. Will started to school for the first this year. He doesn't enjoy it very much yet, it is pretty hard work for him to keep still. Alletta expects to go to Bloomsbury for about two weeks soon and I hope nothing will prevent her going. The change will do her good I think and she did'nt get up there this summer as usual. She will take Mary with her, but of course the

others must stay at home to attend school. Mary does'nt look as though she needed a change. She is as big and fat and healthy as any one could wish. Was two years old on the twenty seventh of Sept. She begins to talk more now, but does'nt speak as plainly as the others did, is a little tongue tied. Sam took a photo of her in her "wedding dress" when he was home and I will get Alleta to send you one. We think them very good. We have begun house_cleaning have two rooms done.
Kate Capner is to be married on Thursday. I am invited to the wedding and expect to go. She marries Hirvey Finch Jr.

[*written across first page*] Father is feeling quite well at present The rest of us are all well. I enclose a letter of Mins. Please send it on to Sam when you have read it, Dont send it around to the relations please Abbys caps have arrived and Min says they are lovely, hand_painted and so dainty. Give my love to Ed & family and Uncle Daniel, keeping a large share for yourself

Aff. your niece
Caroline

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Beloit Wis. *[Wisconsin]*
Dec 23rd 1891

My dear Mother,

We send to-day some felt shoes for you. I wish I had asked before hand whether father would have liked some. If he would tell me & I can send him something Tell me about what he would like if he wants something in that line. I send him a little book that if he has not read, I think he would enjoy.

Carrie is home & I will write you about her as soon as I can she is not yet greatly better, strength improved in some ways.

Almon goes to-morrow if he is able -- he is suffering from a severe cold -- to Oberlin to see his Father, who is very feeble just now. we hope it will not prove serious, but are quite alarmed. I dont know as I have written you since Austins death. He was buried two weeks ago to-day. His family remain in Mystic till April next the neighboring ministers supplying the pulpit & she receiving the salary. It is probable that she will then go to Oberlin to educate the children. $5.000 life insurance. His age was forty two. Papers & money that you sent received. I can not write more now as we are terribly busy but will try to write again before very long May Christmas be a pleasant day to you. God bless & keep you both.

With love,
Abby.

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

[*Printed return address*] RETURN AFTER TEN DAYS TO
<WILLIAM HENRY SMITH,>
<DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW,>
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.
LINCOLN.

[*Note on envelope*] from Theron Crissey 1892

Lincoln Neb. Jan'y. 24, 1892.

Dear Cousin Caroline:

I heard recently, through a letter from my brother Ralph, of the death of Mr. Grant, and have had it in mind to write you ever since, but this Sabbath afternoon seems to be my first opportunity. I am not surprised to learn of his death, as he seemed feeble, when I saw him last June, and this winter seems to be unusually severe with persons advanced in life, where they

have become somewhat enfeebled. I realize somewhat I believe your bereavement and loneliness, now that your companion is gone, to return no more, and that your home must seem quite desolate, if you find yourself there, all alone. As I advance in life I realize much more than formerly the greatness of the loss to the one who remains, when a couple who have been united for many years are separated by death. But there is such a comfort in the thought that the separation is but for a little time. The one who has "passed over unto the other side," has reached the end of his journey, and is at rest, at home. "Tossed no more on life's rough billow,

"All the storms of sorrow fled,
"Death has formed a quiet pillow,
"For the faithful Christian's head,
"Peaceful slumbers, guarding o'er his lowly bed."

_____

"Fixed in an Eternal State,
"They have done with all below;
"We a little longer wait;
"But how little, none can know."

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What a comfort it is, when our friends are removed from us by death, to feel assured that it is well with them; - that they learned the great "lesson of life;" – that they were prepared for the great change, and are at rest.

I know a little of how hard it is to feel resigned to God's will sometimes, when our dearest earthly friends are removed. When my dear sister Olive was taken away, it did seem as though I could not have it so, and that it was a mistake in some way, and wrong, and that it must not be so: - but I have felt comforted many times by the thought that she escaped many of the trials, disappointments and griefs which come to nearly everyone, in one way or another, whose days on earth are lengthened.

May the blessed Comforter, who knows the burden and grief of every heart, be very present to you, dealing tenderly with you, and sustaining you every day and hour, helping you to "lean heavily" upon His sustaining arm.

Did Mr. Grant have a severe sickness at the last, or did he fail gradually? I should be pleased to hear from you and learn the particulars of his death.

