Subject: Travel

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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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Frenches Hotel. Wed morn, Sunrise

Dear all of you

Have just washed myself all over, counted my money & put on my California suit. I have $14<2>4,20 cts. [*cents*] have to pay my bill for room & get some Quinine & Ipicac yet think I shall be able to get off with a little over $140 which I think will be enough. I left the Flemington [*New Jersey*] people well Monday morning. had as pleasant a time as I could have expected under the circumstances coming up here. came up on the river from Elizabethtown [*New Jersey*]. sent the trunk here. paid .25 cts. [*cents*] went right to D.B. Allus office to see if the tickets were all right. found they were, & that we must pay 15 cts [*cents*] pound for trasporting luggage across isthmus. I asked them if we had to pay here. They said no at the Isthmus. & we are to board ourselves on the isthmus. The boat is to sail this afternoon at 3 oclock. we shall be sure to get on in season. From Allus office I came here & in a few minutes found Levi [*Levi Grant*] soon as our trunks came we took a room & had our three brought to it. locked it up & went to Gasts store & got my tin trunk & in the evening went to the museum. Yesterday morning got some breakfast at an eating saloon for 18 cts [*cents*] & have lived from then till now on 10 cents & walked as far too as I ever did in one day in the forenoon we went round with Gast & Luth Roser to buy what we wanted Levi got his money changed to gold. bought a blanket for 1,25 & money belt for 1,00 & we bought each of us a rifle. Levi bought a Stub & twist barrell for $28,00 I got a steel barrell for 32 the […] was 35 I think there is more than that difference in the guns John Stevens says so too. They warrentee mine to shoot 40 rods & gave us permission to try them & if we did not like them to bring them back we went over to Hoboken in the afternoon to tried them. Levi thinks mine is a good one says he would not try to do any better. he got so fierce loading his that he rammed in a ball without any powder & could not get it out. so he did not shoot it but 3 or 4 times did not shoot as well as I did then. he is going to get the ball out this morning. They gave a large cannister of Rifle powder each of us a flask bullet molds & 50 dolls & a large box of caps 250 in each & a sheath for Rifles. I wanted to see about Russen but where to do it or how to do it I dont know, after we got back from Hoboken we went up to Belleuwe hospital & found John had come down here, we called on Dr Cockey. & Dr Philo Rockwell when we got back here found John waiting for me he gave me some blue pills said they cost him nothing he is coming down to day to see us off so is Philo Rockwell & M the rest I suppose I sent home that black coat because it looked so bad I did not want to wear it. Kate put a pocket in each side of my broadcloth & put a pretty little testament in one of them. She made me a lot of good ginger crackers more than I brought from home & they are all in my trunk & every think else sleek & nice. I am perfectly well for all I know without a pain or ache

[*Written across first page*] & am glad I am going never have been sorry the first minute The small powder flask is Levis & says he has but $136,00 now he appears to want to go. Dr Rockwell is coming to introduce us to a Dr Pollard a friend of his who is going out with us & he says he is a good fellow & will take good care of us if we were sick

John is going to give me a letter to Dr Raison Physician on the S. S. Lewis

So I guess we shall be taken care of I shall send a line to Will & Mary am going to send the trunk by express shall leave the key with Gast I guess Goodbye

R.E. Burr. [*Ralph E Burr*]

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Flemington [*New Jersey*] Apr 28, 1852.

Dear all of you

Received a letter from you & one from Levi [*Levi Grant*] last night. Never was so disappointed or so glad as when I read Levi's letter, because from what you had written, I had made up my mind that he would probably stay at home & that I should have to go alone which I had decided to do if he staid. I cant feel afraid to go & if I was to stay it would be on your account & entirely against my wishes & unless I could feel differently from what I do now I should be in perfect misery all the time. Suppose you have got the letter Mary wrote when I was gone to Trenton [*New Jersey*] stating she thought I would give up going if Levi did. We got the letter <*before*> the night before we started for Trenton [*New Jersey*] & I went out in the evening <*to*> & called on Lizzie Bonnell according to agreement & started for Trenton [*New Jersey*] early next morning so I had not much time to think of it before going, & did not say positive I would go alone, but after thinking of it I made up my mind I could not stay & so had better go, when I got home was sorry Mary had written such a letter to you fearing you might use it to influence Levi to stay, but when I read your letter it seemed to me you was trying to get him to stay before you got that letter. If you are not trying to make him stay why does Pa go about town & pick up all the discourageing news he can find from Elizur Dowd & Peter Curtiss & then go & tell Levi & send him to talk with them. I should think that among such a state of feeling as you represent Norfolk [*Connectictu*] as being in he would hear enough without any help. However I dont believe Levi can be kept unless you use that letter & make him believe that I will stay if he does, which is not the case, unless I change my mind greatly from what it is now. I had made up my mind to be contented & go alone if Levi does not. Will & I went up country about 30 miles Monday & back yesterday with horse & waggon It is time this was at the office & I can write but little more. It has been so rainy & wet that I have been able to do but little work still I have been busy about something. Never enjoyed myself better for the same length of time than I have since I have been here. You may think it strange just after leaving home & with so much to discourage me from going to Cal. [*California*] but it is like being in a new home here where they are all so kind to me. Shall go to N. York [*New York*] Monday, expecting to meet Levi there.

Ralph E. Burr

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Litchfield County
Connecticut

Sunday San Juan Del Sur [*Nicaragua*] June 13

Dear all of you

Believe my diareah [*diarrhea*] or Alim passages commenced about the time we were at Castillo. Did not have but one passage a day but that was very thin it caused me no pain or trouble only as I gradually grew weaker I paid no attention to it for a day or two as Dr Welch told me [exactly?] to live very plain which was all we wer doing at that time all we were eating was a little piece of the bread which came from Greytown & a little dried Beet, At Castillo my appetite had been & was then so poor & I had had so little change for so long a time & was getting so weak with a regular daily cangee of the bowels that I began to think that if I could have a meal of victuals it might do me good the price was one dollar a meal & I had just paid out 20 cts for two junk bottles of rice coffee. the fellow charged me 20 cts for one bottle but it was very strong & I got some more hot water & filled the two, & I had not paid out but 1.20 before since leaving N.Y. I thought of the drummer & the dollar & finally concluded that if a [dinner?] would do me any good I had better get it & so did dont know as it did me any good & I have been sorry that I spent that dollar. When the Director got Toro rapids I did not feel like travelling 3 miles & so went up in the [baggae?] boat Suppose I could have walked it but had rather ride at Virgins Bay I sucked the the juice of an orange with some of the ginger crackers & started for here on a mule was pretty tired & glad to lie on a bed, <*c*>found that Dr Pollard a Dr which Dr's Cockey & Rockwell advised us to

employ if we needed any. He told me perhaps had better use the pills Dr Welch gave me which I did for a time but did not get better every thing that passed me was as thin as water. The Dr finally gave me something & I am better He has not given me any thing for sometime I have taken some of my pills & think the diareah [*diarrhea*] is checked, have not been very sick have been round every day & have been into the ocean to bathe almost morning when it did not rain. Have had a little rheumatism in my knees & a little in my shoulder the Dr's told me it would do me good to go in bathing & then rub myself until I got warm havent hardly any rheumatism today, Sunday 8 o clock The S.S. Lewis just arrived dont know when she will start probably in a day or two, Monday 1/2 past 3 I went in bathing this morning & came to breakfast I never eat any thing but a little boiled rice & sugar & some plain wheat bread & drink clear green tea after breakfast [S.?] & I took our dirty clothes & started for where there had been a spring of water but it was dried. we found [salt] water in an old canoe in which [S.?] washed out the cracker [...] which I brought from Flemington & the handkerchief which was wrapped round the dried beef The S.S. Lewis is going tomorrow. I washed out my flannel shirt & towel & [S.?] washed his things we had some tubs & drew the water out of the well it is pretty warm though I would rather had some heat on a stove for my greasy woolen shirt had plenty of soap got it very clean. I have had but one passage today in fact I dont any day & it is not watery although it is just probably not as thick as it would be if I lived on heartier food. Shall have a change of food & air tomorrow when we get on boat. Shall have to pay 25 cts to put this into the express Dr Pollard gave me seven [papers?] of [powders?] to be taken one <...> hours & two messes of of liquid to be taken <...> half table spoonsful once in 4 hours he kept me in <...> 4 or 5 days & has given me all the advice I have asked <...> has charged me 1.50.
Tuesday morn Suppose the Lewis is going today I have been at this hotel two weeks & five days they charge 10 dol a week when you stay a whole week & 2 dol a day if you stay only part of a week. I paid 20 dol at the end of the 2 weeks & now expect to have to pay 10 dol more for the five days & the passengers all have to pay 2 dol to get carried on board the steamer After paying all this I shall have about 97 dol I have been so weak I could not write until I have & now my hand trembles so I can hardly write remember me to all friends Kate in particular. tell her I have not forgotten her but that I hope to have better health & a better place to write t[o] her I have had kiss all the little children for me a dozen times apiece, wish I was in Cal [*California*] with good health & plenty to do think I shall soon be there Dont know as I can tell you where to direct a letter to me in Cal [*California*] unless you send a word to me through Daniel we expect to go to him now Should be very glad to hear from you

Your aff [*affectionate*] Son & Brother
R. E. Burr [*Ralph E. Burr*]

Flemington [*New Jersey*] Friday Morn July 9, '52

Dear parents brother & sisters

We are all well as usual. Mon. evening – I wrote Thurs for Friday when I felt that I could not send the letter away that day — I wanted to read it more — Ralph dear brother is almost constantly in my thoughts — I hope for the best but try to be reconciled to whatever shall happen. Sam does not walk yet, though he seems strong enough to do so, he is a plump solid little thing — If you have good opportunity wish you would ask Dr. Welch how he ought fed now that he is a year old — whether water should be added to his milk & whether he should eat bread with it. I think of going home this summer or fall – go alone from New York & William come for me — visit from 3 to 4 weeks long — When would you prefer me to come. I may not go at all — it is not decided — business is very dull. Ralph took the money for the stocking yarn. Kiss the children for me — Is Eddy [*Edward Grant*] in pants yet.

aff. [*affectionately*] Mary B. Hill.

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[*Addressed to*:] Mr. Erastus Burr —
Norfolk [*Connecticut*]

[*Extracts from Ralph E. Burr's letter, first date, Feb. 25 1845?*]

"Have recently had the extreme pleasure of receiving one letter from home which was commenced 14 Nov. Am still working for Wood & Clark. Mr. Clark & Mrs. Wood have both told me at different times that they would give me employment long as I remained in Cal. [*California*]" If they give him good wages intends to stay. He once wrote he had $65. a month — said nothing about it in this. Says. "I commenced here as waiter, & am now waiter, cook, Steward, Barkeeper, Store keeper & packer— do not have very hard work, but am pretty busy from before daylight till eight in the evening do not feel much like writing after work nights."

"The winter has been pleasant, much like your Oct. weather. Had the blues for a time after arriving in Cal. [*California*] & the worst when out of work. but say positively I am not disappointed in anything but the living & that is better than I expected. If I was to stay here until first Apr. could then start for home & reach N. York [*New York*] in a year from the time I left there & pay my expenses here & back & have a hundred dollars in my pocket — would not go home tomorrow if anyone would give me a free ticket." Has not been sick a day since he has been in that house & weighs 170 lbs. without coat, vest or boots — "People who expect to spend their lives in Cal. [*California*] Think no more of a bit (12 1/2 cts. I believe) than they would of a cent at home, but I do a little" "Feb. 27 – rec'd [*received*] two letters from home yesterday, one mailed at Flemington [*New Jersey*] Sept 2. & one at Norfolk [*Connecticut*] Sept. 17. & another from Flemington [*New Jersey*] & one from Daniel mailed at Parks Bar. Have written to him & one to Ethan Pendleton this forenoon."

[*P*]oint Defiance [*California*] is 30 miles Northeast of Marysville [*California*] at the junction of the South & North Yubas "Carrie asks if I find I know much about cooking – I don't know <u>much</u> about it, but they had a cook hired here when I first came who made cooking his business & they considered him good, but the boarders all say I cook better than he did."

[*written across side:*] Ralph wishes to be remembered to all friends —

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

From Caroline while in Wis. speaks of Abbie's doings & sayings

Prairieville W.T. [*Wisconsin Territory*] Sab. [*Sabbath*] Eve Nov. 15, 1846.

My dear Sister,

I suppose you have been thinking of us as being in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] these three or four weeks, & have expected before this a letter from me but I have kept deferring writing & have no sufficient reason, the principal one is that I wished to wait until we got settled by ourselves – Daniel's sickness prevented his putting up a house [on our?] lot as he expected & we have now procured a room in Mr. Root's house for wh. [*which*] we are to give 50 cts. [*cents*] per week – there is a recess in the room for a bed – we have room in the cellar & room for a flour barrel in the chamber – think we shall be very comfortable indeed – expect to have a cupboard – day before yesterday we went of our own thing found them all in good condition, & took what we need to keep house with.

I believe you know that Mr. Root lives in the village – we have been staying here since my arrival but not living by ourselves –

Daniel intends to teach this winter in the village it will be two or three days before he will know whether he can have one – intends to have $18 per month & board himself – he is not able to labor much out & fears he shall not be this winter & for this reason thinks best to teach – about the first of Sept. he had an attack of Bilious fever & was for a few days quite sick, after a

partial recovery from the fever he had three weeks of ague & fever before my arrival – he then escaped [shaking?] three weeks (but continued feeble) & there commenced again & kept at it four or five days in succession – he broke it by the universal panacea, quinine – this last week his health has been better than for 10 weeks previously – Bilious fever, chill fever & fever & ague [seem?] to be very prevalent this fall in this entire western country the sickness is abating in this region – it has not in this vicinity assumed a malignant aspect, there are comparatively but very few deaths. My health is much better than it was through the summer – I weaned Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] & cleansed my stomach wh. [*which*] I expect are the causes of my improvement. Abby is now pretty well. She was severely sick a day or two on the Lake had high fever & bowel complaint. She was very unwell for a week or two after we came & has had one or two ill turn since – teething & worms seem to cause her sickness – several have remarked that she looks much as she did when she left except she looks [more?] puny – she speaks a few words plain & attempts to speak many more – we think her easily governed – when reproved in any way she usually appears very much grieved covers her face with her little hands & sobs – she calls Ma Ma & Pa a great deal, says no no no, when asked or told to do any think she does not wish to.

