Subject: Westward Expansion

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

Wellington O}
Sept 24th}

Brighton September 3 '' 41

Much respected Relatives

I have often purposed to write to you but have delayed from month to month till years have passed since I have addressed you. I think it may be worse than useless to attempt an excuse. And yet I hate to have you lay it all to the score of disregard for your friendship, or even any part of it But I will tell you what. Perhaps you would prefer a letter of good length and well filled with interesting matter to a hundred excuses, poorly thought of and clumsily told. and so here is for the trial [*marking*]

And I would thank Cousins Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] for the tokens of remembrance we have received from them, and I hope they will embrace every opportunity to write to us. As for our health I can say I have enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health since I left Norfolk, ~ and Eliza's health I think improves from one year to another. She thinks she can endure hot weather and fatigue much better than she could two years ago. Her finger that has been so troublesome is improving constantly but not very rapidly she does not bandage it this summer, but subjects it to all the exposures and hardships that she does [her?]/others Our family consists of four, one a boy in the seventeenth year of his age whom I have taken till he is 21 and a hired girl, we live in a log house 18 feet by 24 partitioned into two rooms we have a stove instead of a fireplace and this hot summer weather we place it in a shed on the north side of the house where Eliza does her work leaving the kitchen for a sitting room, cool, comfortable, and pleasant You eastern folks who have always been accustomed to houses with more rooms in them than you well know what to do with, have but very imperfect ideas of the convenience enjoyed by people of a new country, who often have kitchen, buttry, bedroom, parlour, and cellar, all in one apartment of the size I have mentioned the dimentions of my house Now do not picture to yourselves a huge potatoe bin and a long row of musty ciderbarrels as the most prominent objects in such a room. for we have a way of not apt to produce cider till their owners are able to build cellars, but such rooms are placed where the neat housekeeper can display of no small share of taste and skill in so arranging her little stock of furniture that each article shall appear to fill its proper place without being unduly prominent, and in giving to the whole an air of neatness and comfort &c And such little rooms are great places for indulging in the sweets of anticipation for instance one thus situated will think of the time when the dense forest which surrounded the little mansion will give place to cultivated fields. When his little cabin will be exchanged for a mansion of greater size and elegance, when all the inconveniences incident to the settlers of a forest country will be overcome — when the fields and highways will become stumpless and smooth — and when all around, the impress[es?] of art will be stamped on the rude face of nature In Brighton we are thinking of the time when we shall have a meeting house — without steeple or bell to be sure — but commodious for the present, and we even talk of the time when it will require a larger building than 27 by 38 the size of the frame we have erected to accommodate the first Congregational Society of Brighton and it is possible we may then even listen to the "sound of a Church going bell" [marking] Eliza and I attended the commencement at Oberlin the 25th of August The day was taken up with exercises of the graduating class in the Collegiate department, Three young ladies took the degree of Bachelor of Arts Viz Miss Mary Hadford of Oberlin, Caroline M. Rudd Huntington, Conn Elizabeth [S.?] Prall New York City, They have been through with a full course of study — they did not speak in public on that day but their compositions were read by professor Morgan and

they appeared on the stage to receive their degrees, I have understood they were all affiance to [...] young men in Oberlin, the next day the theological graduates exhibited themselves we did not attend not finding it convenient to do so We were much interested with the exercises of the first day, the singing was excellent I should like to have cousin M [*Mary*] & C [*Caroline*] come and measure heads with Oberlin ladies

Why cant you come one or both of you, and visit your relatives in this part of the nation, see the country &c We should be extremely happy to have you come and spend a good while with us, Now you have completed your studies you want to travel a while to complete your education and in what direction could you travel with more intellectual profit than to the west you would see some of the noblest specimens of art and some of the wildest and sublimist displays of nature and I may add the most beautiful. If you want to teach school you would find schools in abundance. We want a teacher in Brighton that is something above par, one that could fit young ladies to Enter college

My little sheet contains but little room, I find it requires a larger sheet to write a long family letter, tell Cousin Erastus & Ralph I am raising nine calves and building a barn 40 feet square this summer Uncle Warrens family is well

Sept 23d all well Please write and see if I will not answer it in better season than I have done this time

To Uncle [*Ebenezer Burr*] and Aunt Burr [*Pamela Benton Burr*] and Cousins Mary Caroline Erastus [*Erastus Burr*] and Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] Please accept this Epistle as a testimonial of the sincere regard of D.B. & E.A. Hulburt

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

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*] June 2, 1843

My dear Parents, Sister & Brothers,

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

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

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

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

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

It was not very convenient for me to write much on the boat, so I just noted down a little now & then on a slip of paper which I will transcribe after writing a little before we left Albany — We just drove up to Mr. Butlers & talked a few moments with Jennette she said Ann Phelps was going to Chicago soon 90 miles from us — called at the school house & <*just*> said "Good Bye" to Desiah — as we passed along a little below Mr. Sam Gaylords Daniel sung Bounding Billows &c. several verses — some quite pretty & appropriate — it did me good — perhaps you can get them of some one — The first day as you probably learned of Joel, D [*Daniel*]. rode with him some leaving me to drive then Joel rode with me a little way saw no pleasanter farms coming to Wisconsin than in Sheffield & beyond — the next morning Joel & I went on to Albany 26 miles had a good visit reached there about 10 — called at a public house where I remained until 2 o'clock then I went on board the canal boat. Brockport, Capt. Chappel <*Capt*> when we reached Albany Joel went immediately to ascertain about a passage for us. Daniel arrived with the goods past 12 — & for some reason I was taken to the boat without looking for any carpet filling — J [*Joel Grant*] said he would get some I want to know about it I did not get any sacking for the settee because I thought we could get it here without the money & Joel said he presume 'twould be as cheap. Soon after we went onto the boat Jo [*Joel*]. came down & almost immediately word was given that we were to go to the other side of the river — So he bid us good bye & hastened out — an hour or so after Capt. brought from him a note saying that he had been looking at some stoves & thought twould be well for us to get one — D. [*Daniel*] looked & purchased one for $16 — funnel two spit boxes $5. I think it a very pretty stove — should think rather smaller than Uncle Silas' & much handsomer —

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

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

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

Friday P.M. there went on board a family of Jewetts from Northampton Mass — Old Mr. & Mrs. Jewett, their daughter Isabella about 22. I think, sons Albert 18. & Edward 16 & a married

son with two children George 5 & Mary 14 months — lovely children — Mary one of the sweetest [...] things I ever saw. They were all very pleasant & good company I felt quite attached to them — particularly Mrs. Henry Jewett — were going to Bricksville Ohio — not far from Cleveland — we left them at Buffalo —

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

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

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

* boat weights 30 tons

exclusive of the passengers about 52 tons for which the Capt. has to pay about $86 totl. It is considered a light load — In West Troy is an arsenal — are several buildings — do not think they are quite as handsome as those in Springfield — between 3 & 4 P.M. passed Cohose falls — thought of [M?] Calo. Butler & the little mineral on the shelf — the falls are no great sight — though very pretty —

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

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

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

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

Tues. morn [...] last night [...] rain the first we have had since we left [...] — breakfasted on bread cake & sweetened water — D [*Daniel*]. has <*just*> purchased 2 lbs. beef steak 5 cts lb. shall have some for dinner — sat on deck an hour or two — & after sewed some — Past 2 o'clock

are passing through Lodi — the rail road passes under the canal here I think Clarisa Eastman lived in Lodi — D [*Daniel*]. enquired but could hear nothing of her or her family — Possibly she never resided here as there is another tower of the same name in the state —

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

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

Thurs. morn. Are now within 16 miles of Rochester by way of the canal & 8 the stage road — Daniel & another gentleman have got off the boat to walk there as they wished to look around & D [*Daniel*]. though he needed the exercise —
4 o'clock — now in Rochester — canal passes through city — good many large buildings enquired after [...] Sibley Alling — found that <*she*> her husband kept a shoe store & that they lived with her Father a mile from the canal — I would have been very happy to have seen her, but we feared the boat would not stop long enough for us, & beside D [*Daniel*]. had a severe head ache — but we staied 3 hours or more & had we known we should might have gone — we learned before we got to Buffalo not to place much, if any dependence on what the Capt. said —

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

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

send another letter soon as I can write it for I could fill a [...] folio now — the mail only goes from here once in 7 days — Sundays — I want to hear from you — very particular — I thought of Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] on their birth days —

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

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

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

There are several plum trees near our house — a great many strawberry blossoms, & wild flowers — I enjoy them much believe there is most every thing to be bought in Milwaukie — such as dried applies. peaches &c — believe lard is here 5 or 6 cts. lb. [tallow?] twice that — wheat [flour?] $4 or 5 barrel — Muscovado sugar 8 cts — molasses 62 gale — butter 12 1/2 usually & 25 the last winter no shakes have been seen this spring but expect they will be plenty — musquetos are thick better get that broad cloth from Miss Dowd Want to know how much that brown broad cloth was worth in N. also how much strained pails cost. Levi's folks want one of ours very much — there is about 9 2/3 yds. of that black cotton cloth All that we had broken was largest looking glass, wh. was broken very fine, one tumbler, one light, <*tea*> cup. one quart bowl, one white deep plate, one blue pie plate, & our blue edged pie plate can mend most of them with little trouble — Dont feel bad about me — think I shall feel well enough if you do

Very aff. [*affectionately*] Caroline

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

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

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

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

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

Wonder if you find plenty of chipmunks to shoot. There are here little animals very much resembling chipmunks, called gophers, when I see them I always think of you — When you come to visit us, had better bring your gun — I dont think you would find wolves, for I have neither seen or heard of any — but there are deer around — Daniel saw one the other day about the size of a little colt, & it looks some like one — If you should come this year, do not think you need fear snakes much for I heard but very little said about them, have not seen one of any description to D [*Daniel*]. only one — Last year they were here around considerable — When you went on a shooting expedition you might take a basket & gather of the fruit about here, as you could find, strawberries, raspberries, red & black, whortleberries, blackberries, gooseberries, high bush cranberries, grapes, plums, crab apples, choke cherries, black cherries, hasle nuts & walnuts, or you might gather herbs & roots, wild balk with purple instead of red florets, wild summer savory,

mint, pennyroyal, thoroughwort, mayweed, tansy sweet flag, leeks & cattail — And I am sure you would not leave unpicked some of the lovely flowers you would — thousands of wild rose bushes bearing sweet scented, single red roses, red, yellow, white & pink ladies slipper, painted cup, wild sunflower beside a few scores of which I know not the name

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

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

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

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

Very affectionately your sister,
Caroline Grant

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

My dear Mother [*Pamela Benton Burr*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

I wear my buskin calfskin high shoes when I walk at all, almost always change to go to Levi's The socks are just beginning to wear through a little so as to need underlays D. [*Daniel*] says he can mend them — in the house I wear those calfskin [run?] rounds — the heels all stand erect yet —
& I have not [burnt?] them —

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

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

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

North west from here not farther than a mile lives Mr. Eggleston's people English suspect they are not in good
Mr. E. rather [is?] a mean man — near them lives old Mr. Brown & his wife — Mrs. Brown is a smart, intelligent cheerful old lady — are Baptists — have a son an Anti Slavery <*lecturer*> & moral reform lecturer His wife delivered a lecture on slavery to a crowded audience the other evening when she had concluded sung a song — we did not hear & not far from them lives Mr.