I called upon Hattie Burr, Kilburn, thinking she had not heard of Mr. Grant's death, but found that she had seen a notice of it in the Winsted Herald.

She said she had thought of you a great deal since she heard of his death, and would have written you, if her eyes would have permitted it. She wished me to remember her very kindly to you.

Hattie's health is pretty good now, except that her eyes trouble her very much, so that she cannot use glasses at all, and cannot see to read, write or sew. She has a very pleasant home, but there seems to be a serious drawback to her happiness in the trouble with her eyes. Charlie Burr's oldest boy, (Frank Daniel,) boards at Mr. Kilburn's, and is Clerk in a Savings Bank here, of which Mr. Kilburn is a Director. Charlie lives in Gove Co. Kansas. Martha (Burr Stocking) lives now in Creighton, this State. She has a nice family: three boys & three girls. As for myself, I am feeling much better than when I was East, last June.

From Ralph's letter, I judge that there is a very un-usual amount of sickness in Norfolk and vicinity, and he mentioned several deaths there recently. So the old acquaintances and friends are one by being "gathered home." My wife heard quite recently of the death of an Aunt, a sister of her mother, in Boston. She had been in poor health for years, having at times severe attacks of asthma;

I shall hope to hear <*f*>how your son's health is. We heard from him several weeks ago through Dr. Hartwell, who stopped over a day with us on her return to Colorado, and understood from her that he was somewhat improved. Ralph wrote that Mary, Warren's wife, had been quite sick with "la grippe." I have not heard directly from them.

You told me last summer when I saw you where your daughter's home is, but I have forgotten. The thought has been <*possibly*> in my mind that possibly you will go and have your home near or with her.

My letter has reached great length b<*y*>ut I do not seem to have said much. You and Erastus, and Uncle Silas three children are all the cousins I have remaining alive. Albert Norton, William Norton's oldest son (He lives in Waterloo, Iowa,) is only a little younger than I am and always has seemed quite near to me, as have also some other second cousins, especially Halsey Hulburt's children.

I shall hope to hear from you if you have the time and feel able to write. Give kind regards to Edward and his family, as I suppose you see them frequently.

I am Your cousin
Theron [M?]. Crissey.
Lincoln Neb.

Direct, P. O. Drawer 1493.

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Daniel Grant
New Marlboro.
Mass. *[Massachusetts]*
Riverton Conn. *[Connecticut]*
May 17th 1888.

My dear Mrs. Grant.

Your letter was duly received. I was truly glad to hear from you. I suppose you have seen Mrs. Hyde before this and learned something of our troubles. It was four weeks ago to-day that Mr [Nute?] was taken down sick. and it is impossible for him to go down stairs yet. Although he is better, and is dressed to-day, lying down and sitting up as he feels best. In the mean time after getting worn out with constant care by day and by night I was taken down very sick with sore throat and severe pain throughout my whole system. I was unable to sit up had severe pain in my throat, and violent headache. had no faith or courage to resist the disease consequently when the Dr. came in let him prescribe for me, and took his medicine without feeling in the least condemmed for so doing.

Next Frank came down with it, and all the children have had a time of it. Josephine is still very badly off. her neck is badly swollen, and she is a sick looking child. the Doctor says it is a disease that is epidemic all around here. We have had no sickness before this winter and it has all come inside of the time of Mrs. Hyde's being here Lizzie's confinement and all, she is doing well now, but her babe is very cross. cries a great deal.

I hope Mr. [Nute?] will be able for us to go home next week, but he gains so slowly I do not know. We need your prayers -- I have not been able to remember your son at the appointed hour since Mr. [Nute?] was sick. but will at different times as I may have opportunity. Remember Mr. [Nute?] in your prayers. My son seems to have the continual presence of the Holy Spirit. and especially when he preaches. God has and is greatly blessing him with peace and joy. May he be led out in just the way the Lord chooses to lead him is my desire. He is inclined to the Evangelistic work. feels God is calling him to it. We have a woman come in and work by the hour some days. and everything along as well as we can. Miss Mrs. Hyde. remember us kindly to her if you see her Frank did not have time to call on you the day he carried her home got home that eve -- about 9'oclock? in the heavy rain storm.

Mr. [Nute?] sends much love to you and Mr Grant. all the family unite with me in sending love. It is growing warmer here to-day. I think the weather has much to do with the feelings of an invalid like Mr. [Nute?]. cloudy weather is rather depressing.