Ralph took us to the State Line Depot we staid at Uncle Collars Sab. [*Sabbath*] night Oct 11. [Sam?] Thankful there, sent love to you, & I think asked me to tell you to write her – Mon. Oct 12. left St. Line about 5 o'clock P.M. went by rain road to Buffalo in company with cousin D.B. Hulburt arrived there Tues eve at 8 o'clock. Wed. morn. left Buf. on the Steam Boat Niagara & Sunday noon reached Milwaukie I stopped at public house until Mon. when I came to Prairieville with a citizen of the place – while in Mil. called on Mrs. Woodbridge she said she should insist on my staying with her while I remained in town had she not a house full having 20 boarders – she has not built a new house as she was expected to do in the Spring –

I found my dear husband pale & think – I need not tell you the rejoicing each felt at meeting – Although he expected when he sent for me to return this fall that we should be in different circumstances then we are yet he is glad I am here – he had a good many crying spells in our absence especially when he was sick & could not bear the thought of being alone through the winter & you know that I could not be happy when thinking of him sick or suffering so <*for the*> I think we shall live very comfortable indeed this winter certainly if he gets a school. believe his sickness has now cost him not far from $15. Dr. [Van Wleck?] took the $10 note against those Irishmen who owed for the ox they billed, suppose it is not certain that he can collect it but he thinks he shall be able to – Daniel thinks by his being sick he has lost the opportunity of selling at least $40 worth of sand – he was expecting to put up a small frame house on Joe's lot – The man who lives in the house in Milwaukie is lathing & plastering it for the [rent?] <*the*> expect there is still some degree of doubt whether we shall be able to get a deed of that place, but if we do not, shall not be obliged to deed away ours.

The expense of my journey here was $19.50 – I would like you to send this letter to our people I want you to write us soon my particularly – how you like &c. – vry aff. [*very affectionately*]

Sister Caroline

Please tell me when you write how Dea. Grant's family are.

M. Burr [*Mary Burr Hill*]

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[*Description of John Grant's honeymoon in London with Sarah Gertrude Day Grant in 1857?]*

On Friday we visited the British Museum -- a most interesting place -- just across the street from our Lodgings -- Thurs The rain still continued -- In the P.M. we visited "[Hucks?] Houses of Parliament" and received admission to the Gallery of the House of Commons

Heard among others Lord John Russell, -- The Chancellor of Exchange Mr. Thomas & Dr. Mitchell -- saw Lord Palmerton Mr. De Israeli &c &c The session has been long and there [seem?] but few numbers in attendance. I was interested in their discussions -- especially that on the Canadian question. We returned home soon after 9 o'clock -- though the session continued much later

Saturday tho. [*though*] cloudy was not raining, and I commenced "doing" London in Earnest. Having obtained the preceding day a permit to visit the rooms of Parliament during Sat's recess -- we first took Westminster Abbey which is near by. Of all that I saw and felt and thought which within those doubly consecrated walls, I cannot now speak. Time will fail me -- words even more. We then passed through Houses of Parliament -- saw every part of that vast -- still unfinished structure -- had interesting conversation with members and others, and much Edified left for a stroll through the Parks while my friend went home.

No one feature of London has pleased me so much as the Parks and Squares. They are settled throughout the city -- so far as I have seen it -- in great numbers -- and are very tasteful and beautiful. Leaving Westminster I entered at James' Park -- passed Buckingham Palace into Green Park and on by the Equestrian Station by the Duke of Wellington into Hyde Park -- traversing the whole length of which (it contains 400 acres) I spent some time most delightfully in rambling through Kensington Gardens, in conversing with an intelligent Londoner who gave invaluable information -- I never behold a prettier spot than these Gardens But I cannot describe

On Tues -- 13th we visited the delightful Gardens of Kew and afterwards went to Richmond where Thomson [*James Thomson author of* The Seasons] the poet lived and died -- the views of the country from Richmond Hill are enchanting fine place surely to inspire such a poet -- visited the house where Thomson lived the arbor where he wrote saw his table which is standing in the arbor as he left it. Went also to his tomb in the old church. The rain prevented us from going to Hampton house &. We went by invitation on an excursion up the Thames to Walton -- The company consisted of 6 or 8 London merchants.

You will still address to Mr. Petire's care at London -- as the continuant postage charged by the 1/4 ounce -- I believe.

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Oberlin [*Ohio*], Aug 1st 1876

Dear Cousin,

I was very sorry to part with you in the manner I did. I counted so upon seeing you at the Art Gallery, that I did not even provisionally bid you "<u>good bye</u>", I was a few minutes late to my appointment, but haunted the neighborhood of those pieces of statuary so long, that I am convinced you, for some reason, did not try to meet me there. I had counted on a fine time looking over those grant works of art with you, I know nothing of your movements after you left Phila. [*Philadelphia*] but suppose you have long since found your way back to Ct. [*Connecticut*]

I am now attending Commencement exercises here. Have seen the Theolgues & Ladies graduate & tomorrow expect to see the gents do likewise. All seems passing off very pleasantly.

Mr & Mrs Smith came to day from Ill [*Illinois*], Mrs S. & Prof. Cowles are sister & brother to Mrs. Corbin, If you see her you may say they are very well. We are all well here, I saw Miss Hill your Cousin this morn. in usual health. Has been pretty warm to day but we have no such excessive heat as about two weeks since, I suppose Theodore is now at Phila. [*Philadelphia*] Do you know Cousin John's whereabouts? I got here the eve of July 6th, Shall start for Grinnell, Iowa Aug 3rd I think. Hope to hear from you there at your earliest convenience, I was a good deal worried about you But had made all my arrangements for going on the evening train & thought it extremely doubtful about my being able to find you if I waited over, I had a very pleasant ride through Penn'a [*Pennsylvania*] I thought the mountain scenery very fine, & there certainly were never more beautiful views than the Susquehanna & Juniata, When did you reach home? How have you found the friends? When you write Cousin Abbie tell her, I shall not much longer neglect her <u>very</u> <u>kind</u> & <u>pleasant</u> letter. Give love to your Mother, Uncle Auntie & the others when you see them, In great haste

Affectionately your Cousin
Wm [*William*] Burton

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elizabeth Grant

Millbrook
Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

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

East Liberty [*Pennsylvania*] May 17: 1839

Dear Mother,

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

Your affectionate Son
Wm. [*William*] Burton

Dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

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

Love to all.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. 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 very very glad 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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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elijah Grant
Care of Deac. [*Deacon*] Elijah Grant
Millbook [*Millbrook*]
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Shelburn Nov. 24, 1845

My dear Mother

I have been on the point of writing you for sometime -- one reason I have not done so is that I been exceedingly busy -- going round from place, and the other that I wished to wait <*that*> till I might have some news worth communicating -- What I have in the shapes of news is soon told -- My health has much improved since I was in Colebrook [*Connecticut*] though I have been laboring quite hard most of the time -- Some of the time too hard -- harder that I intend to labor in future -- Another item of news is that I am expecting and intending to spend the winter somewhere South -- probably in Delaware -- and shall probably employ my time on teaching a class in [Minather?] -- <*composed*> the class is to be composed of the reinforcement which is to join our Mission next year -- A third item is that Miss Moose of South Hadley has consented to take the place of our beloved Mary [*Mary Grant Burgess*] whom God has taken to himself -- This item of intelligence is of very recent origin -- only 3 or 4 days old -- I communicated to you as soon as I can -- for you are interested in such matters -- this third item is connected with a fourth <*and determines it*> -- viz that I cannot leave America on my return to India till after Aug. 1st 1846 -- I have heard once incidentally that sister Martha is not as well as when I saw her -- I should to hear from her -- and from you all -- I have of Joel's marriage -- and that he is gone West –

I hope some of you will write me before long -- It will be nearly two weeks before I shall leave Boston to go South -- and letters will find me direct to care of A.B.C.J.M. [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*]

It will be impossible for me to visit you this autumn again -- But hope to do so in the Spring -- To morrow I go to Williamstown and then return to Boston the latter part of the week -- Though perhaps I may stop in the valley of the Connecticut to spend the Sab [*Sabbath*] --

My kind regards to all the family and friends –

I am as ever

Affectionately your son [*in-law*]
E. Burgess

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Austinburg, O. [*Ohio*] May 28, 1856

My dear Brother & Sister,

Phelps & Elizabeth have each of them invited Jack & his wife to meet you at their homes. Will you write directly, & let me know when you expect to start from home. Not that I expect to see you but I like to think of you as you are.

On Tuesday May 20, just three months after calling at Cleveland [*Ohio*] [T … S…]. I left there, passed Tues. & Wed. night at Mr. Raphael Marshall's in Painesville [*Ohio*], then in Mr. M's

[*Marshall*] carriage in company with Mr. & Mrs. Corbin I came to Mr. Burton's. This week I go to Kingsville [*Ohio*], stay with Mrs. Betsy (Dowd) Gillett till next week, then return to Cleveland [*Ohio*], consult further with my physician there, Dr. Cushing; perhaps have my throat cauterized as it has already been three times with nitrate of silver = [lunar caustic?] & take a new start. I seem to be pretty well a part of the day, but my strength don't last & I must rest often & long. It is better I keep in open air much, when dry & mild, & if I gain strength as I may, perhaps I shall sympathize still further with some, who are serving the cause of education, before I return<*ing*> to N. Eng. [*New England*], may not see home before July, probably I shall not visit Connecticut before autumn.

My throat & breathing organs are susceptible & diseased, & the mucous coat about my lungs; but probably <*not*> the lungs have not disease fixed upon them. I cough but little now. Cod Liver Oil has sustained & strengthened me wonderfully. Cauterizing my throat & larynx has seemed to have a good effect. My object must be to promote my general health.

Mr. Burton has a cold and tender lungs confining him to his house for several days. His family well. Mary Burton has something of the loveliness of her sister Mary.

Have the goodness to send this to Mr. & Mrs. Phillips, as I cannot write them now.

A young lady in good health is to be my traveling companion after first week in June.

Mr. & Mrs. Corbin take Louisa Marshall home with them next week, or week after.

How is your son John? What news from Daniel & Marcus?

In sisterly love,
Z.P. Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]

I write at Marguretts, 2 ½ mi. from her father's.
Write me care Prof St. John Cleveland, Ohio.
[*p.s. written down side of page is illegible*]

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

Berlin [*Connecticut*], July 22, 1839

Dear Brother,

I can render no apology for the long delay which I have made in writing except a multitude of business. I myself have been well and cannot but hope you enjoy the same blessings <*thogh*> though the fact that you have not yet written <*to me*> to blame me for my delay has sometimes almost led me to fear that you cannot do it. But I have some news to tell you, which perhaps from what I have written to you before you may not expect. It is that I have closed my school no more to commence it. The reason of this is that the teacher of the English <*scho*> school here whom I have before mentioned to you as taking a part of my scholars from me, has now advanced so far that he is not content with the tuition of the scholars he can fairly obtain, but wishes that his school may be united to mine, and he has so many friends among the Trustees of the Academy of which I have charge that the Trustees <*of the*> are of the same mind. Such an arrangement which would take from me half the state donation ($150 per year) together with the absurdity of attempting to unite two independent and to some extent rival schools <*could*> induced me to decline having any thing more to do with the school. I closed my school a little more than a week since, just one year after commencing. I have spent the time since in visiting among my acquaintances and friends here, and have passed the time very agreeably. I am now ready to start and am waiting only for a vessel to go to New-York. Unfavorable winds detain those which are now absent from returning but as soon as they come there will be no

delay on my part. The greater part of those who own vessels here do not choose to run them at present for <*corn*> corn the chief article of trade, has fallen to so low a price that they cannot make any profit by it. There are however one or two which are going again as soon as possible after they return. As they charge but 25 cents a day for board it is possible that I may stay in New-York several days as I can <*by*> be almost at home in the vessel. It may be may be that I shall stay there and at New-Haven [*Connecticut*] till after Commencement at College, but I will write more of this after I reach New-York.

I believe I have the esteem of nearly all if not all, the people here. Even those who were unwilling I should stay on the terms of last year would gladly have employed me on their own. Every scholar of my school shed tears on the day of our separation, and some fairly cried. But I could only wish they might have a teacher who <*cou*> would serve them better and better deserve their affection. I must say that I am more and more pleased with the people here. The acts of kindness and respect which, times without number, they have performed towards me none but the most ungrateful <*can*> could ever forget.

I received a letter a few days since from sister Elizabeth the first I have received for a long time. She says she is looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when she expects me to visit her, which I fear is distant. I have heard nothing from sister Mary since she left home.

I should like to have you write soon and direct your letter to New–York

In haste

Your affectionate brother,

Joel Grant.

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. John Grant
New-Haven
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Boston Nov. 2, 1839

Dear Brother;

I am now able to forward the money I borrowed of you, which, though it is <about> all I borrowed, will not I fear be enough to pay your expenses. If this should be the case you must borrow of Wm. [*William*] Gilbert and send it to him as soon as you get home, or perhaps you can be trusted till you can send the money, or perhaps again, you may not be well enough to leave New-Haven [*Connecticut*] at present and you can write to father and have him send you some before you go home.