Crocker — another Baptist family, believe Mrs. C [*Crocker*]. is called an intelligent lady they have a fine garden filled with vegetables & flowers We have no garden as we thought it necessary to go immediately to clearing — I miss it more than I supposed I should — but we have had sent in some lettuce, a few beets, squash, string beans new potatoes & green tomatoes — the tomatoes are pretty good fried & make very good pies —
Fri. Eve 10 o'clock. I intended to write Ma every little incident that occurred daily for several days in succession, but I thought I must write what I have I will endeavor to sometime Good night dear mother My health is good as it was last year — am not sick any only sometimes
very aff — Carry — [*Caroline Burr Grant*]
don't feel much like work — Daniel wants me to give his love to all our people — he has intended to write in some of the letters but found no time —

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

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

By all that we enquire & hear abou[t?] stocking yarn don't think that we can do any better with it than you & perhaps not as well — Give our love to Father Grants people — we wrote to Joel about a week since & directed to Millbrook —
If Mr. Harvey Grant has left for Conn. Before Mrs. Levi reaches there, or if he does not go shall ask her to mail this in Ohio

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

My dear brother Erastus,

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

The time that the kitten fell D. [*Daniel*] had gone to Tenessee to [Ruluf?] & Frederic Grants for some potatoes they have been worth 50 cents [*writing very faded*] [a bushel about?] […] [very fair?] at that — the prospect of an abundant crop this year is very unfavorable it has been so extremely dry — we have had but about two bushels potatoes — wheat bread, & biscuit with milk & butter griddles & hasty pudding & milk of which last D. [*Daniel*] is a very fond — He has eat since he came to Wis [*Wisconsin*]. About as much as you do — says he never eat so much before
People that come here & settle on uncultivated <*new*> land are obliged to labor very hard to out & burn bushes & gather together & burn old logs dig a few stones & "break up" after the land is once broken then one can get [al?] with less hard labor then in N. E. [*New England*]

My [dear?] brother I think of you often this summer & [in?] my prayers too — O I have wept again & again to think that I did not pray & labor & agonize more for you last winter when It seemed as if you had almost entered the kingdom of Heaven but O it is not now too late — the Savior says "come go to a meeting all you can, wont you" & try to be good every day — be assured you have my most sincere love & regard — very affectionately your [sis]ter Caroline
I want to know how your back is also your lungs —
To my <u>dear</u> sister Mary what can I say — My heart is full — You have my sincere sympathy a[s?] I think of you this summer laboring hard &c I suspect I don't grieve as you do not because I love you less but because I have an aff. [*affectionate*] sympathizing heart here that <u>lightens my heart</u>

You are remembered at the throne of grace —

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

We want to hear from home often

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

Norfolk [*Connecticut*], Sept. 18.

My dear Mrs. Grant,

We received this last Saturday by Mr. Harvey Grant — Think perhaps that some portions will interest you Would like to read the letter which you last received from D. [*Daniel*] & C.

[*Caroline*] & shall be much obliged if you will send it us the first opportunity should John not come with it you will notice that Caroline would like some pieces like D's [*Daniel*] light vests — You may know what they are — We do not. Shall probably send something by Mr. Grant

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

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

Folio post.
[*Post stamp:* Prairieville, Wis. [*Wisconsin*] Feb 25 1844]
Dear Parents,

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

I hardly know what to write, but think as I have neither time nor room to say much I will confine myself mostly to some particulars which C. [*Caroline Burr Grant*] has noticed. You wish to hear more about our land & I will make you as well acquainted as I can with the limited time and room which I have. It is as you know 3/4 of a mile long from east to west, & 1/4 wide, containing as nearly as I can guess about as much marsh or wet prairie as dry land, the wet, pretty wet, and the dry, very dry. Many people think the marsh will be the most valuable land in a few years & I think there is some reason for such a supposition but our upland is not as good as I wish it was, it being white sand or gravel, that is, considerable of it. There is however from 20 to 30 acres good land and perhaps a little more, but that is but little for such a farm. The object I wish to accomplish is to sell 40 or 80 acres here and buy forty on sec. 11, the E. line of which is <*a*> due S. line from the W. end of this farm. the S.W. corner of this 1/2 mile worth of the N.E. corner of that. Besides preserving all the advantages of this, it has a good many in addition some of which C [*Caroline*] has mentioned. The tract contains 80 acres, 40 of which Joel owns. We cannot sell this at present for money, but presume we can in a few months. have two opportunities in view not room to tell about them. If we buy where we wish to at the price C [*Caroline*] named we <*have*> must decide soon, for others stand ready to take it as quick as it is to be had. It is land under a mortgage & not likely to be payed & the mortgagee has made the mortgager an offer for it in lieu of foreclosing & he says as we have one half of it he will let us have the other half for what he pays. The land I bought for J [*Joel Grant*] sold for $8 per acre last spring J [*Joel*] paid but little more than half that & suppose that I can get the rest for $4 If you can furnish the money, we can use the avails of this land if we should sell part of it, to build a house, if not we must let the opportunity go. I feel that if such an arrangement could be made our condition and prospects will be much improved, at least, I believe I shall be contented. wish father would advise as much as he can in all my affairs

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

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

Your affectionate son,
Dan'l [*Daniel*] Grant

During the latter part of Dec. & Jan. there were meetings here days & night for 4 weeks — the methodist, Baptist & Congregation churches united — quite a number of conversions — I was down to the village 11 days — attended meetings most of the time — Hope I rec'd [*received*] a few mercy drops — Kind friends invited me to their houses & so freely too that I sometimes scarce knew wh. [*which*] way to turn We have presented our letters to the C. [*Congregational*] church & have been rec'd [*received*] — We feel distressed to hear of Martha's illness — feel

anxious to hear often as is consistent — have rec'd [*received*] no letters this winter from Father Grant's people at home or from our brothers at New Haven [*Connecticut*] — We sent Joel a letter — think in Dec.
My love to all our relatives & friends,

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

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

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[*Addressed to:*] Mr. Ebenezer Burr
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
Mr. I. Mills

Prairieville [*Wisconsin*], May 7, 1844.

My dear Parents,

Mr. I. Mills called here unexpectedly last Thurs. P.M. and we were very glad to see him — He observed things pretty closely for he said he supposed our Parents would "quiz" him —

Daniel has been so busy this spring that he has not got the house & yard &c. in as good condition as we should like to have them — in fact we are rather ashamed of the looks of things but hope for better times —

We have not yet got <*that*> a mirror plate as they would ask for putting it in $1. in Mil. [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] & we have had other uses for our money. I have had considerable leisure this Spring for reading — half or more of the time I take is consumed in reading news papers & Miss Heralds [The Missionary Herald, *monthly publication of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] — for the last 6 weeks we have had no milk of our own so that I have had less to do than usual — but the cow has calved to day — & we rejoice — we have had milk occasionally of our neighbors. as our appetites are not all the time very keen we find it rather hard to be deprived of <*milk*> it —

I am glad that you have got a pr. [*pair*] stockings footed for me, for I dont seem to get along with knitting as I do with sewing — I wish to knit Daniel a pr. [*pair*] suspenders, but cannot tell how to get it right — I have commenced two or three times & tried <*till*> long as I thought 'twould be of any use — no one here knows, at least that I have asked perhaps Matilda can tell you so that you can write — does She take off the first stitch & then put over the thread. & then narrow as we generally do? or does she narrow backwards — I suppose you will think I ought not to have forgotten. I think so too, & had no idea I had, till I tried —

<*The heels of the*> The stockings that I heeled for Levi [*Levi Grant*] had apparently rec'd [*received*] but little attention & new heels were needed I thought — Mrs. G. [*Grant*] wished them — I knit them to accommodate & I know dried apples & peaches will not come amiss —

I saw recently in one No. of our Cultivators a cure for Corns. — An individual pared off what he could with a sharp knife & then bathed it freely in sprits of turpentine & put on it a linen cloth wh. [*which*] he wet with turpentine — in a few days the corns came out root & branch. Daniel has just said that one of our neighbors recently applied some turpentine to a corn & it made him very lame & pained him so much that he was obliged to discontinue the use of it. I presume it does not affect persons alike —

We last fall bought some corn & have & expect to feed it to the hogs & oxen, except enough for our own use, as the<*y*> oxen are old & need something beside this marsh hay

Daniel has written a letter to Uncle Pettibone [*Amos Pettibone*] & given some description of land wh. [*which*] would probably interest you though I do not know but Mr. Mills will tell as well. Dan'l [*Daniel*] helped me make nearly half a barrel nice soap a few weeks since —

[*Written across second page:*] My health is pretty good though I dont believe it is perfect.

[*2 maps drawn on third page: one of the plot of land, one of the house*]
Daniel drew this map of our farm & was expecting to describe it to you, but I think he will not have time — there are 40 acres in each square — that crooked line is nearly a dividing line between the marsh & dry land — most of the upland rises rather abruptly from the marsh — the land fr. [*from*] the E. boundary rises slightly as far as the barn — there is quite a pitch between the house & barn there is a plain west of the house extending about 50 rods & from 10 to 30 rods in width — the remainder westward is broken — the 10 ft. 35 ft &c. on the map means that distance above the marsh. as we guess at it.

I think you will understand the house d. means door — w. window — if we stay here intend to have a closet partitioned off at the east end of the bedroom & perhaps move the partition between the bedroom & pantry so as to have the <*pantry smaller*> bedroom larger
we yet go up chamber with ladder. intend to have the settee stand extending from the S.W. corner of the kitchen to the library shelves. there are three rows of shelves on the N. & W. sides of pantry — the lowest one not quite three ft. from floor — on each end of the upper shelf on the west end stands a pile dishes not often in use, on the north end of the shelf large platters &c. between them are the canisters sugar boxes, &c. — on the second shelf at the S. end of the shelf first is an old tin platter with knives & forks daily used on it — next are the common earthen dishes tumblers &c & then blue cups & saucers plates &c. on the lower shelf at the S. end stands the soap dish the remainder of the shelf is used for milk at the farther end & between that & soap I put dirty dishes — the lower shelf on the N. side is used for milk & tin dishes, the second one for food & the third for candlestick & many "notions."