We have not seen any arbutus this Spring. They say it does not grow around here. Should like to see you both before we go home, but hope to hear from you soon, and write us what success you have in getting a minister.

Yours truly

J.W. [Nute?]

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Bolton, June 19, .88 (Tues a.m.

My very Dear Carrie,

I received your most welcome letter & letters last Sat. evening. I should be most happy to accept your cordial & urgent invitation to visit you & meet the New Haven friends. I should love to see you all, but it would seem a great undertaking if it were expedient but I rather think I could do it in present health & strength if it were best.

The addition to Mary's part is now being built which of course brings care & labor & with that & all the rest we have to do & see to we have just as much as we all can attend to. Tomorrow the 20th of June the (anniversary of Mary's & my marriage) the Unitarian society have a strawberry festival in which Sue <*& Mother*> takes part in a comedy in the evening which is one of the attraction, entitled "Snow Bound" There will be Select Readings Banjo Solos & songs, There will be strawberries Ice cream & cake. In conclusion there will be a social dance, which Sue & Mollie will enjoy most of all, as will most of the young people. Bessie never dances. We all expect to go & hope to have an enjoyable time. I like to see dancing & hear the Violin & always did. except a time when I thought it was wicked to dance which I do not think so now any more than parties where they play the "needle's eye" &c or games & the like A white dress has got to be finished for Sue for tomorrow evening besides many other things to be done, Sam came home Sat. Eveng 17th of June being a Holiday in Boston & coming on Sunday this year Monday was observed. We had quite a good visit with him He returned this morning, He likes & is liked & I think has no longing to get back into the country to live but he likes to come home on a visit & has not missed of coming every Holiday but one, Expects to come home the Fourth, We are all invited up to "Grand La Haynes' the Fourth. I presume if the weather is favorable we shall all or some of us go from there to Clinton in the evening or some part of the day to see the display there. Our addition is 20 by 22 feet which gives a good sized kitchen & pantry in which the kitchen there will be a pump & cupboards the upper part is to be done off in one large sleeping room & a clothes room. We are all much pleased with it. It will cost considerable. The children all like it & want it. It is built at Mary's & my expense & we have the planning of it & feel that it is planned to as good advantage as possible considering the location of our main building & grounds.

I have thought of you many times <*this*> long back & imagined you were having repairs made on your building & knew it must be hard for you both with your not very good health but I had no idea you were both suffering <u>so much</u> with rhuematism. I trust you will get better fast as the warm weather increases, I am very well & have no pain to speak of but I find as the warm weather comes on it tires me very much to excercise. We are all very well but have enough to do to keep us tired

Thurs. morning before six oclock. The strawberry Festival passed off nicely. I wish you could have seen how prettily Sue looked & did her part in the comedy & how pretty she looked dancing. The white dress was finished, but it showered in the afternoon & was cool in evening she concluded not to wear it & wore another dress which was very becoming. We all went & staid through it all & got home about 12 oclock. The Hall was filled Mollie was dressed in white & danced. No one in the house is up but myself. Mary told me to send a great deal of love from her to you & the New Haven friends <*give*> I am glad they can visit you if I cannot which I should be, most happy to do if constant & all have a good visit together, I am glad Cornelia feels able to undertake the visit Please give my love to them all & accept much for your self. I hope to get this in office this morng,

SJ Wallis

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

Union. N.H.
July 19th 1888.

My dear Mrs. Grant.

Your most welcome letter came to hand to-day, noon. I've been thinking a good deal about you of late, and yesterday you came before me very vividly while alone with God, also your