The only item of news I have is that our ship is to visit New-York before she leaves the country, and it is probable she will make the visit some time next week. She is getting into pretty good trim now, and I suppose we go to New-York principally to take on board Com. Ridgeley, who is to be our commander, and whose dignity might be hurt if <he> we were not obliged to go to him, rather than he to come to us. But whatever the reason may be, I build upon the fact some additional hope that I shall be able to visit home before we go. I think I can make arrangements so that I shall meet the ship at New-York, and while it is going from here there I will go home. If such should be the case I will visit you at New Haven [*Connecticut*] if you are not well enough to <go> meet me at home.

We are making arrangements for our “Mess” as it is called, that is for our boarding establishment. I have paid $70 towards furnishing it with necessary food. I expect the expenses for board will be rather large. If I can get along for $5 per week it is as cheap as I expect. Provisions are quite dear I am told in that part of the world to which we are going. On the whole I think I shall make out to spend my time very agreeably, though I am well satisfied I must look to other sources than my associates for happiness. I must be shut up with 500 or more men, all of them from the lowest ranks of society, a compound of ignorance, indolence and vice. The offices are certainly entitled to rank better, for they are men from the better <*raks*> ranks of society, but their education is not I expect very good, at least not so good as it ought to be, - and their principles such as we might expect from persons who from early childhood have had no religious training, who seldom or never the voice of prayer but daily listen to oaths till they almost become

their natural language, such must be my associates, and though I see good evidence that they are desirous to treat me with respect, yet I rejoice that I have always cultivated a habit of seeking my happiness in my own bosom, for now I shall have occasion to look to that source, rather than any other. My situation is not <*to be*> like that of a person who goes to teach school on land for he is situated among a moral & religious people a great portion of whom can agree with him on subjects of a moral nature. But I am not discouraged. No, were it not that I wish to see home once more I would gladly set sail on Monday. I wish to see our vessel "ploughing the foam of the sea with her brazen beak" I long to see her sweeping over the waves in "light majestic beauty" though from her size I should suppose she could never sail very lightly. Still they say she can outsail any ship that was ever built; though one of the first ships built by the United States she is <*one* > the best. There were however two or three frigates built about the same time which are said to be nearly as good. The Brandywine, <*however*> which was built in 1825 cannot hold a candle to the United States, for a few years since they tried their strength by racing together and the United State beat the Brandywine "all hollow" But I am in a hurry, so no more at present from your affectionate brother

Joel Grant.

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

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

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

The outside wall is built very strong and in some instances the only opening it has is the entrance the <*light*> windows all opening inside towards the court, which is an open space paved with marble brick or stone according to the wealth or taste of the proprietor. In the middle is a cistern so fixed as to receive all the water which falls upon the roof, and as this means is universally resorted to procure water for use it is a matter of much importance. The roofs essentially differ from any I have ever seen. They are nearly flat and like all the floors of the house are built of brick supported by wooden sleepers and plank.

The top of the house being then made safe by the height of the outer and inner walls becomes a very pleasant place for the gambols of children, the dances of <*the*> light hearted youth, and the thoughtful walks of soberage or youthful gravity. In this country the advantage derived from them is inconceivable. The seasons do not vary here as they do in Colebrook [*Connecticut*]; the winters are not cold the summers are not intensely hot, consequently there are but few days in the year in which a promenade on the roof will not be agreeable. By this means every parent can

afford to his children a play ground without the necessity of sending them into the street. <*for amusement*>. If there are any windows opening into the street they are defended by strong iron gratings thus rendering entrance against the will occupier impossible, without the use of battering rams or some like instrument.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother Joel Grant

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

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

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

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

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

Upon more mature thought I have also concluded that the course you have adopt of entering Freshman is wise. There is much [to be] learned, and next to my desire to see [you a] good, useful and happy man is my desire [.....*page is cut*] you a learned one. You will I trust never [be] one of those who study merely to recite your lessons, nor one who is satisfied because you know as much as three quarters of your companions. It would not be surprising if you should find some of your classmates much more advanced than yourself, but let not that discourage you. If you will properly apply yourself, I will warrant you will ere eighteen months have passed outstrip many of them. Let me caution you against <*bout*> thinking your studies hard. This is a complaint you seldom hear from good students, you should rather rejoice that your studies afford you so good an opportunity to try your powers. Above all never let your aversion to a hard lesson prevent your using your utmost efforts to conquer it.

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

I trust you have some correct ideas of the importance of selecting good associates. In your case you should be careful not to associate with any one who uses profane language or who

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother

Joel Grant.

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[*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*:] Mr. Joel Grant
Colebrook
Ct [*Connecticut*]
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Ipswich [*Massachusetts*], Aug. 20, 1838

Dear Brother Joel,

Yours of Aug. 8, was duly & gladly received Aug. 13. I had previously learned that you were in Md, [*Maryland*] am happy to find you situated among a kind people, though I can imagine that it may require skill on your part to prevent their kindness from encroaching upon your time, & you will not always probably be able to do it. Do you find them an inquisitive people? I would suggest your guarding well your cash, & other valuables. You speak of their manners being somewhat peculiar. I should like to converse with you about them. I suppose slaves are common.

I was interested in what you said of your journey, valued your remark respecting Mr. Tracy, & was pleased that notwithstanding the heat, &c. you enjoyed the excursion. Hope you will ever be disposed to enjoy whatever falls in your way suited to excite pleasant emotions.

Sometime I hope you will find it convenient to stop at Philadelphia a few days. Hope you have some acquaintance there to show you places of interest. Dr. James Patterson, (who with his household were patterns of Christian hospitality) is now no more. I stopped with his family once when there. The waterworks, Franklin's tomb, the House of Refuge, a Jewish synagogue, the porcelain manufactory, the Widow's Asylum, the hall where congress formerly assembled, & Pratt's garden were the principle places I visited when there. The new fountain, Girard college & many other things you will like to see. It was the advice of the good & accomplished Rev. Mr. Stevens who died at Paris, to a young minister who was journeying to see all the works of nature & art that he could to treasure up knowledge of men & Things as far as possible, & to be sure to consecrate all his acquisitions to God. Would not such advice be apropos in your case?

As I think it not consistent for me to return home to enjoy a visit at this time, though nothing would be more congenial to my feelings, I think of more things which I wish to say than I can put on paper. I will hope however, that we may yet behold each other's faces in the flesh. The day your letter came I learned from a letter Dr. Anderson wrote Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar, that the reinforcement to the Murathee mission will not go out before next spring. I have not determined upon any course for the coming winter. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar is still with me & will remain till the close of this term [*at Ipswich Female Seminary*], Sept. 18. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] gives her her board, & she instructs me some in the M. [*Murathee*] language. I have paid my board by instructing a class in Whateley's logic a work which I wish you to understand. I have been spending a week & a half at Manchester, with Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. During that time as I had become somewhat tired of study, I left all my books at home & rested. Last Sat. my birthday I returned. I have been calling myself almost 28 all summer, but I believe I made a mistake, & that I am only 27. For one lesson while at home, I wish you would get each of the children to remember the year in which they were born, & brother try to do them good in every way you can.

If I could see you we would have a talk about personal appearance, politeness &c. I feel that these are matters far from being despised. I should judge from what you say of your location in Md. [*Maryland*] that your situation would not be very favorable for this kind of improvement. But as Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar says these little marks of gentility & politeness cost nothing, & do give us influence, they should received attention. Do nothing in your own room that would offend persons of refined habits, & delicate taste. And let your personal appearance be neat & always respectable. I have sometimes made mistakes upon these points, & probably shall make more, but I intend to try. Can not you do something in this respect for those at home? Next time you write, mention any thing you please upon this subject & also about your society in Berlin, the state of religion in the vicinity, the opportunities for general improvement & I wish to know the ages, the general character of your school & your plan [. . .] in teaching. I visited a school in Manchester last week. It was a [. . .] one, there was excellent order. They read & spelt well. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*]. says she can judge of a school by their reading & spelling. I look upon Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] as one of the best, & most judicious persons I know, & value all the time I have to be with her. She writes no friendship or business letters, & finds it necessary to deprive herself many privileges & to take special care, that she may plan for the school, & be able to speak to them from four to six or seven hours a week. She wishes love to you. Whether you write her or myself, we shall both get the intelligence. Her expenses are necessarily great. She rides considerable, as that is her best medicine.

I wish you to sing some wherever you are, & think you might be a help in a choir at Berlin. I hope our brothers & sisters at home will soon learn to sing. <*Where*> How shall we direct our letters to you in Md. [*Maryland*] I find many things unsaid, but I must write a little to mother & if the thought should stray along your convolutions that my advice borders upon the officious, your generous heart will I think & rightly too impute it to my anxiety for your welfare. I may not write you again for some time but ever remain

Your very aff [*affectionate*] sister
Mary Grant

Ever dear Mother,

I thank you a thousand times for your letter of July 14, & a few times for your last. You had not time I know or you would have written more at that time. I do not wish to complain, but I

did feel some grieved that Mother or Daniel or John or father did not fill out the sheet, or that they did not even send love. I want to know whether you have any help, whether the children do well, how my cousins Margaret, [Dinian?], Maria, Elizabeth &c. are employed & how Amanda is doing &c. I want to know about your religious joys & sorrows, about our church Sab [*Sabbath*] school & I wonder if you cannot all fill out a sheet while Joel is at home or soon after he returns & tell me of his visit. The school at S. [*South*] Hadley closed Thurs. of this week. Dr. Hawes addresses them at the close. Miss Caldwell then closes her connection with the school. Mr. Burgess has visited here & spent nearly a week. He left Aug. 1. He is in good health & I enjoyed his visit. He has been preaching in NY [*New York*] for three Sab. [*Sabbath*] & will be there next Sab. [*Sabbath*]

Those capable of advising me as well as myself very much doubt the propriety of my being engaged with the care of a school next winter. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar who is a very valuable character is decided. She thinks I shall not [*unsure where cross-writing continues*] it not best. I find mother in Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] & Mrs. G. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] is not known this way at all by her inane commencing with P. & when you send love as I always like you to do to her, please use some other expression. Miss [*Cynthia*] Farrar wishes a kind remembrance to my dear father & mother. I wish your prayers & desire that you may be blessed & sustained.

Your aff [*affectionate*] Mary

[*Writing in margins*:] About John's going to Md. [*Maryland*] I do not know but it may be best, you could take care of him. I wish he had chosen the bible for his counselor. If he should go, I think it might be best for Daniel to attend the district school & give a good deal of attention to singing should there be an opportunity. If there is a singing school, it appears to me it would be well for Martha to read & study at home, & attend much to singing. Here I would say to mother that I learned some in singing by singing with her & Martha would learn more. If John remains at home it seems to me that Daniel would do as well to teach next winter, & after having taught a season, he will be better prepared to profit by going from home to some established school. Aunt [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] wishes her love to each of you. My love to each of the cousins.

If our people have no letter paper, will you procure some. I think they should write all their letters upon such paper. Mrs. Howell sends love to Emiline. Eno. says she shall write her friends there soon.

Very aff. [*affectionate*] Mary

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[*Daniel and John Grant to Joel Grant (?)*]

Marysville May 22 – 52

Dear Brother

I have just written a letter to Mr. Hill to rent the house in Mil [*Milwaukee*] for enough to pay expences if he can or to sell it for what he can get if he thinks it will be worth no more or is not a suitable spot for a good building It has worked so far about as I expected & I suppose it is not much matter what becomes of it

I can give no Idea now what the situation of the city is but presume that lot is not very favorable

You may give Mr. Hill such instructions as you please. I wrote to him to let you know what expence he has been at & to have you forward him the money I think the $119, that is deposited some where in such shape that I can't get it will be sufficient to make you good if it is not I think it is in my power to do so

Many of the new comers to this country are dreadfull homesick & all that I have seen wish they had stayed at home but they say now we are here <*you*> we must do the best we can Nothing meets their expectation

The strong reasons for my staying here you have before this time I did not give them for strong reasons but for reasons that I thought sufficient <*reasons*> under the circumstances

Your aff [*affectionate*] brother

Daniel Grant

Dear Brother

As Daniel has left a few lines to write here, I will add a few words I am now stopping in Maryville how long I shall stop here I do not know though not more than a month I think. Where I shall go do not know but I have a place in view but certain reasons prevent me from going now. The Water in the rivers is now very high, and the weather very warm. One reason for my staying here is so many rushing into the country from every direction. There is a good deal of excitement getting up in the country in respect to the chinese. Why the chinese should be such particular objects of veng<*e*>ance I do not know unless it is that <*that*> they have kept themselves secluded so long and then all at once come rushing in to this country. But I think there will good <*good*> grow out of it. The chinese that are here do not come from China proper but from [Tartarry?]. The first that came from there some five. I believe the first that came the chinese were very wild and did all in there power to send them back again but without success I believe. This is all that I shall write this mail I think.

I.M. Grant

I am well. I received a letter from Abby this last mail.

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

Piketon Ohio Sept 24, 1842

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother
Joel Grant.

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

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

Steam Boat Chesapeake
Oct. 13, 1842.

Dear Brother,

I am at last on my way to Wisconsin, after waiting two days at Cleveland for a boat. I received your letter yesterday, and should have answered it from Cleveland if I had not thought it better policy to wait so as to inform you of my safe arrival in Wisconsin, if I ever get there, and so I merely sent a newspaper from Cleveland. I staid at Elizabeth's from Friday afternoon till Monday afternoon and from Piketon went to Circleville, where I visited Frederic Brown's family. From thence I went to Blendon 12 miles north of Columbus, where Mr. Gillespie's family reside, and there I staid one day. From thence I went to Canton, where I staid from Saturday night till the next Tuesday. thence I went to Oberlin, Wellington, and Penfield, where I found that Mr. Swift was absent in Pennsylvania and would not return for several weeks, and of course the note is not yet paid. I returned to Oberlin and from thence <*to*> came to Cleveland, Oct. 10, about 4 P.M. but as no boat left, for Chicago till to day I found I might as well have waited in Oberlin two days longer. The particulars of my journey I omit for the present.