Dear brother Erastus,
We would like your help & company & I will write for Daniel something that you might expect D. [*Daniel*] says. people get from 12 to 50 bushels per. acre according to the quality of the land, the time of sowing & the manner of plowing & getting in seed to the ground — 50 bushels per acre is a very extraordinary yield — many say 25 " [*bushels per acre*] is an average yield but D. [*Daniel*] thinks 20 is — our land was not plowed well & some of it was sown rather late & D. [*Daniel*] thinks we shall do pretty well if we get 15 bushels per. acre this year — it now looks as well as <*some*> almost any other<*s*> about — The price of wheat is generally 50 cts. [*cents*] per. bushel, many times more & not often less. he does not know how much it will cost to prepare the land & gather crops, or at least cant very well tell now, but perhaps will sometime, but he says you could probably earn from $10 to 11 per month the year around — I think of you a great deal & love you much I want you should form right principles & opinions now & pious ones too — be kind to all — if you do sometimes feel that it is hard to be, Your affectionate sister, Caroline. [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

[*Written across last page:*] We have got our crickets partly made

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

Waukesha (Prairieville) [*Wisconsin*] Aug. 15 Sab. [*Sabbath*] eve / 47.

My dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters.

I do not recollect the date of your last letter to us. but I remember that we received it soon after Joel [*Joel Grant*] left us. You wished us to write often as consistent — I did not write immediately on the reception of your letter, thinking that Joel seeing you would remove the necessity of it — & I can give no other reason for delaying thus long only that I have been so busily engaged through the week that I have not taken the time.

We have been usually well until last Monday when Daniel had a violent attack of chill fever — he went to work <*at a*> in the morning about half a mile cutting wheat — at noon came home sick I gave him an emetic, soaked his feet put drafts upon them. & he took some cathartic pills — but as the violence of the symptoms did not seem to abate we called a physician Tues. eve of the homopathic order — his medicine seemed to have a very good effect — he has had no

chill to day & has set up most of the time — we think if he is careful he will be able to be around in a few days — at work a little —

It has been exceedingly dry here this summer & considerable sickness prevails now, fevers of various kinds, mostly bilious & chill & some ague — I take medicine occasionally <*to prevent sickness*> when I have bad feelings — have felt much better this summer than I did last.

Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] is now getting some of her teeth — the eye teeth have just come through — has had bowel complaint some, but not very bad. she grows tall, does not lose flesh — has been quite lonesome since we moved into our new house — wh. [*which*] by the way was two weeks ago — it is still unfinished as you will suppose — Abby sometimes gets her bonnet & says

I must go home. where is home. I want go meeting — want go walk Chandlers (one of our new neighbors before we moved) want to see Anny (Anty).

Mamma call Libby — call Annette — Papa you get pussy — she will sometimes get a little pail & hang on her arm & say I must go milk cow. Papa you eat medicine?

I mention so many of her expressions because some of you wish to know what she says. — she seems passionately fond of a cat & dog — we have neither but are going to get a kitten for her —

Aug. 21. Sat. eve. When I commenced this sheet nearly a week ago I intended it should be on the way to you before this. but I have been partly sick two or three days this week but have taken medicine & am now well. I have <*I have*> also been trying to finish a fine shirt wh. [*which*] I am making for the dentist who filled my teeth I had three cavities filled with gold, six with tin & four teeth extracted for wh. [*which*] the charge is $6.75. I have made two coarse shirts & the most of three fine ones for which I shall charge $3. I expect to sew more still for him —

Daniel's health continues to improve a little — he has gone to Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] to day for a man who has drawn some lumber for us this summer D [*Daniel*]. thinks perhaps he may teach again this winter — we do not expect to have more than one room in our house plastered this winter —

We still have the use of the garden that we planted — wh. [*which*] we find quite a help — Our cow does tolerably well this summer — we had it pastured — Mr. Caufield who has boarded with us this summer expects to go east next week, so that we shall be alone again for the present wh. [*which*] I expect to enjoy — though we have not found it unpleasant to have him with us — he pays us $1.50 per week in flour, store pay & work on the house — I do his washing for 50 cts. [*cents*] doz. — do not know exactly how much his board costs us, but we lose nothing — he does not drink tea or coffee nor eat meat — prefers graham bread. <u>we</u> have got into the habit of eating it & Daniel thinks it is much better for him than fine flour —

The dried apples that I brought from home are are almost gone — they have been of great use to us — we have bought a few berries this summer strawberries & raspberries sold for 5 & 10 cts. [*cents*] qt. blueberries 6 cts. [*cents*] & gooseberries 4 — last spring we set out about 100 currant & smooth gooseberry <*plan*> sprouts — but the season has been so extremely dry that a good many of them will die —

Have had no letter from Mary since June — I do not know where she spent this summers vacation, conclude not at home.

Give my love to sister Nancy & Erastus tell them we should be very happy to have them write to us — I did intend to write to them long before this time but it has not seemed to be consistent — hope they will excuse us. — I was <u>very</u> <u>glad</u> to hear from my friend Sarah Sibly Alling — have rec'd [*received*] & read with great interest the Memorandum Catalogue — also the Annual — [*from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary?*]

Give my love to all relatives & friends — Rec'd [*received*] letter from Mother Grant soon after Joel left us — have heard nothing from any of them since — feel very anxious — expected Joel would write soon after his arrival there — but we shall not wait much longer before writing to them — am anxious to know how the [...] Ma gets along with her work — is the <*old*> house comfortable? — hope Ralph is not at Mr John Shepherd — I do not think a tavern is <*the right*> a good place for him to be. I fear he will acquire bad habits —

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

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

Prairieville [*Wisconisn*], March 30. /47.

My dear Parents & Brothers,

We were very glad to receive your letter last Sat March 27 — I wondered why we did not hear before but did not allow myself to feel greatly troubled about it. I did not hear much worse news than I expected to for I concluded she was sick, or at least I feared it. O how it makes me feel but I cant help it. I am very glad to hear Ma [*Pamela Benton Burr*] say she intends to be careful about her diet, for I think it will be a great preventive to sickness — I shall not exhort her as Mary did to be picking up things &c. but rather to do as little as possible & not get overdone. Am glad you have got a good girl for a while

Brother John wrote us a letter about a week before the removal of his tumors wh. [*which*] he did not send until after the operation when Martha Woodward who accompanied him to N. Haven [*New Haven, Connecticut*] enclosed another giving an account of the operation. his state &c. he became very much exhausted & was for a time considered in a very precarious condition — The physicians thought before the operation that the tumors were the cause of the paralysis, but on removing the tumors discovered that the back bone is diseased. so that there is no hope of his ever being well — this fact John was not aware of when the letter was sent — but frequently spoke of being able in a few weeks to walk — what must be his feelings when he learns his situation I cannot bear to think of it — <*I do not*> it is enough to depress all our spirits. but there is comfort in thinking that God knows what is best & will do all things right —

It is comparatively healthy here at present although there are a few cases of typhus fever — quite a number are again having the ague as the Spring is opening Daniel did for two or three weeks feel quite aguish but has taken medicine & hopes to escape it — he is better now — he has been in school a little more than three months & expects to close soon. he gives good satisfaction for aught we know & <*does*> is not so tired of teaching as to feel that he will never again engage in it.

We have lived much more comfortably & pleasantly in this little room this cold winter than I expected to. we have had an excellent family to live with.

We expect soon to remove to a very pleasant place in the village about a quarter of a mile from here, have room enough, as there are in the lower part of the house two rooms a pantry & large recess for a bed, beside a shed. in wh. [*which*] is the well there is one plastered room in the chamber. beside the # house,

This house has rented this winter for $12.25 cash per week

we are to have & garden, & another small piece of land & the use of a cow or its equivalent, & in exchange we are to board the owner of the property & do his washing he furnishes his own bed. — this gentleman is a goldsmith & besides employs persons to make tin ware. he will wish to employ Daniel some in <*p*>selling tin & doing various other jobs for wh. [*which*] he will pay in cash & otherwise as we need. Daniel does not think it best to try to go to farming at present but expects to work out, or teach school or both or do something else & get what he can & live comfortably as we go along Mr. Pennington in whose house we are to live is going to put a plate in our looking glass frame. we also hope to have a bureau or something of the kind before long but can not tell whether we shall be able to.

Daniel now expects to put up a house in the upper end of the village on the road leading by Joels 40 acre lot. as I have before said we shall be able to make the house very comfortable to live in without going much if any into debt though he will now be obliged to take this winter's wages as he was disappointed in selling sand last fall — he now expects to purchase the lot on wh.[*which*] he intends to build there is about 1/3 of an acre — price $50. we do not think there will be any risk in getting this property as there is little doubt but that it will sell or rent should we wish

to dispose of it — should we have a house of our own where we think of we shall not pay rent & shall be conveniently situated to obtain work. attend meetings &c. It is a great privilege in many respects to reside in a village. I dont see but Daniel is just as busy as when we were on the farm — has earned several dollars this winter beside teaching — when not at work there are meetings to attend & his relations to some of them are such that he feels obliged to attend being Secretary of a Young Ladies & Gentleman's Temperance Society & President of a Phonographic Association — these meet once a week & there is also a stated Thursday evening prayer meeting, beside other meetings occasionally — We like our minister better than I expected to like one after hearing Mr. Curtis.

Little Abby is well most of the time, several weeks ago she came very near having the croup. she was suddenly taken about bed time with a very hoarse dry cough & oppressive breathing so we gave her some lard & molasses & put a little oil upon her throat she seemed a little relieved but continued so bad that we rose twice before morning & bathed her in cold water pouring it most freely about the neck & chest. we then rubbd her off briskly, wrapped her in flannel & laid her in bed — for sometime we kept a cloth wet with cold water upon her throat & chest over this we put a flannel one — we think this method of treatment vey good indeed — it is said to perform wonderful cures in cases of croup — Mrs. Curtis cured her baby by the application of water — I should mention that Abby had some croupy symptoms remaining in the morning but they seemed much abated Abby does not seem much more fleshy than she was last summer, but grows tall is 2 ft. 7 1/2 in. in height. she will attempt to say almost any think that she is told to, & speaks very plain for one of her age, so all say, she puts words together considerable she will say "Papa gone spool", "here comes Mama". Yesterday Mrs. Root put her rag baby on a little cup — Abby says (after being told I suppose) "here 'tis baby on cup." you cannot know how pretty all this sounds, as you do not hear the peculiar emphasis with which she speaks. here Papa comes, she accents the first word half sings & half laughs — Mrs. Root she calls Anny for Anty & Antoinette she very distinctly speaks Annette. she sometimes hops & dances. when things do not go to suit her, but she is usually a very good little girl to mind. I take her to meetig week days, but Sundays one of us stay with her — when she goes out she wears that scarlet flannel dress & pantalets & white apron — I have made her that little black hood wh. [*which*] she wears common & have got most of her summer clothes in readiness making them shorter with pantalets &c. . In answer to your inquiries I will say that I did not pay any thing for extra baggage when coming. I did not materially injure my new delaiu on the journey through I got it some soiled. but cleaned it — it makes me a very pretty dress, but is not going to wear well my velvet hat was repaired in Milwauk [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]. I gave a dollar for it — was glad I did not have it done before I left as the style was not such as is worn this winter — I lost on my journey [...] scissors, a little [...] of sweet oil & that calico loose dress that was Mary's — think I left the scissors at Aunt Emeline but am not positive I intended to have mentioned them before — none of our things that we left were injured of any importance —

A few days since I had four decayed teeth taken out — I am going to sew to pay for it — am glad Ralph takes so good care of his —

Our heifer has been dry two weeks but we expect to have new milk within a week or two —

We had rather live here than in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*].