husband and son. my mind went back to last winter when I met your son at your home, and I wondered if he had not yet become a christian. It is sad to think of his suffering and of the afflictions of his nearest and dearest friends on account of his illness. This passage came to me forcibly yesterday, "In all their affliction he was afflicted and the Angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; &c." Isaiah. 63:9.
It was very comforting to me to think that if God sees it best to permit afflictions to come to us to refine and purify and santify us. Still he is with us in those afflictions and is himself afflicted, showing how dear we are to him. Even as the apple of his eye. Yes! "he sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." I've read an illustration of this passage in Malachi. 3.3. The refiner of silver or gold sits watching while it is in process of refining, till he can see his face reflected in it as in a mirrorr. then he know the fire has purged away the dross.
How often I've thought of this when God has sent some severe trial or affliction upon me, that he must see much in me that is like the dross in the lump of gold or silver, and of late I've been made to feel it: for one thing after another has come to lay me low beneath the chastening rod. During the last few months I have been greatly afflicted in my health. I got very much exhausted during Mr [Nute's?] illness and came home in a low state of health my head troubled me, and I was not able to do much then after a few weeks just as I began to gain my usual strength and to feel like myself I had a fall which proved to be a serious injury to my spine. I got upon a chair one night just before retiring, to kill musquitoes on the wall with my slipper and as I was getting down I must have let go the back of the chair too soon it tipped forward and the back of it came with such force against my chest as to cause me to fall backward and the chair followed me. I screamed, but was unable to get up. Mr [Nute?] had just gone to be and jumped and took me up. I could hardly breathe and was so sore for three weeks I could not draw a breath without feeling it hurt me across my chest. Now it has located in the spine of my back opposite and I can assure you I've suffered exceedingly. There is no return of my former local trouble of which I was healed in New. M-- I believe the Lord permitted this to come to me for some wise purpose. I been severely tested you know. Hannah Whitehall Smith says "there are no second causes God's hand is in every event of our lives. If he chose he could so surround us, and envelope us by his presence that nothing could touch us, but he chooses to stand aside to let the trial of affliction come to us." So looking at it in this light whatever he chooses to send us, or permit to come to us he designs for our good, and we should submissively bow beneath the rod, and cheerfully bear the crosses, as our dear saviour bore his cross for us. I have sought thus to do, and to bear patiently all the afflictions that have come to me, feeling that, "He knows best," and I want to be wholly sanctified, and made for the masters use meet.

In relation to your dear son you and others had been praying for him and can you not see, and do you not feel that this is God's way of answering prayer for him? Read Deuteronomy 7.9. He that hath promised is faithful he is not slack concerning his promises
2nd) Our prayers are often answered in a way so different from what we expect that we are surprised. God has heard and treasured up every prayer that has come from his dear Mothers burdened heart, Yes they have come up as sweet incense upon his alter, and every tear which you have shed has been bottled up. Psalms 56.8.
I remember your son said last winter when I told him how you and I had often prayed together for his conversion he said "Well, you say you have prayed for me and that God answers prayer, then why am I not a Christian?" Oh! may he give his heart to Jesus now without further delay. I trust he has, but God alone can assure him of the state of his heart. If he does fully trust in Jesus, the Spirit will witness with his spirit that he is accepted. I will pray for this I am glad you wrote me that so many have been praying for him for when a soul is to be converted I believe God stirs up the hearts of several to offer prayer. I believe a few hearts have been burdened a long time, and I have felt that God would answer your prayers.
Oh! that my husband would give himself to the Lord. Pray that he may, you and Mr. Grant. I do hope that your son may soon recover and come out a bright decided Christian. July 23. I did not close my letter last Sat. so I will write a few lines today. We just rec- a letter from our Son and wife. they think they will come to N.H. next month, she will visit her folks in Goshen, then come here. Frank will spend the most of his time here with Marrion and Sammie. The committees of both churches have given Frank a call to stay another year if Rev. Mr. [Irvis?] whom they called soon after <*we came*> he resigned does not accept, but Frank has only engaged to supply for

awhile till they get some one, he says the spiritual interest is increasing in Riverton. and more are coming out to the pr- meetings and taking part. I have felt that his prayers for that place would be answered in Gods time and way. Mr. Nute's health is pretty good he has not much appetite and is not able to do anything only a few chores, lies down often and feels weak. I have a good girl that I brought from Lynn with me, a Nova. Scotia girl. I hope my health will be better soon. Give our regards to Mr. Grant we should like to see you both. We shall feel anxious to hear how your dear son gets along. I truly <*sympathize*> sympathise with you and Mr. Grant also with your son and family. Please give my love to Mrs. Hyde tell her I Shall not forget how kind she was to make broths for Mr. Nute. My kind remembrances to Amy and all who may inquire. May you have the gifts of the Holy Spirit to sustain you during these trying scenes and the joy of yet seeing your dear boy a consecrated Christian is my earnest prayer.

Yours aff.

(Mrs.) S. F. Nute

P.S. Shall be pleased to hear from you any time, and hope you will inform us soon how your son is. I shall feel very anxious. I know how your hearts are burdened for him, but trust in God. <u>All will be well</u>.. I send this leaflet for your son.

J.W.N.

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