I have a small room to myself on board the boat, and if we do not blow up or burn up, I shall pass the four, or five days, pleasantly as I have no fear of winds. The engine, however jars the boat a great deal, so that it is a little difficult to write, so difficult indeed, that I presume many people would suppose it impossible. The boat is one of 750 tons with very good accommodations. We have all sorts of passengers and a good many of each sort. There are a great many emigrants to Wisconsin among the rest. The weather is very fine now, but it would be surprising if it should continue so all the passage. Should the wind arise we shall have some delicious specimens of sea sickness beyond doubt,

Oct 14. Weather still fair. We reached Detroit about 9 o'clock last night, and left considerable portion of our passengers there, 120 I believe. To day about 2 o'clock we entered Lake Huron. I have become partially acquainted to day with a Mr. Hathaway who has resided in Wisconsin ever since 1833 and has been extensively employed as a surveyor of the public lands. He adds his testimony to that of others with whom I have conversed concerning the fertility, healthiness, and convenience of the country, and I have sanguine hopes of being able to procure a good place there. Now is the time to buy in Wisconsin. If the tide of emigration should flow there for five years as it has during the last summer, lands will be as high in proportion to their value as they are in Ohio. Our boat has 10 families going there besides a large number of young men who have no families. They are from New England, New-York and Ohio, and in general will make good settlers. We have also two farmers on board who moved to Wisconsin three years since and have been this summer on a visit to the east and from them I have learned many interesting particulars. Their representations of the number of emigrants are truly astonishing.

Oct. 15. To day the weather has been rather cold, and the north west wind quite too strong to permit us to get along much. At about 11 o'clock we stopped at a gloomy place called Presqu' Isle to take in wood. This is the only place we have stopped at since yesterday afternoon. On leaving this place the wind sprung up right ahead and raised such a sea that many passengers are sick, and we cannot advance more than four miles an hour. From Prequ' Isle to Mackinaw is 75 miles, nearly N.W. Prequ' Isle has no inhabitants except a light house keeper, and those individuals who prepare wood for the steam boats.

Oct. 16. We reached Mackinaw about midnight last night, and have been to day in Lake Michigan. The weather is cold, but not unpleasant and if nothing happens we shall reach Milwaukie to-morrow morning.

Oct. 17. About 7 o'clock to day we came in sight of Milwaukie, and about half past eight we brought our boat as near as possible to town. The harbor is not good, the depth of water on the bar being only from 2 to 3 feet. A small steam boat towing two large flat bottomed scows, came out after a considerable time and took us to town while the other boat pursued its way to Chicago which is distant 90 miles. The delay occasioned by the badness of the harbor was so great that it was nearly noon before we reached town.

I have here two class-mates who are settled, one as a lawyer the other as a physician. Milwaukie is a place which appears very flourishing notwithstanding the hard times which have affected other places. One of which my class mates tells me that during the past summer above 200 houses have been erected. The place appears now about the size of Canton. The people here think that a few thousand dollars will make their harbor a very good one, and I see no reason to doubt it. After passing the bar there is waters enough, and I presume that ere long

perhaps the very next session, Congress will make appropriations which if well applied will make the harbor a good one.

One of Harvey Grant's boys lives at Prairie Village about 20 miles west of here, and I intend to go to see him to-morrow.

Wheat is carried from Milwaukie to Buffalo for 10 cts a bushel and flour for 37 1/2 cts a barrel, circumstances which make a farm near Milwaukie better situated in respect to market than most parts of the state of Ohio.

I shall not be able to decide, whether you had better come here this fall in season to let you know; so you had better conclude to stay <*at*> in Conn. this winter. Try to employ your time so as to raise a little money; even a little may be of great use to you.

I think I shall not write again before I return, unless I find occasion to stay longer than I now anticipate. If I remain here more than a fortnight or longer than till Nov. 2 I will write but should I not I shall not write. My present intention is to get home Nov. 10.

Your affectionate brother
Joel Grant

Evening of Oct. 17. It rains now quite hard and promises to rain to-morrow. The air is cold and chilly -- a fire is almost necessary. My health is good although within the last day, or two I have taken a cold -- the first one since I came to the U.S.

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[*On stationary — Beloit College*]

Beloit, Wis. [*Wisconsin*], July 21st, 188 [ ]

My dear Mother —

Your letter should have been answered before this. But since Almon went away day after day I have felt so tired that I have continued to put off all work that I could.

We are having a very trying season. everything in the vegetable line is literally burning up so dry dry and a great deal of hot weather. we shall have nothing from our garden even the tomatoes are drying up. I was glad to hear that they are fairly comfortable at Edwards. I am so sorry for Lucy to have to try get along alone with all those little children.

Almon left here two weeks ago to-day went to Boston visited Willies. also visited Aur. Wilson at Billeraca Went on to Hallowell where he met Mr. Bacon when they proceeded to the Captain's where Mr. Bacon will spend a few days, there go home for the principal part of his vacation. His father lives in East Hampton. His mother has been in poor health for a long time. Mr. B. [*Bacon*] is the oldest of six children. Almon did not know when he went away whether or not he should be able to visit you. Will probably write you himself before he comes home. He will not stop in Oberlin [*Ohio*].

John Grant expects to marry Aug. 11th Miss Anna Coffins of Wiscasset Maine. Almon expects to see him this summer.

Prof. Shurtleff has gone to Europe I suppose. He was expecting to go the last I heard. Laura writes Carrie that they are to take a trip up the Lakes pretty soon.

Carrie is not very well. fever and continuous headaches. Mr. Bacon has let her take his piano during vacation. She enjoys it very much. Harry well and lazy. Arthur well and industrious.

President Chapin has resigned and Pres E. D. Eaton of Oak Park Ill. [*Illinois*] elected in his place. Mr. Wright one of Almonds assistant has gone to Europe. We shall hardly get as pleasant a man in his place. I have not yet heard from Almon since he reached the Captains, but hope to hear in a day or two. I hope that you and father are well.

With much love to you both.

Your aff. daughter
Abby C.G. Burr

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[*Note attached — part of an account of travel to CA? in Daniel Grant papers*]

May 30 Traveled over hills till late in the afternoon when we again came to the river and at the rested a little and then drove across another bend in the river and encamped about two o'clock in the morning —

Oct. 1. To day found plenty of good feed Traveled 10 miles

2. The feed continues good Dis. [*distance*] 14 miles —

3. We crossed a bend of the river. The road is bad <*and*> Small pines and cedar begin to spot the hills. We are now getting into the high mountains again and snow is in sight

4. & 5. We continued up the river — The mountains on our right are steep and high and covered with scattering pines of large size and on our left not as high and is nearly barren. Feed good. Dis. 27 miles.

6. Our road led us over a low hill about six miles when we entered a deep canon of the mountains and we followed it up about four miles when night came on and we camped without grass. The road now leads over piles of almost impassible rocks

7. We continued to tumble over rocks till about noon when we found ourselves rolling over a good road in a pleasant mountain valley where we encamped for the night though the feed was poor being eat close. In the canon we found the elders older and some nuts and berries
There name was unknown to me

8. The road was very good to Red Lake. A A Red Lake (which is a very small lake or frog pond as I should call it) we arrived at the foot of the dividing ridge of the Calafornia Mts. [*California Mountains*] and up this we were obliged to carry our loads on our backs and double teams for nearly empty wagons Distance 11 miles

9. At half past nine we gained the summit of the ridge and we drove over a rough and rocky road to another small lake known by the name of Lake Valley where we arrived at one o'clock and encamped This is at the foot of the highest ridge of the Mts. Distance five miles

10 This morn. when we arose the ground was covered with snow two inches deep. To day we ascended the highest ridge and reached the summit at half past four a distance of four or five miles. We left an ox that gave out and ascended about three miles and encamped. It has snowed some all day here: and there is no feed for our cattle Distance eight miles

11 This morn. the snow is three inches deep or more. The teams were started at half past eight and I went back after the ox that was left and labored with him all day but did not get him more than four miles and finding that I was given to be benighted I left him and went on and overtook the teams in camp a little after dark. The snow has melted considerable to day and the cattle are in good feed. Distance six miles

12 We drove about three miles and found good grass and stopped for the night. We passed two small lakes and there is one to the right of the road a little distance before us. The evening is cold and our log fire if very comfortable. The snow is nearly all gone

13. A fine day. Our road has been better and we have made a good days drive considering the condition of the team. We were visited when <[*converse*?]> at dinner by a small company of men <*from*> employed by government to assist all who are in need on the road. Found to day small red cherries growing on very small bushes and a large red goose berry which was very nice. The fine fir and white cedar grows here very tall and handsome many of them five and six feet through. We are again encamped without feed or water. Dis. 12 miles.

14 We started and drove five miles to water and encamped and turned our oxen into the wood to get what they could their being no grass. We met a drove of oxen sent out by government for emigrants and later in the day train of pack mules loaded with provisions.

15. We encamped without water or grass but we find plenty of oak brouse. Oak is now beginning to be rather plenty and continues to grow plenty as we descend. Today we lost an ox. It was one that we picked up yesterday He gave out and we left him to rest and in about half an hour I went for him but did not find him, but found the place where he lay and the road full of Indian tracks

16. I arose early this morn and found an ox had been stolen in the night and then I aroused the camp and as soon as it was light we went in pursuit We tracked him to an Indian lodge where we found he had been slaughtered. The Indians fired upon us and hit Mr. Elliot in the shoulder. They had secreted themselves and we thought it imprudent to try to hunt them out

the brush being very thick and it was not safe to be their. We got under way about 9 o'clcok. Dis. 10 miles.

17. The road has been good to day. We encamped in a pleasant valley nine miles from a small town called Weavertown on a creek of the same <*nam*> name. We are now in the gold mines

18 I prospected some to day but found very little gold. I saw some mining. I have great reason to be thankful that I have reached this place in safety. God has been good to me

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

Canton, Ohio, June 16, 1843.

Dear Brother,

I received yours of the 26th May some time since, and have boxed up all the things belonging to you, which I could find, except the rocking-chair and stand, and forwarded the box to Massillon, addressed to the ca[re] of Brown & [Dowsman?], Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]. My family had gone to Connecticut and indeed probably reached there when I received your letter -- in consequence of which I presume I have overlooked many of your things which <*she*> Susan would have told where to find. As to the stand I could not contrive to pack it in any manner which wo[uld] satisfy me, besides, in Mr. G's [*Grant*] absence, I do not know which it is. I could not find your axe, and am afraid it is lost. Your saw and hammer I could not persuade myself were worth sending -- I have bought a new saw & a hatchet, and packed them in the box.

You will find your church paper annexed. Mr. Porter has gone -- the present clergyman is Rev. W. W. Taylor, a very good man I think.

I have heard of the safe arrival of my family in Winsted [*Connecticut*] & intend to start east myself on Monday next. Remember me to Mrs. G. [*Grant*]

Yours truly
EP Grant

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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
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 <u>whole</u> 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*]

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

Indian Territory [*postmark Highbuck*] June 3 1849

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

I love to write to you, and I have run on before the teams to save a moment to set down upon the grass and hold the paper on my knee and do so. I am determined to have a letter ready to send from Ft. Laramie [*Wyoming*], & I will try to have a long one. Perhaps I shall meet some return teams and send one to be <*mailed*> mailed at St. Joseph [*Missouri*] or some other place but you must not make much calculation to hear from <*you*> me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate husband
Daniel

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

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

June 24 [*1849*]

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two wagons belonging to Stevens I have sp[oken] of them before in a former letter, 7 in number the father 3 daughters <*very*> fine girls, 2 sons (one of the sons owns the teams) and one man with them. Two Dutch wagons an old man and his wife and a young man and his wife, and I dont know how many children. Ten wagons besides a buggy that Mr. Seymore has to ride in himself. I have given a hasty sketch of our party hope it will do. should like as much time to write every day but that is out of the question, cannot write again before I get to the Mormon settlement [*Fort Bridger?*] and probably not there, I don't think I can write again till I get to Cal. [*California*] Promised to write to Dr. [Slye?] from ft. Laramie will add a few words at Ft. Laramie. Remember me Dear wife before God

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

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

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

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

Ralph E. Burr

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[*Addressed to]* Mrs. Caroline Grant

January, 9, 1850. No. 3.

My dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Chicago, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 23 ‘58

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I have just returned from Jefferson, and am prepared to make a Report. Unfortunately neither you nor I thought of the necessity there was that a description of the land should be given (& the Township, Range, Section, and part of section) and therefore my journey failed, in part at least, of its object. We could not find the name of either Grant or Burr among those whose property was sold for taxes <*& and*> & therefore I could not select yours from the large list of “unknown” who were represented as the owners of nine tenths of such land.

The matter can however be arranged now. Please write at once to

Wm. Sanborne
Country Treasurer
Jefferson Co. Wis [*Wisconsin*].

<*requ*> giving him a description of the land, <*thereupon he will*> & requesting him to write to me the amount of taxes due upon it, whereupon by draft I will forward him the money. He will charge about 25 cents -- possibly 50 but that will be all.

I found that in 1857 the townships transferred to Jefferson Co. were re-transferred to Dodge Co. on the ground of illegality. Consequently the taxes for 1857 are to be paid in Dodge Co. The way to meet this is to address a letter to Clerk of Boars of Supervision Juneau, Dodge. Co. Wisconsin giving documentation as above & requesting him to write to me what amount is due -- & I will forward to him also by draft & in this way will have it all soon settled up. Each of these men will forward a certificate that the property is redeemed. This certificate costs I believe 25 cents in each case. I may think it best to go again to Wisconsin, & perhaps near Dodge Co. -- but if I do it will not be for your business (--wh. [*which*] had I known as much as I do now I could have settled without stirring from my study) and if I do I will endeavor to step into the office & see that all is right.