The name of this town is changed to Wankesha. I do not like the new name half as well as I did the old one hope it will be changed back again next winter —

I was grieved to hear of the death of Aunt Jane's little Edwin. I know they will feel his loss deeply — am daily looking for a letter from May I have rec'd [*received*] no letter from Father Grants since we wrote to them a long time ago — but know they cannot write often — I would like you to send them this & then we shall not need write them at present — hope they will write soon telling particularly about Martha [*Martha Woodward*] & John [*John Grant*] Give our love to all our relatives & friends It is our prayer that you may bell all of our dear friends

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

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

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

My dear Parents, Sister, & Brother,

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

We have a little son, a pretty child, plump & apparently healthy – he has thus far slept a great deal, but likes to be tended when awake. — his father has given to me the selection of his name & I am at quite a loss what to decide upon. Would like to name him after all of our friends, but our Parents & Grandparents gave to most of their sons names that sound rather graceless to my ear, have thought of the several names of our brothers with the letter E. for a middle name wh. [*which*] is an initial of the name of our Father, two of our brothers & other relatives but wh. [*which*] of the brothers names shd. [*should*] we take! I think John sounds the best. — I have always fancied the name of Edward, & have thought of the name Edward Burr or Ralph Edward. what say you to all this? — I got along very well indeed after confinement & at the time too had slight pains 16 hours or more but not [some?] more than 1 or 2 hours had some fever two or three days took a little cold I suppose the second week, but have had no trouble with caked breasts or sore nipples. I now feel quite well & strong – had good help – was with us between three & four weeks, & Daniel has since, as usual, been very kind & good to assist me. He has for several weeks past had some trouble with a weak & sour stomach – has & is taking some medicine — two or three weeks ago he sprained his left wrist & has not been able to use it much since — he has seemed to endure labor better this summer than for two years before & has earned a good many dollars. he is not yet decided what to do this winter, thinks <*te*?> of teaching school if he can.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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[*Addressed to*] Messrs. Eben. & Erastus Burr
Norfolk [*Connecticut*]

Sat. eve 9 o'clock March 3, 1849.

Dear Children

This P. M. your Father [*Ebenezer Burr*] went to town to Meet Mr. Hill [*William Hill*] they reached home about candle light bringing your letter mailed Feb. 11. So as soon as we have told 'bout things here will say what we wish to D. [*Daniel*] & try to send that to Dea. [*Deacon Elijah*] Grants tomorrow. The house was in order Mary Dressed & tea nearly ready when <*Mr.*> they arrived now near 10 o'clock they <*are*> Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] & Mr Hill are in the South room made very warm by a box stove which we borrow for a few weeks your pa & Ralph are in bed I am by our cook stove in the kitchen burning some coffee while writing. Suppose <...> that bed was worth 50 cts. [*cents*] a lb. [*pound*] here but I would not sell it unless you are coming here to live & never intend to go back there <...> to live Dont sell it <u>with</u> without cash down — & do not sell it at <u>all</u> it seems very strange that you should even <u>think</u> of selling the only good bed you have every family wants a bed & you would not be likely to buy a good feathers again why do you wish to sell it? It is late & I have a great deal on my my mind & cannot write well & have a poor pen so good night hope you will do what is best we are all well don't sell any thing for less than it is worth

Pamela [*Benton*] Burr

& we do not wish to advise <u>very strongly</u> in regard to D [*Daniel*]'s, going to California because we do not <u>know</u> what is <...> best The prospect of Caroline's coming home to stay with us 2 years is a strong inducement to us to consent to Daniel's going — <...>but I had much rather he would come here with you & about here a company talked of going from this town Levi Phelps Levi

Gaylord Frederick Porter Charles Mills & others were going & Ralph was anxious to go & at one time we half consented but upon further reflection thought it not best & one after one they all gave it up <*after*> in the course of a few weeks & as far as I know <*e*> <*any*?> every one thinks they acted wisely in doing so If Daniel goes I am afraid his health will be <*poorer*> worse instead of better & <*poorer*?> <*insisted*> that he would be poorer instead of richer The outfit & 2 years time will be a great deal for him to lose

Dear sister & brother

It is now Sabbath morning – but am obliged to write now in order to get this off to Dea. [*Deacon Elijah*] Grants — I think the same as Caroline about D.'s [*Daniel*] going to California & know not how to advise — I should dearly love to have Caroline here – but I should be anxious & fearful that all would not end well with Daniel — Dont know exactly when or where we shall be married – this [P?] probably Tuesday evening at home – some wish us to go to church & have the ceremony performed just before starting — If you do not come on will write you a long letter soon — So good bye now <...> how I have wished you here with me dear sister all these long months kiss the darling children for me – love to Daniel & Caroline from their affection sister

Mary Burr

Dear Sister & Brother

<*want advice*?> I would by all means advise Daniel to go to California I think it would be beneficial to his health & that he would get some money too, & more than that I want Caroline & Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] & Eddy [*Edward Grant*]
to come out here to stay. Yours affectionately

Ralph E. Burr

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[*Addressed to*]

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

[*Note at the left side of address leaf*]

Caroline Grant
Apr […] 1849.
I think my children & Grant children may
like to read this.

Waukesha [*Wisconsin*], Apr. 2, '49.

My dear Parents,

My dear husband has this day taken his departure for California, & you will of course know that I do not feel much like writing – but I wish to ask some questions & have you write back before I wish to start for Ct. [*Connecticut*] do not now know just when that will be – probably sometime in May, perhaps the fore part of it. I will not now rehearse the reasons wh. [*which*] led D. [*Daniel*] to <*the conclusion*> decide to go, but he felt that it was best to go — Joel wrote us a letter approving of it – but, O dear – Father & Mother Grant are very decidedly opposed to it & D. [*Daniel*] says you all are. R. [*Ralph*] excepted – rece'd [*received*] her letter & yours a few days since & had two or three days previously recd one from her – poor Mother I am sorry she feels so badly & Daniel was, but he had all his a[rrange]ments made had put in some money, & it was di[ffi]cult to "back out." The company were not willing he should and he did not know as it was best – though he said if he could get his pay back he did not [know?] but he would stay on account of her feelings*

* he is afraid it will wear upon her & shorten her life.

— he has good company – in the wagon with him is a physician & wife from this place, one of our <...> best ones, & a conscientious Christian man.

Should we live we know not whether we shall wish to live in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] & we have concluded that I had better take with me one or two boxes at least of the best of our things. I shall probably go on the canal though I now feel that should the cholera rage much I shall wish to take the railroad — Should I <...> take the cars (& I dont know but if I should not) my box ought to be directed Daniel only to the care of the owner of the depot at Canaan I think. I do not know his name, probably R. Battell or Wm Lawrence & others [etc.] & will you ascertain soon as possibly convenient & write to me — I shall not sell the bed – dont know whether it is best to take it – can leave it with a neat nice woman who will take good care of it & use it for a spare bed, & has but little company, & we could send for it <*if*> when we wish<*ed*> to – if there is any thing in particular that you wish me to take please make it known – shall I take the seive & that little 2 qt [*quart*] brass bottle? — We are going to let our stove go but have reserved the copper tea kettle – shall I take it? Shall box up nearly all of the things that I leave – shall take the good bed clothes. What shall I do with the blue crockery? suppose I could sell it if best. I know not the price of it – could you send me the bill? have sold the largest rocking chair for $2.25 cash – intend to take the other along – do not intend to sell things at much sacrifice – how much is the table that we have worth?

Mother Grant requested us to write to her immediately on receiving her letter I have had no time until now, & I do not feel as if I could write to her but she will probably receive one within two or three weeks after you receive this, as Daniel said he would partly fill a sheet & send to me to fill it & send on — I expect to suffer a great deal from loneliness I suppose Mary is now in New Jersey – hope I shall receive letter from her before I leave Wis. [*Wisconsin*] – hope you will have some tomatoes growing – children are both well Abby [*Abigail E. Grant Burr*] talks a great deal about going to Neticut It has been a job to get Daniel ready – have been obliged to hire considerable sewing done.

Love to Erastus, Nancy & little May Ellen, Ralph and all — You must not reckon too much on seeing us you know some or all of us may be taken away before we meet —

Yours aff. [*affectionately*]
Caroline

I hope it will not be too much trouble for you to write within two or three days after receiving this, for perhaps I may find company or for some other reason be very anxious to go —

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[*Addressed to:*] Master Ralph Ebeneser Burr [*Ralph E. Burr*]
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]
Mr. I. Mills.

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

My dear brother Ralph,

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

I think you have improved considerable in your hand writing. Do you grow fast? Do you try to restrain angry feelings when you feel them rising? I hope you do. you will be glad when you are older if you do. I want to caution you again about using a gun. now dear Ralph dont you think you know so much about a gun that there is no need of your being careful. many persons that have used a gun much more than you have met with sad accidents — deer skip & bound here though I have chanced to see but two live ones although I suppose they have many times passed very near our house — I believe I wrote you last fall that I had neither seen nor heard of wolves about here, but since then I have heard that in some parts of the Ter. [*Territory*] there are a good many & about five or six miles from here are some — there are but very few just about here — we dont know that we have heard them — there are two kind of wolves, the large grey

wolves & those that are called prairie wolves the last are smaller than the others & less ferocious — expect there are some wild cats about — I last winter saw the skin of one stuffed that a man in our neighborhood killed — There are wild "prairie hens" about here, have been told that they look just like a common speckled hen. we sometimes hear the cocks crow in the morning. the round does not much resemble that of domestic cocks but is a coarse, cooing sound — believe the flesh of these hens is as good as any — they sometimes fill their crops with wheat, dont know that they do any other harm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Folio post.