My expenses are as follows

Chicago to Milwaukie 90 m.		$2.00
Milwaukie to Whitewater 50		1.75
Whitewater to Jefferson 15		
& back by horse & carriage 15	3.00	
Lodging & breakfast at Whitewater		.75
Whitewater to Chicago by Janesville, on the Chicago		
St. Paul & Fran du Lac R.R.		3.75
		$11.25

This is a large outlay for paying a tax, but is less than you could have got any one else to do it for. I have a free ticket on the road from Lockport here -- hence there is no charge for that part of the journey -- I staid with a friend while at Milwaukie, so there was no charge there. It was expensive travelling from Whitewater to Jefferson, but there seemed no other way so good. There is a stage every other day, but as I was there in the morning & it did not leave till near night, and even then would have charged me $1 each way, it did not seem best to waste time in waiting for it.

Should you ever have occasion to send to Jefferson again, the best way is from Chicago through Janesville 175 m. <*all the*> to Whitewater all the way by R. R. [*Railroad*] Probably in two or three years there will be a R. R. [*Railroad*] all the way from Chicago through both Jefferson & Dodge Co.

So the $11.25 above charged to you I must add 75 cents paid to Mr. Hill for $50 in gold – making my charges $12.

I stopped last night at State line Depot, staying with Dwight Phelps. He and his wife are well.

With love to Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] & the children I am

Yours most truly
Joel Grant.

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N. Stonington [*North Stonington, Connecticut*] Sept. 2, 1859.
Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

Your letter mailed Aug. 30 at Norfolk [*Connecticut*] sent to Stonington remailed there Sept. 1. to No. Stonington came to me this morning -- I am afraid I shall not see your sister Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*], but have written to her, that I shall be happy to see her in Newark [*New Jersey*], and assuring her that she will be welcome at Brother Johns [*John Grant*] -- that letter will not go till tomorrow, and she will not get it till Mond. or Tues. I should like very much to see her, & hope to -- Was glad to hear from you, & that John [*John C. Grant*] was a good boy, & is well -- he will always remember this visit at your house, and I hope the children will henceforth correspond -- J.

[*John C. Grant*] will have to learn to write better, before it will be pleasant for any one to receive from him -- Your assurance that he is a good boy, is grateful, for I think you are honest in your expression -- I do not expect perfection in him, but I do want him to do right, and be kind, polite, and gentlemanly -- I miss him so much, when away from him -- Tom Hubbell is sorry he did not come here with me, but it is best (economically) that he did not -- I came here Wed. leave to-morrow morn -- hope to get to Winsted [*Connecticut*] tomorrow noon -- shall leave there Tues-morn from Newark [*New Jersey*] -- & often spending our week in N. & N.Y. [*New York*] shall start for my western home.

Received a letter from my husband [*Joel Grant*] here this morn -- shall have another from him next Mond at W [*Winsted, Connecticut*], He is rejoicing as much as I am in the prospect of being again united -- I hope if I ever come east again, to be accompanied by him, I do not like to be long separated from him. I know it is nothing in comparison with years but three months seems to me a long time --

I think of my visit at your house with a great deal of pleasure. I know you all better than ever before -- and Sister C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] I shall never forget your sisterly kindness -- I wish we lived nearer together, so that as brothers & sisters we might in time exchange those thoughts that have a sympathy -- Mrs. Grant writes as if Bristol [*Illinois*] was improving, and becoming more and more desirable -- I long to be there, and arrange our homes. If you should go west you will not fail to visit us --

My welcome at Avon [*Connecticut*], was touching, all seem to remember our stay there with pleasure, & wish Mr. G. [*Joel Grant*] would return there --

The bell is ringing for Mr. Hubbell's preparatory lecture -- I must go -- a word more after meeting. Tom says there is 15 minutes more. Is Abby [*Abigail E. Grant B*] going home with Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*]? I wish I lived near enough to have her come and stay awhile with me -- & Eddy [*Edward Grant*] too. John [*John C. Grant*] will miss him --

Did you and Daniel [*Daniel Grant*] enjoy the Aurora Borealis last Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve? It was beautiful in Avon -- we watched it a long time -- I shall hope to hear from you soon after reaching home -- You know I am interested in particulars Brother Daniel [*Daniel Grant*] knows so too --

Love to all your family from your aff [*affectionate*] sister Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*]

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Bristol, Ill. [*Illinois*] Sept. 19, 1859.

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I was absent last week at Chicago, attending the National Fair &c, & did not therefore receive yours of the 10th. (mailed the 12th) until day before yesterday. I hasten to acknowledge its receipt -- also of its contents -- viz. a draft on N. J. [*New Jersey*] for $300. As soon as the necessary papers can be drawn wh. I will forward your note & mortgage for a loan of $500 I write now to acknowledge receipt, and answer a few questions -- also to state that Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] & John [*John C. Grant*] arrived safely in Chicago, day before yesterday (Saturday) where I met them, & they all accompanied me here. They visited John [*John Grant*] & Phelps [*Elijah Phelps Grant*] on their way here -- speak with interest of their visits with you & yours, & seem in the main to have had a good time. They met Mrs. Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*] at John's [*John Grant*] as you have been already informed.

Now as to some of your inquiries. The taxes on this $500, it will be best to pay in Norfolk [*Connecticut*]. My impression is that they must be paid there, since there is no one here upon whom the law can properly lay any such obligation. But however that may be, it would be best to pay them in Norfolk, because taxes are so much lighter there than in any place at the West.

I do not see the way clear to pay your Wisconsin taxes from the interest of this money -- though it may be best as well as possible to do so. The difficulty will be that no interest will be due at that time. But as the amount will not be large, & as I shall be owing you more than enough to meet the taxes, I will see that all is made right. It will not be the best to pay, I think, till the returns are made at the County Office -- though I will give the matter another investigation & see how it may be. Some new laws have been passed during the past year, but whether more or less are favorable than the past I have no means of knowing.

Your remarks concerning caution were not amiss, nor do I take them so. I feel that every obligation bind both you and me to use this money sacredly. I am aware that it requires caution, I am aware that it requires caution, & Judgment to make these things right, & moreover that even these qualities cannot make matters absolutely sure. I have no fear but that I can invest it safely, but ere many years <*long*> perhaps, the investment will need to be changed, & there will be the danger. At that time unless you have some one here in whom you can place entire confidence it may be well to put it into land. But land even here does not year by year pay even 6 per cent, and an investment in a loan, secured by land, is as safe as the land can be. The questions to be answered have reference to the title & value of the land -- If the title is good, & the value sufficient, the loan is safe. If the title is not good & the value not sufficient, a purchase would not be safe.

Indeed do not say that the view of your uncle & aunt, who keep some thousands by them for fear they should lose it, is both unwise & inhuman---–unwise because if <*you*> placed at interest, it would require by a little time (11 2/3 years at six per cent) for it to double, & even if they should lose the principal they would be no worse off than <*to*> in hoarding it, inhuman, because that money in the hands of some industrious, prudent, & deserving man would do him good, & the world likewise. But every one must take his own way. This, however, can never be untrue that riches take wings & fly away. Secured by mortgage they are as safe as in any other way -- yet not absolutely so. If hoarded, the thief makes through & steals; if placed in banks that fail, if invested in buildings they burn, or decay, or decline in value -- if invested in lands, those lands may, & often do diminish in value, (as almost every where in New England & state more so enduring the past year for two at the West) Your mortgage & note will probably be ready in three weeks. With love to all

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

Tues. [...] Sept. 20 --

Dear Sister [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I am at last at Bristol [*Illinois*] once more, happy with my husband, perhaps enjoying these talks the more, for having been so long away. A kind Providence protected us in all our way, and kept us from accident -- we were delayed three hours at Altoona, and in consequence eight at Pittsburg wh. [*which*] gave me only 24 hours at brother Phelp's [*Elijah Phelps Grant*], but the visit tho [*though*] brief, was very pleasant indeed -- If you ever come west again you will enjoy the south route -- from Phil [*Philadelphia*] to Pittsburg, beauty and grandeur are most exquisitely combined -- the ascent of the Alleganies is quite beyond any poor words of mine to describe. It must be seen to be felt, enjoyed, & treasured --

I was very glad of the little visit with your sister Mrs. Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*] -- I want to know her more and shall endeavor to if circumstances ever permit -- should love to live near her, and you too dear sister. How pleasant it would be if we could daily, or even a few times in a year speak to each other of the many things that interest us! I feel a great way off from those nearest my heart, (of course excepting my own husband & children) -- Let me hear from you fully & often -- Give my love to your husband & children & your sister when you write to her -- Tell Daniel [*Daniel Grant*], I am still interested in "little things," for they are what life is made up of -- J. [*Joel Grant*] is waiting, & I must close -- John [*John C. Grant*] is well & enjoys the remembrance of his visit with you sends his love to you all -- Mine also to you all

your aff. [*affectionate*] sister Abby –

My visit with you was very pleasant -- Enjoyed it a great deal more than I can tell you -- hope for more of the same sometime

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[*Addressed to*] Caroline Grant

Newark, July 29, 1862.

Tues. P. M.

My Dear Sister –

Your favor came this morning – and almost decided my course for me. Yet with regard to the proffer of pecuniary assistance, I may feel compelled to accept it temporarily, but shall insist

that it be regarded as a loan to be repaid. I may so borrow here as to render it unnecessary for me to avail myself of you generous proposal. Will write again of that, as also the place for Abby to meet me. – You see I now write as if I were resolved to go. My efforts to collect are simply useless – but I shall still make an effort while I can.

Tomorrow I shall go to N. Y. and will get such information as shall enable me to decide where Abbie had better meet me. The fare to Cleveland from N. Y. is the same via Albany & Central R. R. as by Erie R. R. so it is to me a matter of indifference which route we take. I shall prefer not to go before Tuesday, <and may possibly find [....] a later day advisable – Will inform you in [.....]> – (N. B. For matured plan see other sheet)

Keep pretty well up with the mails this week. I will not propose to go before Tuesday however. I shall not need to write you again till Abbie & I meet in Albany. Expect a letter next Wed. eve from us.

Received a letter from Gertie also this morning. She arrived at Canton last Tuesday having made a two week's' visit at Austinburg She and Will are very well. Will is in high favor with his grandparents. Gertie had seen brother & sister who, she says, are not changed apparently. Boyd only of the children is at home just now. [Audsen?] Day arrived home on the day of Gertie's arrival – very fortunately it worked well. She does not say what called him home - nor how long he will stay.

Little Katie Van [Waganen?] (whom you remember) died suddenly last Friday P. M. about the time of my last to you. Was nearly 4 years old – and a lately happy home is made very desolate and sad.

She was the only child and a very bright promising one.

<Will write so that you shall get it as early as Sat. perhaps Friday>

With reference to Mother's affliction, I wish to know whether is has assumed a marked malignant character – and whether there is a rapid change.

With love to all – and especial gratitude to you and brother Daniel for your offer. I am your ever aff. brother

Jno Grant.

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[Addressed to] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Mill Brook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Bills of Abbie's Expenses to Ohio

Austinburg. Aug. 12, '62.

Dear Sister,

Abbie has written you of our safe arrival and has, I doubt not, told you of our journey, visit to Niagara, etc.

We find all well <t>here. Mary Grant is still here and proposes to visit in this part of the state for some time yet to come.

I intend to leave for Canton tomorrow – probably stopping in Cleveland to see Edward & Nelson Griswold.

Abbie enjoyed the visit to Niagara very much. It cost us about $3.00, or including Extra R. R. fare, about $4 more than to have come direct by Buffalo. I took care to have Abbie see everything about the Falls.

We left Niagara Falls at 6&1/2 P. M. of Wed. and Buffalo at 10 same evening, expecting to stop at Kingsville - to breakfast, but found our train did not stop at K. We had therefore to stay in Ashtabula for friends to come for us longer than was pleasant. <Oth> Otherwise our journey was very pleasant indeed.

Abbie seems very contented and happy here – and is already much loved.

Perhaps I ought to give statement of Abbie's Expenses and of our joint expedition on the way. It is somewhat as follows – from Albany hither.

Abbie's fare from Albany to Buffalo, via Niagara	$6.60.	Buff. to Ashtabula	$3.65
		or - Total fare	$10.25
At Niagara for both Admission to see Whirlpool	.50		

Toll across Susp. Bridge		.50	
Carriage thence to Table Rock			.25
Musuem			.50
Crossing to American Side			.50
To Goat Island	.50		
Baggage Expense		.25	
Total at Falls			$3.00
Abbie for Book & views			.35

$3.35

Refreshments in all			1.18
ount.		Call my share	2.00
		Bal.	$12.78.

I have the $10 sent by Abbie as a part of the means of getting back East – and of which I will render such acct. as is right in due time.

We have had pretty hot weather most of the time since we came.

Perhaps Abbie will write to you a little in this. All send love to you all.

Your aff. brother

J. G.

Wed. morn. Aug. 13 –

This morning is cool and beautiful. We are all well. I leave this morning. Expect to spend a few hours at Painesville.

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Oberlin Ohio
Feb. 27th 1866.

My dear Mother,

Safe in Oberlin at last and I had not the least particle of trouble in getting here. I arrived at Geneva about noon on Thursday. Mary Harris received my letter on Wednesday night. and they concluded that if I started when I was expecting to. I must have gone by without stopping, so they were hardly looking for me when I came. I hired a team to go over which cost me one dollar. I had to pay about two dollars & forty cts for extra baggage. I never traveled when I got along with so little trouble and so little worrying. I had no waiting to do any where (but in Canaan) which made it very pleasant. for I think that waiting in a depot is the most disagreeable of all things. I had a very pleasant little visit at Mary Harris' we went over to Austinburg Friday afternoon and made some calls. did not stay in the evening because the roads were so bad. There were but few in town that I used to know. I met very unexpectedly to both of us -- my old friend Will Jewett. who happened to be at home for a few days, and had a very pleasant little chat with him. He is through with his course in Cleveland & is going very soon to Tiffin Ohio. to study and practice in connection as I understand with the Dr that he was with in Painesville. I also met Joe Cochrane, Lizzies brother who was down on a visit But dear me! I cant enumerate all the people for I am altogether too sleepy tonight.