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

My own precious Sister,

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

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

I fancy you think of us to day, as one year ago this day my dear husband & I took upon us the solemn marriage vow – life has since passed pleasantly with me, & I feel it good "to lean on an accordant bosom, I love
The beating of a heart that beat as mine
The sparkling of an eye that tells of thoughts
That harmonize with what I feel." –
But you know "There will be dark hours for all." & strange if some moments of sadness should not steal over me, but then 'tis sweet to feel a Savior [high?] –

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

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

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

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

always attends the fever & if it settles in the bowels the case is considered almost or quite hopeless – we feel that a kind Providence has indeed watched over us for good <*by*> thus far preserving our lives & health –

We last week rec'd [*received*] a paper fr. [*from*] home & a letter fr. [*from*] Joel written at Millbrook [*Connecticut*] – they brought Martha home last of Apr. or first of May in Esq. Battells barouche – she seemed to be considerably affected by the journey but had mostly recovered from the effect when the letter was written May 6. M. [*Martha Grant*] does not sit up at all. & we have great fear that she will not recover, though they have a little hope think it may be month before the disease conquers her –

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

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

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

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

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

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

No. 7. Washington Square
Philadelphia

Penn [*Pennsylvania*]

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

Prairieville. Jan. 8. 1847 –

My dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I will endeavor my dear Sister to give sufficient attention to my teeth to preserve them, though I do not feel that I shall often expend an half hour daily upon them – I laughed when you said that you had <u>commenced</u> <u>being</u> <u>particular</u> <u>with</u> <u>your</u> <u>own</u>

Wm. Pease said that my front teeth were decayed very badly to fill, & that he gook a great deal of pains in filling them. But I am sorry to say the filling in two of the cavities has for some two months or more been loose & recently a piece came out as large as the head of a pin – there had previously one or two very small particles came out –

Why do not the Madame's & Md'lles' [*mademoiselles*] let you have a better place to study French than in the midst of "A mirthful noisy school girls?" & only occasionally a recitation! I do not see how you can make much advance <*much*>. I would not spend a great deal of time in writing to cousins &c

Harriet Prevost's death must be a deep affliction to her friends – present to them our sympathy & love –

D. Hurlburt appears much as he used to intelligent agreeable &c. looks some older has two children a girl & boy – has acquired a handsome property.

How do you like that plaid dress? The trimming that was on my white hat that I intended to have taken home I have found since returning –

Have had no letter from Father Grants people since my return – have had two from Joel [*Joel Grant*] & Abby [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] – J. has been sick most of the time since June – I rec'd [*received*] letter from our people soon after yours, am glad they sent yours, your lecture to Ralph [*Ralph E. Burr*] was needful & good, hope he will hear it – I am anxious about Erastus [*Erastus Burr*] – Should like you to forward this home as <*I*> it will save my writing so soon to them –

We are not yet decided where we shall live next summer. Daniel cannot feel that it is best for us to return to Ct. [*Connecticut*] & stay a few years. As it will be so much expense to go & come especially if we move our goods & if any were left they would be in great danger of being destroyed by mice or persons or both & he does not feel <*as though*> that there is any one here with whom we could safely trust our property, land &c & think it would cost a third more to live there than here – had he built a house last fall the man who was to build the barn would have put it up & [some?] of the $50 that Mr. Short was to pay & some money for D's work last summer was expended for lumber so that arrangements were made not to run much if any in debt for the building of the house

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

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

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

Wankesha. Prairieville, Sept. 11, 1847 –

My dear Sister,

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

About five weeks since Daniel had a violent attack of chill fever, but by prompt measures succeeded in breaking it so that he was not confined to the house but about a week, he has not felt as well since, but he has been able to work most of the time – My health continues good it is much better than it was last summer there is a good deal of sickness around this season fevers of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You have probably heard or read something of the Society for promoting National popular Education – I think there are a Committee of six – do not now recollect any but Pres. Beecher & Ex Governor Slade – teachers are sent out by the Soc. chiefly to the West. Miss Catherine

Beecher gives the lectures &c. previous to their coming – we have one here in Prairieville – Miss Baker from Lancaster N.H. she commenced with a very small school but it increases & she is very much liked – I sent for her to tea one P.M. found that she has been familiar with the hist. [*history*] of the Hol. Sem. [*Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] from its commencement. Came [very?] near going there &c – spoke of the high repute of the Ips. Sem. [*Ipswich Female Seminary*] while under the care of Miss Grant – of the respect & admiration & veneration & with wh. [*which*] she was regarded –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*:] Mrs Mary B Hill [*Mary Burr Hill*]
Present

Flemington [*New Jersey*] October 11th 1852

My dear Mary

You will please ask your [mother?] to accept the enclosed [infle?] for the trouble she has taken with the flannel.

I hope she has not exerted herself too much

As William of course will tell you all that is interesting in our little circle of friends. I can only add – Love and kind regards to your mother and sister, from yours very truly Jane Allen

This note was written by Miss Allen an English lady who came to this country when young & was for many years a teacher & has her home […] Mr. Hills family
She is about 75 yrs of age I think Oct. 52. C. Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*]

Bolton, March 4 ,59 (Friday)

My Dear Daughter,

You chanced to say in your last that Daniel & Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*] were thinking of selling their farm & going to St. Pauls Minnesota with a view of buying lot[s?] cheap with the the expectation of land rising. I felt obliged to answer your letter so soon that I had not time to think much about it, though it did not strike me favorably at the time, I have thought more of it. & I feel compelled to write & say to Caroline that I think she better stay where she is, she has now a house to cover her head & can get something & to wear & to eat & <*is*> in a healthy quiet moral town & I don't believe she will ever be any better off, change, as much as she may. She has been out west once on a speculation & Where would she have been now if she had not have had a home to come back to. Now the home is her own & if she knows when she is well off she better stay there Her children are now large enough to be of some assistance & will soon be able to support themselves <*If I ever*> I think the best thing for Edward [*Edward Grant*] would be if they could possibly spare him when he gets a little older to learn a trade then he could go out in the world prepared to make his way. Only think how much your Uncle Kimball has earned. I think a trade would be better than a farm a great deal I don't know their circumstances where they are but I suppose they have at least a house of their own & land enough clear of debt to keep at least <*to*> one or two cows & a horse & if I were Caroline I would stick to my home. There is some times something to be made in speculation, but your father & I think it will be more likely to be out of pocket than in to them. We don't believe that Daniel understand the business of speculation & it is our opinion he better stay where he is Even if he cannot <*ma*> advance at all I don't believe that he will ever any where do any <*where*> more than to get a living & if he does that he will do as well perhaps as one half the world. There is so much cheating & the like going on & Daniel is so honest himself I fear <*if*> he would not be sharp enough for the keeners, & instead of making anything would loose what they together already have. We should have been much better off now in a pecuniary point of view to have staid in [Hadlyme?]. It cost a great deal to make the change. I presume we shall never be so well off again, as we were when we came here However I like living in a village better than at a <*one so*> distance. Your father wishes he could sell, but I don't think I should be willing As long as the farm lasts I am sure of a living till I die & what is the use to keep changing, I think Caroline has a right to stay there & if I wore she I think I should & not worry myself to sell my home & all I have & go off to Minnesota. It would be a hard expensive job & when there I venture to say she would wish she had staid where she was

If Daniel cant make up his mind to stay there, perhaps he might go & find some other situation that would suit him better & he could avail himself of it & if he had anything to spare might send something home the same as your uncle K. does & some others. If the work of the farm is too hard for him, why could he not get some agency or work about the factories there in town or somewhere-else, If I were Caroline I think I would not give up my home, She may say others go west & do well so they did when she went before but it was not her fortune. Some go to California & come home wealthy others do not. I know this farming is hard business for some persons & anything is hard for them as soon as once in it & they find the difficulties. Others overcome all difficulties by diligence, perseverance, patience & cheerfulness & go on prosperingly & happily through life. I hope Daniel & Caroline will keep up a good heart & if they cant gain anything there, not be discouraged, soon their children will be able to go abroad if need be & do something for themselves I verily believe more than half the people I ever knew could no more than barely get a living for their family, almost every farm in this town is mortgaged, or rather I presume 3/4 of them are & it is pretty much the case in Berlin. O' I must tell you that it is reported that Caleb Morse the Butcher is not able to meet his demands, he has been in business more than three years & has out debts to the amount of $15.00.00 & he cant collect it & he is owing as much as that & cant pay if he cant collect & he is a little deranged in consequence it is said. Mrs Edes has another son

Caroline has not asked my opinion in regard to going West. I give it freely without the asking, & of course I do not know all the circumstances as she & her husband do<*es*> what trials they may have where they are & what inducements are held out to go but judging from their past & my own experience & observation & knowing that that farm has brought up & supported two families before them I think that the old saying "change the place & keep the pain" will prove too

true in their case as well as my own, and once more my advice to them though unasked it to keep still where they are & make the best of it, & not be over anxious for the future, but try & take some comfort where they are & just as they are & "Let the world [wag?] on" I believe they will get a living if they dont get rich. Every body cant be rich. I guess there are few that have stove harder than we have to gain something but you know nothing of the discouragements we have met. It has seemed sometimes as though I should give up in dispair <*of*> every thing would look so discouraging & adverse The best way I can do is to get my mind off the subject take some good interesting book & read & get a good nights rest It is no use to be over anxious about worldly gain, & I would not give up a present home for an uncertain one in some far off country

[*Notes in margins*:]
Mary you can let Caroline read this I do not sent it to her because she says nothing to me on the subject nor does not write me at all any time you need not say anything to any one else about the contents of this letter only let Caroline see it

I sent this now 'because the subject was on my mind & if I was ever agoing to say it the sooner the better & <*has*> know I feel I have done my duty be the result what it may & have the consequences to take their course

Miss Osborn ahs been thinking of selling her place but you need not mention it in […] of your letters because she only mentioned it to me & a few others But she looked around some to see if she could find another house to live in to send her but could not my advice to her was to keep still where she is I am fully convinced that she never can fix herself as well again & Mr Brooks tells her so too she told me when I saw her last that she had given it up for the present

Daniel & Caroline & family have my best wishes I wonder if Caroline will discover in this letter my resemblance to her mother I think of her more since I came on to this farm than I ever did before that is to say I understand her feelings better now than I used to & it seems to myself that I see things as she used to & in fact am growing some like her in many respects
as I grow older & see more of life but I do not suffer from ill health as she used, but I am sure if I allowed myself to worry about things my health would soon fail.

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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. Elisabeth Grant
Mill Brook.
Ct. [*Connecticut*]

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

Mrs. Root writes that they intend to have their Parents come out here & live with them, & does not know as they shall all be ready to come until sometime in the summer, but says Mr. Root will return early this Spring -- do not believe it would be best to trouble Mrs. Root with the care of anything as she would have her aged Parents children to see to, & if she had not I dont know but any thing would come as safely alone as with her --

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

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

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

We have felt quite rich for a week past for we have new milk -- our cow was dry two months & a half & for sometime previous to her drying up she gave so little that we could make no butter -- we have been obliged to live very plain this winter, but have been blessed with good appetites to relish what we had, & now as Spring advances & our appetites call for more variety, a kind Providence is providing it for us -- we expect soon to have some maple sugar, eggs &c --

think Abby has a very wholesome appetite, she often takes a piece of bread or cold potatoe & eats it with a good relish she seems to have a great dislike to beans -- every thing else she east that we have --

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

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

Dear Mother,

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

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

I have been trying to get a living by teaming and could do so very well if I could get my pay as I go along, but I cannot however it will be wanted when it comes I got the team on account of my health and I know my health is better than when I labor on a farm I could have done better this winter in a school I suppose but the spring has now come and I believe I can do better with the team than any other way my health has not been good for some time but as good as ever when the warm season is approaching. I am now quite comfortable and feel that the spring seasoning is almost past if so it has past much earlier than usual I have hired a man to drive the team till I am strong again and get some other business done up He has now been here a week and we have earnt in that time $16, besides some other work that we have done I drove the team about two months before I bought it and my health improved rapidly during the whole time and until the middle of Feb. when the warm weather commenced my health never was better.

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

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

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

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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Elisabeth Grant
Millbrook
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Wankesha [*Wisconsin*], June 13, 1848.

My dear Mother,

Since the receipt of your last letter it has seemed my duty to spend considerable time with two sick neighbors so that I could not consistently answer your letter immediately as you requested. With regard to our going to Ct. [*Connecticut*] to live I do not know what to say -- Daniel has for sometime seemed to have some idea that it might be best -- at least he has occasionally spoken as though we might sometime go, says he does not doubt but that it would be better for us if we were there -- provided he could find some employment that would not be too

hard for him -- it is evident that his constitution is not sufficient to labor hard upon a farm, but if he is obliged to do it, we had better remain here -- <*If we thought that was a p*>

Daniel has lately talked considerably as though he should try to make arrangements to go with in a year or two -- if we thought we should go within a year, should not think it best for you to send much if anything except the apples, unless it was a dark calico dress pattern -- but mind & every thing is so changeable I make no calculations for the future -- I hope the Lord will direct us.

Our present prospects are not very encouraging, nor do I know that they are particularly discouraging -- D. [*Daniel*] has disposed of the team, for he did not find it profitable keeping them as he was not able to get money enough to meet his expenses -- was obliged to take some kind of pay that would not buy grain, or wait a long time for the cash --

The wagon and sleigh are yet on hand --

He has not yet succeeded in getting into other business as he thought he probably could -- presume he can get a school next winter though it is somewhat doubtful whether he will be able to get one & be at home much of the time --

His health is <*pretty*> good. Abby & I are well I wish you would not worry so much about us. If Abby has a return of that complain we intend to use more water in the treatment of her -- we are now reading some borrowed Water cure Journals edited by Dr. Shew of N.Y. [*New York*] City -- they contain more valuable information -- have not yet seen any particular treatment described for cases like hers. I wash her almost daily in cold water, or rather in water that has the extreme chill taken off, but she is exceedingly averse to it --

June 20. Yesterday was Daniel's 30th birth day -- he feels that that he is getting to be quite an old man, but I supposed you & Father consider him young yet.

He has been intending to write some in this letter & has been waiting, thinking that perhaps he might be able to say something definite about going to Ct., [*Connecticut*] but he cannot at present -- presume it would be better for us & more pleasant on many accounts to be there, & for some reasons it might not be as well for us. dont think we had better go unless we can make arrangements without sacrificing a great deal --

I dont know as we have much <*sparsely*> more reason to fear sickness here than there -- more & better pay is given there for labor, & payments are met more punctually but I do not know as we should be able to get along there with quite as little expenditure as we do here -- but I am not particular where we live if we can only get a comfortable living, & keep out of debt without Daniels working beyond his strength -- D. [*Daniel*] has come to the conclusion in his own mind that perhaps it is best for us to return to Ct. [*Connecticut*] independent of any thing, that has been said to him -- I have said nothing to him on the subject till within a few days past for more than a year, but he has occasionally spoken about it.

July 2 1848.

Dear Mother,

It is sometime since we received your letter and I will now try to get it answered It is not easy to make up our minds what it is best to do in regard to what you proposed. We are so situated that we shall soon be able to enjoy ourselves here perhaps as well as any where (but that is impossible to tell) and there are great objections to our returning I can't see which way the scale will turn

If I knew of some business where I could get fair compensation, for my labor and business that I could follow I might think it best to go. but it may be as difficult to find such business there as here and I never can go there to work on the turnpike and if I have got to work on a farm, I had certainly better be here than there.

Mr. Cummings one of our merchants told me a few days ago that I must not go back says that he knows that farming is too hard for me, but he will find business for me that I can get a good living at better than I can do east, but then I cant depend upon him, that is I must look out for myself. He expects soon to build a house, near us and he intends to have us for neighbors, so there is a little selfishness about it.

I do not now fear the disease of the country, cold water I think will drive them away

Mr. Cummings I think will find something that I might do to a good advantage if I had three or four hundred dollars in money but I fear he will not without. But dont trouble your self

about us, my health is better than it has been for more than a year and a half before, and if I can find employment that I can bear I will risk my health.

If we should conclude to go it would be a year before we could get away

Yours &c. Daniel

Shall send to Joel soon & intend to write to John before long -- think a good deal about his weak back. fear it will never be strong -- hope Marcus is well & doing well -- what do you hear from Elisabeth Hope you are not obliged to work very hard.

Abby said she wanted to write to Grandma so I let her scribble a little -- I am distressed because this letter was not sent before, for I know you wished to know what to do about sending Martha's things -- As it is impossible for us to tell now, when, if ever we shall go to Ct. [*Connecticut*] think you had better send what you wish to, if you have an opportunity that you consider safe, but if not, keep what you feel the most choice of till a good opportunity presents -- (turn to margin on first page)

Since I wrote you before, I have written to our people that perhaps it would be best to try to send some things by Ms. Root, as I had seen Mr. Root & he said he could have the care of them &c & represented that She would return before long but he rec'd [*received*] a letter from her two weeks ago & her Mother has so far recovered as to be able to walk about the house but is not able yet to endure the journey out here & she did

Mrs R. [*Root*] did not tell when she thought she should return -- I presume she will not before fall if then -- but if our people thought best to send by her presume they have seen her before this -- We expect to have the bed room & one other room plastered before winter. D. [*Daniel*] has been to work lately for a neighbor farmer --

remember us aff [*affectionately*] to all friends –

Yr. [*your*] aff. [*affecitonate*] daughter

Caroline

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

My dear Mother & Sister,

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

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

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

the contrary, we are almost discouraged sometimes. It is a time when a great deal needs to be done, but Joel has no strength, and consequently cannot do it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope we shall soon hear from you.

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

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

Jefferson, Ashtabula Co. O. [*Ohio*] Sept 17, 1850.

Dear Father,

Having understood from Mr. Smith that you have some thought of removing to the west, I am induced to drop a word in regard to it and will merely state a few facts, and how the matter strikes my mind in view of them. And in the first place, there are farms for sale near this place, of different sizes, from 200 to 30 acres; one of 30, with a small but new and well finished house and barn, within about a mile, all considered cheap.

But another plan has struck our minds, -- the house we have purchased is quite large enough for two families, with a barn altogether larger than we need, indeed large enough for a middling sized farm. If you had a mind to come and occupy with us, we might entertain the hope that it would be agreeable all around. The amount of ground attached is only 6 1/2 acres but if you should still be disposed to do something in the agricultural line, there are pieces of land for sale within from one mile to half a mile, from this place. If you should be disposed to pass the balance of your life in comparative ease the plan of removing would occur to me to have the recommendation of economy. We both now occupy an extent of building that we do not need, and not available to any profit, at all corresponding to the amount of capital invested. In the plan of your occupying with us, and improving a small piece of land, there is on our part a touch of selfishness. Is it that you might afford to our sons, some part of an agricultural education. They promise to be tolerably able bodied and have altogether more action than either they or I in our present situation, know what to do with.

If you wish to inquire as to any particulars I have not stated please communicate.

If you should seriously entertain the thought of removing and occupying with us, and would wish a piece of land in the vicinity, I would either improve the first opportunity to purchase such quantity as you should designate, or have it till your arrival, to be decided by your own judgment. We understood by Ms. Smith that you had present opportunity to sell, where you are. If so I hope you will not lose the opportunity at least, without giving the subject due deliberation.

I have employed Elizabeth as my amanuensis and for this you will see a sufficient reason in my signature. She intends giving mother a more particular description of the premises.

Yours affectionately.
Wm. Burton

Dear Mother,

I hardly know what to write, but hope to hear from you soon. Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Smith, & Mrs. Roxana Marshall, with her husband and two children have visited us since I wrote you. I heard some thing of you through them. Mrs. Smith said you had not heard from Daniel for some time. I rec'd [*received*] a letter from br. [*brother*] Jno. [*John*] day before yesterday. He wrote from Newburyport [*Massachusetts*], apparently in haste -- stated his own calculations, but said nothing of Daniel, or Marcus. Please write soon about them.

I am very anxious to know your own calculations. I hope you have not misimproved an opportunity of selling your place. I should feel so much better about you if you were located more snugly. I have often wished you could live in our house. Mr. & Mrs. Cooper still occupy some room in the house. They are very accommodating, and though Leavinia's babe cries a great deal they do not seem to be annoyed by it or the other children. I cannot say whether you would enjoy living in the house with so large a family of little children, but if you could accommodate yourselves to us, it would be pleasant to us, to have you here. I did not like to say much about it. I waited to see what Mr. Burton would say, & you know he is rather slow with regard to some things. I fear this letter will be too late.

Brother Phelps & sister Susan have been quite sick but are better.

I wish to send many thanks to sister Caroline for her kind letter. I rejoice that she manifests such a Christian spirit. I should love much to write to her, but my time is occupied. I have to write a great deal for Mr. Burton

Margaret is attending school in Austinburg. She started on Monday. I hope to hear from you soon.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] daughter,
E. [*Elizabeth*] Burton

Much love to all our friends. I am very anxious to know what father thinks of coming west. I have seen none of uncle Calvin's family yet.

Much love to sister Caroline & her children, also to Joel and his family.

I visited at cousin Leysander Cowles (Rachel's) but aunt Olive had just gone to see Kezia, & I did not see her. She has since returned to Austinburg.