Wedn's morn. They received me very kindly here. and I think I shall enjoy the society of the family exceedingly. but I have the smallest of rooms, and how Alice Leonard and I will manage to both be in it at a time is a mystery yet unsolved. for Alice is not expected until Friday. I spent the greater part of yesterday with cousin Mary. The morning in visiting. & in the afternoon they took me out to see the elephants of the place; get my term bill settled, studies arranged, &c. My studies this term are to be Chemistry & French. I am charmed with the principal Mrs. Dascomb.

I have been reckoning up & find that my journey here cost me about twenty dollars ($20).

I talked a little about Kansas with cousin Giles yesterday. he thinks that it is a splendid country. and when I told him where our place was he seemed to know all about. & said that he thought you could not but be delighted with the place when you reached there. I find that I

brought away Mary's picture in my album so will sent it back in this. she is going to send one of Giles before long.

My throat has not troubled me at all. & I am hardly as tired from my journey as I expected to be.

[*written across first page*] How do you all do at home, when you write you know I shall want to hear from all. How is Auntie getting along. Much love to her and to you all

Your aff daughter

Abbie E. Grant, [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

I was released from chapel a few minutes too late to have this go to day, but I hope you wont be worrying.

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[*Mary E. Burton Shurtleff to Caroline Grant*]

Oberlin. Feb. 27th 1866.

Dear Aunt Caroline:

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] surprised and delighted us very much, yesterday morn, but presenting herself, all unannounced, at our door. She found, after she began to think about writing to us, -- while at Mr. Harris' -- that a letter would not reach us before she should herself arrive, and so did not write. She took Prof. Cowles' family by surprise, but was warmly welcomed. We went out with her yesterday, on a tour of observation, introduced her to Mrs. Dascomb, and assisted her in settling with the Treasurer, and arranging studies. But of all this she will doubtless write. I hope she may enjoy her stay here, very much, and make it profitable, too. I think she will, without doubt, unless her health fails. I think she looks well, now, and all her friends will do what they can to help to keep her so. Do not fear that she will make us any "trouble". We are as much pleased to have her here, as she to have us. I trust we shall be mutual comforts to each other.

I hardly know whom to thank for the bundle Abbie brought me. I shall prize the articles the more, for grandmother's having worn them. They will all be useful too, if I can get over the idea that it would be a sort of desecration for me to wear them.

Abbie says you have not yet made definite arrangements for removing to the west. It hardly seems to me that it will be pleasant for mother to remain at grandpa's after you go. Does she ever speak of it? -- Willie writes that they probably cannot get their house up before the 1st of next Aug. -- but I suppose mother would be very welcome at Mr. Jones', provided she could be contented there, which I somewhat doubt. Yet it would be pleasanter in the summer time, when the children could carry on their noisy sports out of doors, than the boys find it, now. I greatly wish I had a home to offer her, but we are so uncertain about staying here after next Aug. that it would be folly to try to get settled.

I should not much relish the idea of mother's remaining on the farm many years. But if the boys are prospered, Phil will be likely to marry before long, and then mother can have a home in the village with Willie and Thedie. I know Willie has given up the idea of having a home in town, immediately, only in Phil's account. I doubt very much whether mother was in a state of mind, while in Grinnell, to judge calmly, and correctly of its merits. If I am not greatly misinformed, most people would consider it a much more desirable location than Austinburg. For my part I could not return to A with the idea of making it a permanent home, without great reluctance. -- I agree with you that if mother were once comfortably fixed at Grinnell, she would enjoy it better than she now imagines. As I wish to write her some things, I will close my letter to you.

With much love

Mary B. G.

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Eldorado Apr. 3 70

My Dear Wife

I must write you a few words for it is long since I have written I am well and as you see in Eldorado.

I will send you an Eldorado paper.

I have not heard from you since I left Ottawa Perhaps there are letters at Ottawa. You may direct a letter here if you write on the rect of this. I am going south on a land hunt shall be gone 10 days or more. A letter sent here will reach me before I go to Ottawa I think Edward has put off coming to Kansas Give what reason I know not. It is strange that we must all take just the course we ought not to. I see he is destined to be unlucky like his father, but think unlike his father he is naturally stingy and will collect about him a pretty good property if he does not like his father get to rambling. It is very essential that he comes here soon to get hold of some land at a cheap rate that will be within civilized limits in a year or two. As long as he waits the distance is dropping back. Now this Co. is in advance of Franklin Co. when I first went to it, and we must go farther to get land. I have been trying not very hard it is true to have E. come on for two years. The hope that he was learning Surveying or something useful and beneficial for him in after life has prevented my urging him very hard to come on, but it seems that he has done nothing to help him in future He must now come on or he will have to go into the Indian Territory (wh. of itself may not be bad) or beyond the Rocky Mts. wh. I do not at present fancy. I have bargained any place here away partly because I expected him on and we would seek places together but now he is not coming. he must come and that speedily or he cannot get good land. It is possible I may <*and*> with difficulty get a chance for him and hold it till fall but it would be better for him to come. He can as I understand it do as well here as there ennyhow

Give love to Abbie Joel &c.

D Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

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Andover, Mass.
Aug 16, 1875.

Dear Mother,

I reached here last Thursday night very much worn and exhausted by my journey. Was detained a number of hours in Western Mass. by the damage done to the rail road by the severe storm. It rained so much while I was in Oberlin that I was obliged to do most of my work the last few days I was there. So when I started I was very tired. I left Oberlin [Mond?]-night and reached [Piturville?] the next day at noon. Had a long talk with Mr. Abbatt, and at 4 P.M. went to [Pryenville?], found the farm and spent three or four hours in going over it and making inquiries of the tenant and the neighbors. I stopped at a hotel near by for the night and went on to Dunkirk next morning. In the first place was very much pleased with Mr. Abbott, I think he is perfectly straightforward and trustworthy, and I will do the best he can for all parties. Every one speaks very highly of him, and has entire confidence in him. I think he would never take advantage of any of the parties.

In the second place, I found the place better and worth more than I expected. The home is entirely unfit to live in now and the farm is very poor. The farm too has grown up to bushes and has but little fencing. But it is well watered, two fine springs near the lawn, the land is grand and there is considerable good timber. A farm <*next*> <*below*> of 50 acres which joins it could not be bought for $60, per acre, but has been taken care of and the buildings are a little better, but it is not better farming land.

The farm in which father has a share is worth a thousand dollars and ought not to be sold for much less. Mr. Abbot is not willing to sell except at about that rate, wants about $300 for his share. Still I doubt if in two weeks a purchase could be found for the place at $500. No one about there has any money. There is no purchaser now who would take it at any price <*much*> which would not be giving it away. As Mr. Abbott says, the times cannot possibly be warm and there is hope of their improvement. The flowing wells below [Pitusville?] have made <*things*> times very dull in [Puterville?] and above, but as they give out, as they will, pumping wells will pay and affairs about [Piturville?] and above will bright up. Oil has been found within two miles of the

farm, and the old wells were 1000 feet deep. The best wells now about [Piturville?] and are 1500 feet deep. When the present supply below [Piturville?] gives out, of course there will be [preputing?] above and then may be in rise of the land from that course.

My judgement would be to let the matter rest at present. leaving it in Mr. Abbotts hands as in the past. The country about is pretty thickly settled tho the people have not much thrift and enterprise, are content with getting a [...] living. There are no foreigners in that section, but the moral [time?] is somewhat low <*I shall judge*>

I shall judge that it would be a much more desirable and comfortable place to live than in Kansas frontier would be. There is a Methodist Church within a mile.

An enterprising thrifty young man might take the place at $800, or $1000 and within two years clear $1000, above all expenses of repair and improvement, but [most?] men [would?] not do it. altho my visit did not accomplish much directly, yet I am glad I went, because I now feel as tho I could judge what would be best when any thing can be done. My expenses were seven Dollars. Were somewhat more than they would have been, if I had not wished to avail myself of a reduction in fare between Oberlin and Buffalo which was granted to Oberlin Alumni.

I shipped your [Lecietasy to Flemington?]. It is a little out of repair, but I was so drive in O -- that I could not attend to it.

Abbie and the children are all well. Abbie's health has not been better since she was married. We shall be here about two weeks more and then shall go to Maine. I meant to have written to Uncle [Collar?] about that money, will try and pay of the note soon after I get to Hallowell, within two or three months at least, am very much obliged for his waiting. Have either you or Edward about $50.00 that I could get for three months. Am thinking I could buy Abbie's [wistie shalting?] and my own, much cheaper now in Boston than I can get it up in Maine next Fall. I hoped to sell my [stoves?] while in Oberlin, but did not, when they are sold or when I begin to [drain?] my salary I shall [...] some money. My expenses in Hallowell will not be great & we are furnished board rooms, washing, fuel and light for $15 per week. Am expecting to get Abbie a black silk dress before we go to Hallowell can do well in silk now – Boston. Enjoyed my visit in Oberlin very much, I had a most heart welcome at all lands, almost an ovation. Cousin Mary's health was not so good as usual. All were well at home, Had several visits with Minnie and have written in full to [uncle?] William, received a real good letter from Uncle William Sat.

Your aff son

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Hallowell Maine

Sept 8th, 1875

My dear Mother,

Your letter has been just received. I forgot in my living of moving and settling that I had not answered your question with regards to the cape. I have been thinking for two or three days days that I would write to you right away, but I should not have thought of the cape. If you think that aunt W. or the [Stewarses?] would value the cape any I would just as soon they would have it for it will be some fuss to get it fixed and [thou I?] know how pretty it would be. I am not particular either way. We left Andover Miday Aug 27th and spent most of the day in Boston. At 6 P.M. we took the Steamer Star of the East and sailed for Hallowell. We reached here at half past 8 on Saturday morn, and found Dea. Page waiting to take us to the school. We were here in advance of all the others as the school did not commence until the 2nd of Sept. We did not more than get settled in our rooms before the time commenced and there are quite a number of things that are not arranged yet, brackets pictures, &c. We have a large parlor 18 x 21 upon which is quite a pretty carpet, but we furnish the rest. We bought in Boston a very handsome haircloth lounge and rocking chair, our four black walnut [cameseat?] chairs which we had at home were packed with the things and came safely. We bought in Augusta a large Mahogany [curtis?] table, and quite a pretty camp chair. Also a little [ratain?] rocking chair for the children. We have [hung?] several of our pictures in there but the room is so large that it doesnt seem much furnished yet. I am going to have a small rocking chair soon and my large wooden one that I brought from O. can be covered newly and when my flowers are started we shall be quite cosey. The bedroom opens

out of the parlor through a closet which I have carpeted and in which stands a bureau when I keep the childrenss clothes. We also hang some clothes that we need very often there. The bed room we also carpet ourselves but they furnish it otherwise we have a full bedroom set light color. The room is about 14 x 16 in it are two large windows in the parlor are four. They both have doors opening into the hall and between them is a door opening into a large closet which we use.

Here is a rough diagram at the other end of the building

Almon Hall has a small study.
The view from our room is quite pleasant.
We can see the river for some little distance
but the hills close us in pretty [roughly?] Pettie
is writing a letter to you one of the girls gave
some paper and envelopes for her own use.
I asked her to wait and [...] help her write it, but she was in too much of a hurry. We received your letter with the $10, for which we were very thankful, and Edward sent

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

Hallowell, Me. [*Maine*]
Aug. 30th 1876

Dear Mother,

We have just reached home arriving about an hour ago. After your departure from Norfolk [*Connecticut*], we remained at Uncle Erastus' until Friday afternoon, I had a real good visit there and enjoyed my stay ever so much.

We went straight through to Collinsville that night. Sat. Morn we went up to New Hartford and got a carriage and went over to Pleasant Valley but did not find Edward. [*Edward Grant*] Had been gone since Thursday noon [*top of next page repeats*] since Thursday noon and no one knew just where he had gone. It was supposed that he had gone to Millbrook.

We went back to Collinsville and Sunday morning Edward came having driven down to see us. The people where he was let him have a horse. He remained all day and Abbie had quite a visit with him. I did not see so much of him, as so many of my friends had come to spend the Sabbath. He does not expect to remain beyond Dec. Does not know what he shall do then. Did not have much of an opportunity to talk with the Bakers they were very busy. I liked the people where Edward boards. They seemed to be intelligent and good hearted, and seemed to think a good deal of Edward. I asked about Edward's acquaintances and Mrs. Ripley said he did not get acquainted much. She thought he would like more intelligent and better educated associates than most of those about there. I was glad other people had such an opinion of him.

The night before we left Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] was taken sick and we were up with her a part of the night. She stood the journey pretty well, but is still sick. She slept well last night on the boat as did we all.

I am feeling quite well as we all are, except Carrie. The journey home did not tire us so much as we thought it would. It is very dry here. Has not rained since we left.

Give our regards to Uncle and Aunt. Uncle was very kind to go after us so many times and take us over to Norfolk. We saw Uncle Erastus on the call Tuesday morning. He said that they had not been well for several days. I find considerable to do <*since*> here, most of the work stopped as soon as I left, and is not done as I expected.

We will send back that two dollars soon. [Goood . . .?]

Your loving son Almon [*Almon Burr*]

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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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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant.
Clayton.
Mass. [*Massachusetts*]

[*Note on envelope:*] From Abbie May 79

[*Note at top of letter above address:*] Abigail E. Grant Burr
Hallowell Me.
May 7th 1879.