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Hamilton [*California*] May 12/1854

Dear Mother

I thought to have written you a long letter before this time but I have a very sore hand which has delayed me very much & but for M.'s [*Marcus*] timely arrival I should have found it necessary to hired some one to do my work. The trouble as far as I know is an eruption on the back of my hand similar to biles yet they are not biles.

M. [*Marcus*] has told you something of my situation &c. & as I hope to write more definite soon I will add no more now. As for M.'s [*Marcus*] prospects we can say nothing just now but will soon know something more particular he came here very unexpectedly. Though not strong, he seems pretty well & I think will soon be pretty smart.

Your letter was dated Feb. 26 Caroline's mailed at Flem. [*Flemington, New Jersey*] March 18 John's same date & Joel's Feb. 2 The only letters from friends at home written since last Nov.

M. [*Marcus*] has dated his letter Marysvil[le] [*California*] though written here & I suppose is just as well & perhaps better I as often send my letters there to be mailed as to Hamilton [*California*].

Excuse me from writing more now. I will write to C. [*Caroline*] or John next mail

Your affectionate Son
Daniel Grant

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Marysville [*California*] May 10 1854

Dear Mother

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

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

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

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

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

In your letter were a few lines from Caroline I am very much obliged to her for them.

I received a letter from Joel about a week ago dated Feb 2.

I wrote a letter to John a month ago and should be received about this time.

I can think of nothing more to write.

Much love to Abby and Eddie,

Your affectionate son

Marcus Grant

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

Dear Sister,

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

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

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

But let any who can for a moment doubt this read the 107th Psalm where the agency of the Lord is so beautifully described. There it is the Lord who delivered Israel, who rescued the captives, sets free the prisoners, and saved distressed mariners. It was no accidental combination of circumstances, nor yet the wisdom or might of those concerned for these would have been useless unless the Lord had interposed. And how solem as well as instructive is the last verse that Psalm "Whose is <u>wise</u> and will observe these things even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord." This intimating that while the truth was obvious it might easily be lost sight of by the careless & unredeemed . If men will not be wise, if they will not consider these things, then <*must*> may they fail to see the truth with wh. [*which*] the Bible is so full.

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. brother
Joel.

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[*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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[*Daniel Grant to Joel Grant*]

Sept. 27th 1852

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

I have been down again since writing the sheet that accompanies this & am not yet able to work at mining, but am better than I have been for two months. Marcus is well & works all the time for me If we get nothing from the river <*clame*> claim it will be hard for me to pay him but I think there is a good chance.

<*Bartons Bar Sept 26*>

<*Dear Brother*>

<*It is now nearly two months since I received your affectionate letter dated June ??*>

I shall be able to work next week. I earned $10, last week in the co, by going on to the works & taking charge

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] Brother,

D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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

Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Piketon Ohio Sept 24, 1842

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

I suppose you are anxious to know how I get along in looking up a place To this I can at present only answer that I have not yet satisfied myself. I have seen places, however which I think are better suited to you both in price and quality than any that I know of at the east, but before buying them I have concluded to go to Wisconsin. There is plenty of good land in Ohio, but the fact that it is held at a price rather above its value cannot be denied. This is not, however, more the case here than at the east, but all things considered I believe it best for you to go to Wisconsin. All accounts agree in representing it as a delightful country which is at least as

healthy as New England. On board the packet I met an individual who <*has*> is a surgeon in U.S. Army, and who has been stationed in various parts of Wisconsin and Iowa, and has travelled in all parts of them. From his [description?] I judge the prairies of Wisconsin to be something like the pampas of the Rio de la Plata in their fertility and dry healthy air. Mr. Burton tells me that he has seen some persons from there who complain in the same manner Eastern people do of the damp chilly nights of Ohio. By the way these nights are horrid. I no longer wonder that people are sick with agues, or that constitutions are undermined by the great changes which take place between noon and midnight. It is without exception the worst climate I ever saw if the few days I have been here are a fair specimen.

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

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

Your affectionate brother
Joel Grant.

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

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[*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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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Mill Brook

Litchfield Co.
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

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

Dear Brother,

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

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

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

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

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

Your affectionate brother
Joel Grant.

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[*Written in pencil — upper right —* "*written before 1854, from D Grant 1848-1854"*]

there is for others

Your affectionate Son
Daniel Grant

Dear little Abby

I can have but little idea of you, but as the same little Abby, that you were when I left you, though I suppose you have grown a good deal since that time. I love to have you write a few words with grandma when she writes to father. The last time you wrote you said you had a sugar cake for uncle M. [*Marcus*] & me; but we want to have you eat them or give them to your little brother, or little cousins or whatever you please.

I expect you will be able to write whole letters to me pretty soon.

Can you help grandma considerable about <*your*> her work.

I expect you are most always a good girl. Father will try to come home before a great while. He wants to see you very much.

Your aff [*affectionate*] Father
Daniel Grant

Dear Wife

I think I had better finish on this page [B…?] & L.P. came to Marysville [*California*] last thursday They left for Cherokee Corral about 45 miles from here monday he was not quite well but I presume is better before this They left in good spirits

Your affec. [*affectionate*] husband
Daniel Grant

Continued from page 4 I have read an old letter from you to Me, in which you state, that you saw a letter in the Connecticut Courant, that states Marysville [*California*] is at the head of river navigation, & that vessels drawing 11 ft. water can go there 8 months out of 12. Now this is a little nearer the truth than reports of Cal, [*California*] generally are, boats drawing 11 ft. water can reach here from 2 to 4 months in 12, & boats drawing 5 ft. from 6 to 8, & boats drawing 3 ft. from 10 to 12 months in a year,

You think I was mistaken in the spelling of the name Juba, or Yuba, but I was not, Juba is pronounced without the J. in spanish, The americans have made it american by using Y instead of J, The San Joaquine river retains its spelling but is pronounced San or St. Waukeen. San Juan retains the same spelling, but is pronounced San Wan, i.e. St. John. I presume that it would be nearly correct to substitute the sound of Y in English, for J in Spanish. Joel can tell something about that I presume. I presume there are a great many things that I scarcely notice. I see them so much, that I could write about, that would be interesting, but as they have lost all interest to me if they ever had any, I cant see what

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

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

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

If it cost us no more to attend to the Wis. [*Wisconsin*] land than it would if Mary had no share in it that is no reason why she should not pay her share and if she is to have any <*ex*> equal share in it as a matter of course she must pay her share of expenses but it cost us more to

pay the taxes than it would if she had paid her proportion. You estimate the taxes and cost of selling $100, when I think $500, will not pay it. I can't now tell how much it was but I made two or more trips to Wis. on that business at an expense of more than $100, a trip. I can't say how much but I distinctly remember that I paid for a ticket from N. York [*New York*] to Milwaukee [*Wisconsin*] $52, and some cents wh. [*which*] would make the fare alone for two trips about $225, and one tax in particular I paid was $83, and some cts [*cents*], and that was not as large as the last tax for I paid about $25, between $25, and $30, I think besides about $60, you paid. I don't remember how many years we paid taxes after Mary sold but think they would amount to nearly $300, if not more. You can easily see that you are paying Mary a good deal more than you got when she does not need near as much as you do. I know she has been kind very kind to us and I am willing she should have pay for it yes very glad — but to give her so many hundred dollars is wrong. If Wm. [*William*] is improvident he has a good situation and earns a good deal & has a good deal left yet. At any rate she is much better off than you are.

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

Ever Thine
D. [*Daniel*] Grant

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Mt. Holyoke Fem. Sem.
[*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*]
So. Hadley [*Massachusetts*] July 6th

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

I believe I half promised Uncle Daniel as I bade him good bye, after my pleasant visit at your home, that I would write to you some time, and I have more than once come very near fulfilling that promise, but have delayed for want of leisure or interesting matter to communicate.

I learn from Uncle Marcus that you have sold part of your farm, and suppose you now think of removing to some more favorable location. Will you go farther west? If so I hope we may have the pleasure of seeing you at home. I do not know as we ever should if it did not "happen so". I wish that the Western Reserve offered sufficient attractions to the farmer to induce Uncle Daniel to settle near us, but suppose that there, very much as in Norfolk [*Connecticut*], we have an intelligent excellent class of people, but very little highly productive land.

I must tell you what a pleasant time we had here at the Sem. [*Mount. Holyoke Female Seminary*] last week. I know you would have enjoyed it very much — you would probably have several old acquaintances. You know there are a large number of missionaries in this country now some of whom are formerly connected with this school, and one teachers thinking it would be pleasant to all parties to have a "reunion" invited over one hundred missionaries and patrons and friends of the institution to be here on the 30th last June. Among them were fifteen gentlemen and thirteen ladies who had in all spent 398 yrs of missionary labor. Of the ladies Mrs. Hazen (Miss Martha Chapin) Mrs. Stoddard (Miss Sophia Hazen) Mrs. Howland (Miss Susan Reed) Mrs. Webb (Miss Foote) Mrs. Mills (Miss Tolman) and Mrs. Wilder were formerly pupils and some of them teacher here. "Father Migs" for 45 yrs a missionary in Ceylon. Dr. Perkins 25 yrs. in [Aroomiah?] Persia, Dr. Anderson Secretary of the A.B.C.F.M. [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*], Ex. President Hitchcock and others of whom we have often read and heard were here and addressed us. — Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] and Mrs. John P. Cowles were here from Wednesday afternoon until Friday morning. They have both visited Austinburg, and it was very pleasant indeed to see them. Aunt Banister [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] looks better and says she feels better than she did there. She is at present boarding in Ipswich. They both charged me to remember them to friends, when I wrote, with much love. – Another wrote me that I would probably have a call from Aunt Abby, but she does not come, and I fear I shall not see her.

My school year closes the 28th of the month, three weeks from tomorrow. I can hardly believe that I am going home so soon. I expect to go to Newbury and other places in Orange Co.

[Vt?]. where father's relatives live, to spend about a week before returning home. I remained at the Sem. last vacation for the sake of studying — read [Amacitia?] with my room mate in that time —. I shall have completed the Junior studies, and shall have only three of the shortest of the Middle studies "back," and suppose I could easily complete the course here in another year, but rather think I shall prefer to go to the Lake Erie Sem. [*Seminary*] in Painsville, which opens the 15th next Sept. to graduate, as mother favors my doing so rather than to return home, and the trustees are anxious to have a Junior Middle and Senior class the first year as they did here. — You probably know that Mary Grant is coming here next year. Have you heard of the death of her youngest sister Martha? I have not heard particulars but "the Canton girls" told me that she had been a long time sick, and at last was thought to have the dropsy upon the brain.

Please remember me affectionately to aunt Nettleton, and cousins Margaret and Desiah, and assure them that I shall never forget the pleasant visit I had with them last winter, also to Olive Crissey to whom I feel much indebted of the kindness she has shown me on many occasions. — I often think of the trouble I caused my friends on account of my keys and wonder if I shall ever be so careless again.