My dear Mother,

We are safe at home my little boy and I. I am pretty well. Harold is very weak yet, but is gaining every day. The dear little fellow has been very sick, and we are thankful enough to have him as well as he is, when he was down the first time the doctor said that for a day or two he did not know which way it was going to go with him, then when he began to mend, we suppose that he took a little cold, though we hardly see how, and he had a serious relaps, with dreadful swelled neck, vomiting and other painful troubles. I was at that time sick myself, then he was taken with dropsy, but now he has recovered from all, and is slowly gaining strength. We started for home at the first minute that it was safe to do so. We left Oberlin Thursday noon May 1st and reached home about ten o clock Saturday morn. We came from Boston by boat, and both of us enjoyed that part of our journey very much. Harold was much stronger when we reached here then<*re*?> when we left Oberlin. We took a sleeping car Thursday night, and were in the boat Friday night, so that Halley slept well both nights. Brother Willie is in Boston now, and met me at the depot. I also saw Prof. Shurtleff for a few moments. All tell me that Carrie has been a little woman while here alone. I was very glad that she did not remain with us, she could hardly have escaped being sick. She has not been well for two or three days, and was taken down with diphtheria this afternoon, but I hope that it will not be serious. I am sitting up for a while to take care of her and it is pretty late that I am vomiting.

Minnie Hill and the Shurtleffs were in their usual health when I came away. Celia was suffering considerably with rheumatism and Nettie was feeling pretty weak and under [able?]. I had the scarlet fever thoroughly, but was not very sick, and got over it well, was confined to my bed four or five days, or rather five or six.

Mr. Shurtleff stopped in to see Aunt Gertie [*Sarah Gertrude Day Grant*] a few days ago, he says that she is living alone in the house now. A man comes to sleep nights. She spoke very tenderly of Uncle John, but on the whole seemed quite cheerful. Many Shurtleffs children are very pretty and sweet, little Mary is especially lovely.

I had a letter from Edward yesterday, he represents himself as about as usual</> and glad that he has changed his boarding place.

Carrie [*Caroline Lynette Burr*] has been quiet for some little time now, and I think I will venture to go to bed. Please give my love to Uncle and Aunt, and take a great deal for yourself please. Your aff. daughter

Abbie [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*]

Father and Mother Burr, received your letter, but as I had sent you a postal a few days before they will probably not think it necessary to write [now?]. I think that in some ways Carrie seemed a little better this morning.

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

My dear sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Warren is so changed that I would not have known him. About middle of May (I think) he went out to Michagan to his brother John to learn about Western investments. He intended to go much farther West -- but found that he could not be sure of escaping Malaria -- so he staid two weeks with John & then came to Georgetown there to await his wife & daughter who went on after the close of Maries school at Saratoga. I think he was at Georgetown 6 weeks <*before*> in advance of his family.

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff sister
M.B. Hill

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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Carrie Grant
Norfolk,
Conn.

309 Gales av.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Aug. 26. '82.

Dear Friend: --

Your letter received, for which accept many thanks. I am alone and will write you a hurried note. I am not quite alone because E. is up stairs but Sophie I mean is out and Charlie is away. [S.?] has started with a friend for the "Beach" but they may decide to come back without going as it looks very, very much like a storm and it would not be pleasant to be caught down there in a storm. But when it is pleasant weather it is delightful there. You must come early enough to enjoy it with us. I hope your first of Oct. means the very 1st if not sometime in September. Bring it as early as possible, because we are waiting. When will it be? Please let me know as near as you can tell.

Charlie is away now. He spent one week at Asbury Park then came home and started for the mountains by way of Saratoga. He spent eight or ten days there undecided what to do the weather being so cool. Saturday we received a letter from Lake George and he said he might give up the mountain trip altogether if it did not get warmer in a day or two. He had the Adirondacks in contemplation. We are almost afraid to have him go to the mountains for he is not very well and takes cold so easily. -- Charlie went away with the expectation that we would close the house and pack for the country the next week. We had engaged board at a friend's near Wyoming, Effie having said she would like to go. We were making all preparation and arrangements -- which was not the easiest work in such hot weather as we were then having -- when E. said she should not go. So of course everything had to be given up. C. was very much disappointed when I wrote him the decision. S & I will have to take a little vacation in the fall. It is quite cool now. Please let me hear from you very soon.

Love from S.
Yours Fanny C.C.

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309 Gales av.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Sept. 6. '82.

Dear Mrs. G, --

Your letter received. Shall be ready for you at the earliest possible day than you can come. If we had succeeded in getting to Western New York as Charlie was anxious we should we might have given you a little longer time as C. said we had better remain there through Oct. but as we did not go Sophie & I must have a little change before winter and we cannot have any release till you come and get established in our ways and doings. Then perhaps we may. I have invited Aunt Sybil to come when you do -- as she desires company in traveling <*to*> and make us a visit and she has answered that she thought she would come. Will you please write to her and tell her the exact date when you are to come and make all arrangements with her. Now in reply to your inquiry. We consider it more economical and less trouble when we have a dress to be made to put it out instead of having a dressmaker at home. A dressmaker here would charge from a dollar and a half to two dollars a day. To get a suit made would be from six to tell dollars out of the house.

Possibly you might get a very plain one made for five dollars.

C. is now in the Adirondacks -- Lake St. Regis.

Received a letter from him last evening. He was to leave Mon. -- the last for another point.

I am thinking of going down to Manhattan to-morrow evening if the weather favors. It is delightful there these pleasant days.

Please let me hear from you soon and come just as soon as you can -- the sooner the better.

With love from Sophie -- she says she will be on the lookout for you. -- Ever yours

In haste
Fannie C.C.

You out to hear our Birdie sing -- our neighbor's we are taking care of it while they are in the country.

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Office
Aug. 6 -- 83.

Dear Aunt --

Carrie told me the very first of last week to send back the letters you wished returned and I am sorry that I forgot to hunt them up I would think of them when here and forget them when at home

I reached home two weeks ago Saturday after an absence of nearly four weeks Spent one week in Oberlin and enjoyed every moment of the time in spite of the intensely hot weather. (In your letter you asked them to send you some of mine written while away the truth is I wrote but <u>one</u> <u>short</u> letter Postals kept the family informed of my whereabouts and that was all I could afford to do) I met many old friends attended class meetings Called at Mrs. Shurteff twice and should have gone there to tea but there was no time. Called on Mrs. Malthy She seemed much as she did four years ago Both she and the daughter inquire particularly after you They did not seem to know how Uncle Collen left his property, and I did not know either as much as I should have

Tues. P.M.

Had so many interruptions yesterday was obliged to put the letter aside until today.

Mother told about Uncle's will and I have written to Mrs. Malthy so her mind is at rest.

While in O. of course went several times to Mr. Burr's. The family seem just as they used to Celin not very well. Has not been teaching all of the last year. Nettie is better than she has been but still not strong at all Thought I should not see Almon [*Almon Burr*] at all He was continually going like every one else but I did see him for a little while and he showed me some inventions has made for keeping circulars and [seraps?] of paper essays etc. in order. I advised him to patent and <*hope*> as he had the same advice before hope he will do so

The baby was not yet named A. looks thin but counts on the sea shore to [...] in <*three*> a few weeks what ravages the <u>year's</u> work has made

I did not call on Mrs. Johnston much as I wished to because there was so much excitement and it was feared that it would be too much for her I saw her however for a few minutes at Chapel Prayers one Eve. also at Prayer meeting I attended at great many exercises Heard Ex Pres. Hayes, Lucy Stone Blackwell and many others called at Pres. Fairchild's twice and was cordially received both times. Austin Burr was home but not his wife.

I Called in a house right next the one where Abbie kept house on [Wes?] Lorain St. the same St. on which Mr. Burr lives

I spent one night in Cleveland with Miss Betts before I went to Oberlin I went to Painesville with Helen Pepoon and was there ten days Mary Richards a classmate was also there we had a very pleasant time the weather changed and was cool and comfortable we were invited out four evenings in succession went down to the Lake went on a picnic to Chardon Ohio where I picked water lilies for the first time in my life Then Helen and I went to Austinburgh for four days visiting Frank Rydor and Mrs. McClelland whose husband is the minister there, So you see I went a great deal saw and enjoyed much Came home by way of Philadelphia and saw Sophie for a few hours

Am glad that I went and feel all the more like work because I have been Am trying to keep the money order accounts so that Father may have his vacation in October We have a

young girl now and a woman comes to help with working and last week and this has helped iron also. Mother walked to church Sunday the first for a long time The new church almost finished Chalmers has been sick for several days Has not eaten high fever but is more comfortable today and will be up in a few days the Doctor thinks

Other members of the family well as usual By Dr. Parrish's request I took his [little mind?] down to Coney Island on day last week Nora enjoyed it very much and I enjoyed the trip down New York way but did not enjoy Coney Island

Possibly you may not be able to make this out very well as I have been obliged to write in a hurry

If Uncle Daniel came on this Fall I suppose you will go to house keeping. It is too bad that with his other misfortunes Uncle must have Bright's disease However he may live comfortably [...] time we had corn from our own garden today also tomatoes Have made our own butter since the Aldervery came in

Uncle William as usual He took mother riding Sunday Father to Sunday before and for a wonder [Diggier?] wrote Carrie last week

Work to do must close give my love to Mr. and Mrs. Pinney I remember with much pleasure my visits at their house

Affectionately William H.

Love to Uncle E. Mary Ralph and his wife and Ed to Lucy when you see them Me.

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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
Office
9 – 4 – 84

Dear Aunty

I do know that this letter should have been written long ago. It has been on my mind but so many things crowd upon me that it has seemed impossible

After you left we were busy finishing housecleaning which we did get out of the way before Mrs Brown came Helen Pepoon came the 22nd of July Sam came home for a week the 21st so we had a houseful We were all glad to have Sam with us. He took all our photos. Succeeded in getting very good ones of Allie, Carrie, Chalmers and baby Sophie. None are finished but one of Carrie which Sam sent to her for a birthday remembrance on the 29th.

Chalmers Miss Pepoon and I spent one day in New York Walked over Brooklyn Bridge went up to Central Park saw the Obelisk, went thro' Tiffanys and into many of the larger stores and then went down to Coney Island & back, to get a view of the ocean

We went in on an excursion train and reached home about nine oclock in the eve.

The next day the last day of July Helen and I went down to Philadelphia stayed four days and saw a great deal

Cousin Tom and Sophie were very good to us and we saw more than stranger ordinarly could see in so short a time

We visited the Park, Memorial Hall with its multitude of curiosities left from the Centennial, Horticultural Hall is my special delight with its wonderful plants The fern house is enchanting, we saw the Elephants at the Zoo, taking their bath in a bath tub out of doors built for their special & sole use, It was curious to see the great creatures splashing round to their very evident enjoyment.

We spent a whole day in the park and wished we had more time for it

One day we went down into Old Philadelphia visited State House Carpenters Hall which has stood for more than one hundred and fifty years as a meeting place for the Carpenters Association of the City

Cousin Tom took us into some of the handsome business blocks of the City They are really magnificent in their appointments

Another day we went into the New Public Buildings with those four stairways, each costing $100,00, 00

We had altogether a very good time and Helen enjoyed it Cousin Tom & [Elizie?] and Sophie all
liked her and have taken pains to tell me so several times

Helen and I returned to F Aug. 4th, Aug. 6th Helen left for Ohio stopping at Elmira on her way

She bought baby a very pretty cap in Phila. Also gave Carrie a beautiful little cup & saucer and after she left sent me a beautiful plush frame in which I have put Mammas' picture. Aug 11th the Monday after H. left Carrie went to Asbury Park to stay ten days, Sophie Hill was to be there and we all thought it would do Carrie good You know Sophies two Aunts live in Asbury Park and they were pleased to have C. board with them so C's bill was my birthday present.

Just after C got away Father caught a heavy cold and was home three days and did not come regularly to office for a week. Chalmers was very good and helped in office But it made me rise early to send out first mail

Belle (the colored girl) was very ugly while C was away and in fact had been growing worse all the time since she came and we could stand it no longer Carrie came home Aug 20 and Aug 23 Belle left or rather we sent her away

She would go out so much and was so unwilling to do her work that it did seem a relief to have her away We have the washing done and have a good women to come two days and help iron and sweep and clean. Have had girls room cleaned this week and 3rd story stairs down and so third story is done for the Fall except of course we must look over things The Attic is in first rate order and clean as can be

But you can see that we have been pretty busy and for the past two weeks we have had fruit to take care of tomatoes to put up Peaches and pears and plums everything at once

Ellen Stout came one week and cut carpet rags. I think nearly enough for a step carpet When she was here last summer Mama made an arrangement with her to come in April and cut rags and wash dishes. E. could not come then but she wanted to be out of the city awhile in August and so came then She praised the rags exceedingly and has cut them very nicely Mrs Brown who bought her up taught her how Now we hope to sew those rags ourselves but I do not know when I am sure I shall give some uncut rags Mrs Car[??]huff so that she may be working at them but it seems to bad to pay her to sew cut rags But if we must, how much ought I to pay her? pr lbs.

Mrs Brown and Emma are still with us and will no doubt remain until 1st of October About the middle of August Aunt Eliza Cray came up to Uncle John Capners She was scarcely able to come and the journey proved too much for her strength. She was unable to leave her bed after the first day and grew gradually weaker until the 28th of August when she died Poor Aunty she did have a hard life We were all so thankful that she could get up here She had every attention Dr Parish attended her several time a day part of the time

Her mind wandered a great deal I went to see her several times she seemed to know me called me by name but in a few minutes would evidently forget Father went to see her and she knew him and was pleased that he visited her She had heart disease and much of the time was unable to lie down Mrs Thompson was very good to her Mr Cray was with her a great deal Poor man Both he and Uncle John feel the loss sorely Very few relatives could come to funeral Cousin Tom and cousin [Kathy?] of Philadelphia were the only ones from out of town I was at Post Office and Carrie took care of house and Sophie, Father Allie and Chalmers went, Uncle Tom of Portland could not come

Sept. 5

Again I take this up I wonder what you and Uncle Daniel will do this Fall Give Uncle love from us all Would be glad to see him were it possible now You will let us know when you wish your things sent and write us what you wish us to know of your plans. I will try not to let it be such a long time before I write again

Have had a great many letters to write about that Brazilian girl (They have decided to keep her in this country) Then [...?] in [peach?] season we are unusually busy at office I will be glad when they are gone

Mr<s> Anderson is about the same They have a man nurse for him now. It does not seem possible he can live much longer He is the thinest and worst looking man I have ever seen alive Aunt H. is not very well is tired with the long period of nursing for she has the responsibility of Mr. A and house too

Miss [Jacot?] visited Cousin Annie Pierce a week we saw very little of her except the day she spent at our house She made a great fuss over baby and wanted to hold her all the time

She missed Mama and spoke feelingly of her Also told Aunt H. that Carrie managed house keeping wonderfully and that everything was as clean as could be. It was after Belle went that she was there

Last eve (Sept 4) we heard of the very sudden death of Charles Hill of New Brunswick Found dead in the morning know no particulars

Father feels that so many have been called away during the last few years

Caddie Morrison of Elizabeth wrote to Carrie a few days ago inviting herself to spend next Sunday with us so we wrote to her to bring Maude and spend a few days, Carrie likes Caddie and I should like the acquaintance kept up Carrie will go to Elizabeth sometime

Thus you see it is all the time something on hand

Baby grows and is good in day time but her teeth are coming and at night she is inclined to be fretful which makes it hard for Allie tho Chalmers is very good and does his full share of nursing She sits alone and is very cute in her short dresses This is a long letter and have not yet written all I wish too, several ladies enquire after you after you had left. Aunt Eliza said we were to have a quilt which is ready to be quilted, also some linen sheets

Send regards to Mr & Mrs Phiney Shall hope to hear from Uncle Erastus and Abbie and Ed & Ralph & Mary thru you

With love from all

Affectionately

Minnie
Sam signed that assignment. Has Chalmers written about it? Shall it be sent to you?

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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
New Marlboro
Massachusetts
U. S. A.

14 Struve St.
Dresden, Germ. *[Germany]*
Feby 25, 1890

My dear Uncle,

Some time ago my sister Mary wrote me, that a letter had come to me from you, which she had opened and answered but did not forward to me, because my movements were very uncertain and I did not then expect to remain aboard very long. Afterwards I decided to spend the winter here and have had it on my mind ever since I settled in Dresden, to write to you.

I do not remember that I ever saw you, but since my mother's death I have thought of you and uncle Marcus very often and am always glad to hear from you.

My trip to Europe is a thing I have dreamed of for many years, but I shall always be glad that I did not take it before mother's death. I came over with a lady friend who had spent some years over here and spoke French and German, so that we had no trouble in travelling alone. We made short stops in Liverpool, Oxford, Kenilworth & Warwick, spent a week in London, two weeks in Paris, two in Switzerland, stopped to see Heidelberg, Cologne, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, the Hague, Brussels, Antwerp, sailed a day on the Rhine and then my friend had to return to America. The time we spent in seeing all these places might easily be filled in any one of them, and of course, we saw them very superficially. I did not at all realize how much there was to see or I would not have attempted to get over so much ground in so short a time. After my companion sailed, I went to Wiesbaden, a delightful health and rest resort in Germany, where I spent a few weeks and then joined a party of friends and took a trip through Italy. By this time I had decided to spend the winter in Germany and Alice Hurford, sister Libbie's oldest daughter, came over to be with me and study drawing and painting. I suppose she could learn about all she cares to in any of our American cities but her coming over here gives her an opportunity to see a great deal that is novel and interesting, and, as living and lessons are somewhat cheaper than in our large cities, it will not cost any more, probably, than if she were in New York or Boston. Besides we are learning to talk German, which is the only acquisition I expect to take home with me. We board in a German family where there are a few American and English ladies and try to hear and read as little English as possible. Alice is very much occupied with her lessons and I spend considerable time in the galleries and museums which are very fine here. I look over the German paper every morning and read occasional items but always feel vexed to find columns devoted to the news from Bulgaria, Rumania & Servia while the United States has only a few lines or more. I am beginning to feel that our country is not as important a factor in the world's affairs as I had formerly supposed – but this does not make me any less satisfied with my own land. On the contrary, I shall go back rejoicing that destiny made me an American. What I find we need particularly is a name for ourselves. When I tell anyone I am an American they generally take me for a South American and talk about Brazil and if I explain that I am from North America, they very likely suppose I am from Canada or Mexico.

I like the German people and their ways (except their excessive beer drinking) very much. They seem to be generally honest, friendly and very well read & educated. But I am glad that our country is not so surrounded by hostile lands as this one is. So large a part of the means and men of this country have to be devoted to the army that I wonder the nation can sustain such a burden. They are very proud of their victory over the French and of their new empire, however, and of their young Emperor, whose heart and interest are all tho<u>roughly German.

In spite of this, the socialist party has just had something of a victory in the recent election, which is thought to be quite a blow to Bismarck

I hope Edward and his wife are quite recovered in health. Mary wrote me that they had both been sick and I had heard before, indirectly, of Edward's illness. Please remember me to them both. I saw Edward once but have never seen his wife.

I do not know how long I shall stay over here. Now that I am here, I can live quite as cheap as I could in Omaha and there is nothing to hurry me home. My sisters and their families were well when we heard last. One of the greatest annoyances of being here is that it takes so long to communicate back and forth. Our letters have been sometimes nineteen days in reaching their destination.

I suppose you heard of the sad death of my cousin Thos. Clarke, last November, on one of the ocean steamers two days before it reached New York. It must have been very hard for his poor wife as well as himself.

I hope you and aunt Caroline have been as fortunate as Alice and I, in escaping the influenza.

Give much love to Aunt Caroline. I hope it is not necessary to say that I shall always be glad to hear from you both.

Very affectionately your niece

Jennie M. Grant

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

2420 Harney Street
Omaha, Neb. *[Nebraska]* Mch 3d/89.

My dear aunt,

I am under the impression that I have never answered the good letter you sent me about a year ago. I remember that when Libbie was here, a short time after, she said that she would like to write to you and I told her to do so and I would not answer the letter until later. I do not remember of answering it at all but it is not among my unanswered letters and I make it a rule never to destroy a letter until it has been answered.

I have made my home with my sister Mary for more than a year & will probably continue to do so. I spent three months of last summer in Colorado and more than a month of this winter in Grand Island with Libbie and her family. One of Libbie's daughters (now Mrs. Geo. Nichols) lives in Oberlin and through her I heard that Carrie Burr was visiting at the Shurleffs and of the afflictions -- in the way of illness -- that have been visited upon the Shurtleff family. I had a letter from Mary a few days ago but she was so full of her plans for housekeeping that she neglected to say anything about the S's although I was particularly anxious to hear how they were. She said in one of her letters that there was talk of Prof. S's going south as soon as he was able. -- also that she gathered from what she heard in Oberlin that he was considered one of the most valuable and perhaps the most valuable man there.

Mary's two daughters are at school in Northampton -- one at Smith College and the other at Miss Capen's. Mr & Mrs Wallace and their other child (Jamie, 12 yrs old) went east in Dec. and spent the holidays in New York with the girls and then went up into Conn. and Mass. and afterwards to Ohio. I am sorry they did not see you and Uncle Daniel. They enjoyed the day they spent at Uncle Marcus' very much and I know they would have enjoyed a visit with you. If it had been summer they would have gone there although their time was limited. Mr Wallace is an enthusiastic western man and never could see how any one could prefer to live east but he came back from this trip with the opinion that eastern people know how to get real comfort and happiness out of their lives better than western people. He was always very fond of my father and mother and is interested in all our relations and glad to see them.

Do you and your husband think ever of coming out to visit Abbie & her family? If you do I hope you will come out to Omaha. I am sure you will find a cordial welcome. I am so glad mother & I saw so many of our kindred when we were east six years ago. Mary wanted me to with them this winter but I dreaded going over the same ground again without mother.

Give much love to Uncle Daniel & Edward & his family and accept much for yourself --
Jennie M. Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Daniel Grant
New Marlboro'
Massachusetts

2420. Harney St.
Omaha. July 19th ' 89

Dear uncle Daniel,

Your letter to Jennie arrived about a week ago and as she was on the ocean making her way towards England I concluded to open it. Mr. Wallace was looking about to see what he could do in the way of investing or loaning your money and may have written you but I think not as he hardly had time before he left on a business trip he has been contemplating for some time. He started last Saturday with our boy Jamie -- 13 years of age -- on a journey to Denver, Salt Lake and then into the mountains of Idaho -- will be away about three weeks. When he returns he will undoubtedly do what he can for you and let you know. I hope the delay will make not great difference. When we were at uncle Marcus we inquired for you all and learned of your "whereabouts" -- were so sorry to learn of Edwards sickness. How his wife has been taken down I do not see what they will do. I have no doubt the doctor is right in saying she should keep her bed for some time and only hope she may be circumstanced so that it may be possible. Enclosed you will find a [draft?] which I wish you would send to Edward and tell him I said he should use it for himself and his wife to assist them in regaining their health.

We had a letter from Jennie on Wednesday mailed just as they were taking a vessel at Queenstown to go to Liverpool. She had been seasick only about a day and had enjoyed the voyage very much -- will spend ten days in London, about the same in Paris and then go to Switzerland. How long she will stay abroad will depend on her own pleasure and whether she can find pleasant company to stay with her.

I am enjoying the summer with my daughters home from school & a cousin and schoolmate is visiting them

With love to yourself, aunt Caroline and the cousins I am

Yours truly
Mary G. Wallace

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

Oberlin. Ohio. Aug. 14. '88.

Dear Uncle and Aunt,

It is a very short time before our evening mail closes, but I will try to write a short letter, that you may learn as early as possible of our safe arrival. It was not a mistake to leave in the rain, for we suffered almost no inconvenience from it, and the driver said the <u>roads</u> were <u>improved</u>. Before we reached Great Barrington the sun peeped out a little. We changed cars, without delay, at Van Deusen, waited for forty minutes at State Line, and reached Albany at one o'clock, where we were delayed till the express train left, at 3 o'clock. This brought us home very rapidly, without stopping any where more than 15 minutes. We took a sleeping berth <*at*> from Syracuse to Cleveland. The lunch you put up so nicely, relished well. We did not need a great deal beside it, for the entire journey.

We could not have had a pleasanter day for a ride on the cars. There was no heat and no dust, as the rain had been abundant along the whole line.

Mr. Shurtleff has not yet returned, and a letter, just received, informs us that we must not expect him before the last of the week. I shall not forget the business with which uncle charged me.

Laura is well, and glad to see us and come home again. May bore the journey well. She and Laura both send love.

My thoughts often turn to Edward, and I shall hope to hear from you at your convenience, in regard to his health -- and also that the strong desire of your hearts that his long illness may be blessed to his spiritual good, has been realized.

I have no time to write nicely, but will you please excuse, and believe me ever

Your affectionate niece

Mary B. Shurtleff.

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Bolton Sept 25. 87

Dear Carrie --

I received yours telling of the safe arrival of the bbl Sat A.M. I was very glad to hear from you & yours &c & of the [the?] barrel.

Why I was so particular to know the price of the freight on the bbl. Amory said when he got home from the Depot he guessed the freight would be $4 dollars which quite surprised me. I had not thought of its being more than $2. I thought they would have a fixed price for a flour or sugar bbl whether it was light or heavy. I am glad it cost no more & you are entirely welcome to the over plus money. I hope the contents will be useful.

I guess the cool bracing air & quiet & rest & change will do much to restore your daughters health but it may take longer than she feels that she can be away from home but she may gain very fast in a little while. Lilly Edes called here last Evening. She has been in Nantucket considerably <*fo*> during the year She speaks of it as being a very healthy place Especially for those affected with malaria It is quite a resort for invalids & also for those seeking rest & pleasure A great many have summer residences there. Her sister -- wife of Mr Boys our former minister lives there they went from here there about two years ago & like there very much. The climate Especially & also people. Lilly intends to go back there & spend the winter Thank you for your good long letter & the one in it Write as often as you

I dont know as I have any thing of interest to say of our family since I last wrote We are as busy as Ever our cattle Fair comes next Wed. which always makes additional work for us. We are all well now & try to keep well which requires considerable thought & care. We consider Sams the most natural looking photograph of them all. Mary & Amory have not had any taken lately I hope Emme had good reasons for her belief in Cornelias restoration to comfortable health. Love to you all

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

I write so soon again to make some Enquiries about your Mother Grant. I remember she had a cancer on her nose When your sister with her little Carrie & Minnie were there I think. Did she not have a cup of copperas water & Every little while wet the sore with a little rag or lint? I think it was a rare sore at that time If she did so use copperas water was to allay pain or backen the disease or both? Did the cancer cause her death & how long did she live after she had the cancer & what did you do for it or what was done for it for her comfort? The reason of these Enquiries is that one of our neighbors an Excellent woman has a cancer come near her collar bone & she has consulted doctors & is told that it cannot be removed without Endangering her life it is so near an artery. It is not very painful yet but is very tender to the touch but has not broken into a sore. She can now do her work for herself & husband. She has no children. She may be 60 year sold Her name is Mrs. Proctor. You may not have hears us speak of her. She goes & belongs to the Baptist Church.

She does not Expect to get well but if she could do any thing to backen it would be glad to. She has had two removed but this one cannot be removed. When I spoke of the copperas water her countenance brightened up & she said it might backen it. I told her not to use it for what I had said for [...] I might not be right about it. It was long ago & did not make much

Enquiries about it. It seems to me that her chemises became some yellowed from her use of the copperas though the pores of her skin. Now was it so or not? I never thought to speak of it whenever I have seen you since. Please write about as soon as you will can & write on a separate piece of paper so I can read it to her Easily.

You did not ask me to return C's letter but I can as well as not
I was glad to see it & hope to see the others you speak of It keeps up my interest in the friends. I wonder you can write so much as you do as you have so many to write to & so much to do & you dont feel a great deal of the time

Try not to overdo for you are needed.

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