Have friends informed you of brother Philander's expedition to Newfoundland? He started, I suppose, on the 23rd of May, as a passenger on board a cod-fishing vessel in the hope that the sea air might be a benefit to his health, as physicians told him that he was consumptive, and would soon have trouble, if he did not take some such remedy. He does not expect to be back until the middle of Sept.

I hope aunt Carrie you will not feel obliged to answer this poor letter — though we love to hear from you dearly, yet I know you have many cares, and other correspondents who have stronger claims upon you. Will not Abby some time write me? I should be very happy to receive and to answer a letter from her. Please give her much love, as also Uncle Daniel and cousin Eddie and accept a large share yourself

From your aff'te niece
Mary E. Burton

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

1

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
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
Prairieville
Milwaukie Co. [*Milwaukee County*]

Wisconsin
Single Folio Sheet

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] <*Aug*.> Sept 11, 1843

Dear Brother,

I rec'd [*received*] your letter dated Aug. 10, and mailed Aug. 13, on my arrival home day before yesterday (Saturday), and also have read your letter to father. I had heard little or nothing from you before and was really glad to know about your circumstances <*and*> though I regretted you did not feel better, and were not able to give a better account. I feel very sorry you were so deceived by my mismanagement in your passage from Albany [*New York*] to Buffalo [*New York*], but as you had a quick passage on the lakes and got through safe, we have much to be thankful for. I had no idea that all opposition on the lakes was to cease so soon, and had I anticipated it I should certainly have advised you to engage your passage through from Albany.

Mr. Knapp rec'd a letter from you day before yesterday by which we are happy to learn <*states*> that you have heard of the box Phelps sent you. I am very glad of this, for whatever else it contained, you cannot well get along without Webster's Dictionary and Scott's Bible.

I am satisfied with the manner you laid out my money, and have no doubt it will prove a fair investment. Let the examples of the man of whom you bought it be a warning to you never to put yourself where others can take advantage of your necessity.

I am astonished at the high price you were <*ob*> obliged to pay for oxen, and can account for it in no other way than by the extreme scarcity of hay last winter, and the great numbers which the farmers wish to buy this summer. Last fall the Illinois people brought them to Wis. [*Wisconsin*] in great numbers and were glad to sell them at any price. Perhaps the same may be the case this fall, but I fear you have neither hay nor money enough to take advantage of the circumstances. You must be very careful not to winter more stock than your hay will supply.

As for the house which falls so far short of your expectations, you and Mrs. Burr had so much to do with alterations &c. that a contract would have been of no use had there been one. In the letter which I wrote him I described the house you wanted after I returned, and you also wrote a description and he wrote to you that he would build such a house for $10 more than I agreed with him <*for*> i.e. for $65. The following is the plan for the house I proposed (I have a copy of my letter.)

A. The Kitchen. B. Bedroom C. Buttery. D. Closet opening into the bedroom. E. Closet opening into the Kitchen. The closet D was to be furnished with shelves the at <*other*> further end, but <*in*> other things after partitioning the house were to be left to be arranged according to your taste after your arrival. When the house was thus partitioned I considered Levi's duty completed. A cellar was to be dug 18 feet square. I had gone on thus far in describing the house that was to be, when mother told me that
Levi said it was impossible to find logs of sufficient length to build such a house, and had built a very different one. In this case I know not what can be done, but as you have paid him the $65 and have found him to be so bad a man I think you had better have nothing more to do with him in any way. If the house is unfinished, you had better finish it yourself than to have any thing more to do with such a man, which would only be the occasion of more trouble and vexation of spirit. After all I doubt not it is much better for you than if you had had no house to go into, for if you had been obliged to hire your board it would have been expensive. As it is I think you had better make your calculations to put up a frame house in the course of two or three years which you can make to your own taste. I think you had better put it on the other end of the lot and make a road across the swamp when you will be within one mile of the village. As for [y]our being to near to Levi, though -- it is unfortunate, yet you must learn to have nothing to do with those people who are not worthy of your confidence. If you have need of things which he has, you had better not borrow them often, and then if you choose you can tell him that you do not wish to have any intercourse with him, although I do not advise you to do so. At all events never suffer yourself to harbor ill-will against him or any other man for it will sour your temper, and you will be very unhappy. Take an

independent upright course, and while you are grateful that God has given you a spirit which is not mean never allow yourself for a moment to indulge hatred towards those who are so, for it is the surest way to make yourself like them. Often utter such a prayer as this, “I beseech thee O Lord to forgive my enemies, persecutions, and slanderers and to change their hearts.”

I suppos[e] you wish to borrow Levi’s horse occasionally which must be [u]npleasant to you. I think you had better buy one of some kind, and if you think necessary for that purpose I will lend you some part of the money I send you which you have not laid out. It will be well to purchas[e] a mare who can do all your work, take you and Caroline wherever you wish to go and by <*whom*> which you can raise a horse in four or five years.

I am sorry you do not like your place which I took a great deal of pains to purchase so that should combine the advantage of access to market, contiguity to a village, excellence of soil, &. If not be easy, I will take it into my own hands and pay you $300 in money at almost any time. I am sorry that you or any one should be dissatisfied on account of my inefficiency or want of judgement, and will therefore do this although at something of a sacrifice I do not wish you to lay out any more money for me in the purchase of land, nor can I supply you with money to exchange your farm for another. But if you think it best I will purchas[e] your farm and pay you <*the in*> $300 and the interested upon it from the time of your purchase. I hope you will see that some ditching is done especially on the west end of the lot for there can be no doubt that the west end is the place for building. I fear you will have so much to do with our money that you will not do so much ditching as I proposed. As for my lot east of the creek, you need have no fears, I am glad you do not want it, for I have no doubt I can sell it for more than I felt willing to ask you for it. We will let it lie for another year and see then what is best to [d]o.

By about the time you receive this I expect to be in New-Haven [*Connecticut*] where I shall go Sept. 27. If you have not time to write, I hope sister Caroline will write in your stead. I believe she <*kno*> knows what you want, and how you feel as well as you do, perhaps better. At all events do not delay to let me know how you feel and how each of you rejoice or suffer I shall leave the other part of this sheet for mother. John etc. your aff. brother Joel Grant.

[*Other side of folio sheet*]

My Dear Children, I have left my washing to write a few lines to you I rejoice to hear from you if my children are in trouble I want to sympathize with them if they are happy I want to rejoice with them I had some fears before you left that his love of money would exceed his love to God or his fellow men but go where you will you will find people of that description I very much want to cultivate a spirit of forbearance and when you feel injured may further forgive them but never let the sun go down upon your wrath I hope you will endeav[o]r to be good neighbors the way to have good neighbors is to be <*a*> good neighbors yourselves I hope you will always communicate to each other your feelings and encourage each other to bear the burdens of life with Christian fortitude I would wish you to support a good degree of independence I felt when you left that you were under circumstances to live without troubling your neighbors any more than they would probably want to you I want to have you love your neighbors as you do yourselves and endeavor always to do them good but that does not imply that you wrong yourselves on their account you will find many of those wherever you go that will take every advantage that they possibly can but always think in such cases that there is a god that Beholds the evil and the good <*but yet*> and that which a man sows that shall he also reap and have no dealing with them I want to have you live near to God and keep clear from debt. I would rather that you would sell cloth and stockings and stocking yarn go to buy you a horse than to borrow money of the best friend you have in the world but if you have not paid [er?] for a horse do not buy one for it is a ruinous thin[g] to have stock and not have keeping for it. I would not advise you [unless?] you find it necessary to avoid Land wife only avoid dealing with them any more than is necessary I hope you will help each other in every thing you can and avoid [hireing?] as much as possible if you want to change worke Joel says you have an Irish neighbor about half a mile from you he knows nothing about him do not think him incapable of being a good neighbor because he is of a differe[nt] origin your step grandmother is an Irish woman but she is as universally beloved as any woman I ever knew I believe she is only half Irish remember that ignorance does not prevent a person from being [loved?] nor knowledge does not make him so kindne[s] my dear children will soften almost any one to do better than they would if they were unkindly treated a soft answer burneth away wrath the wise man said think of that in your intercourse together and in <*the*> your

intercourse with your fellow creatures remember the apostolic injunction do good to all men as you have opportunity but do not throw away any of your neighbors if you can possibly help it but do all you can to make [t]hem better I have written in great haste and all irregularities you will excuse [...]

I want you to write me a great deal I want to have you write whether your well furnishes you with good water and what state it is in whether furnished or not whether you have got a well [crotch?] and pole I know you can not have every thing at once but what you do have I want to have you write me Caroline says we have a hog and two pigs I want to just say to you that ho[g] pork is a great deal better than pig <*but at*> I want to know if your plums are good today or good for pies w[...] you have had any garden [sauce?] and I cannot think of [...] I want to say <*but*> but will here mention that [Mrs. Beb[..]] said about the time I wrote you friends all well I have not seen your Norfolk friends since they received their last letter Mr. Knapp says that you have heard that you have a horse at Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] and so I hope all your things are there and that you will get them I will mention that if you purchase a horse you will get one tha[t] if it dies or is stolen it will be no great loss and when you get it calculate to [w...] it out and take the comfort of it I have not said half I want to but must close may God guide guard <*you*> and protect you and make you wise unto salvation is the prayer of your affectionate mother.

John and Martha send much love to you [Oholpe?] has returned [...] home they went home in five days or within five miles of home they are well or were when they wrote Marcus is on the [...] at work now write me a letter write every thing both write tell me much I am very [desirious?] to [assist?] you and if [...] I think God will prepare the way.

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

Single
folio post.

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

Dear Brother,

Your letter of Sept. 1, 2 & 3 was received Sept 14, and though all its news was not as agreeable as we could wish we were very glad to hear from you, for we wish to sympathise with your sorrow as well as rejoice at your happiness. I was surprised at the account you gave of your labors, for surely I think you never labored so before. But it may be you are trying to do too much. To get up with aching bones every morning when a little more sleep would prevent it is <*far*> very short sighted policy, and if you look no farther than to the gathering of your first crop, would probably prove to your disadvantage. But as the nights are now becoming long probably you will feel no more trouble on this account.

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

laid out will make your house a very comfortable one, and I am willing in this case to pay half the expense.

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

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

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

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

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

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother, Joel [G]rant

Dear Brother

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

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

My Dear Children

Sep 27 1843

With a variety of feelings I commence this letter I read your letter with [mingled?] emotion I rejoice that you enjoy health and I mourn that <*that*> you are not contented with your situation I think it wise to give heed to what the apostle [...] Paul said of him self he had learned in whatever situation he was in therewith to be content I do not suppose that we ought not to try to improve our condition, but not to be unhappy even if our condition is not just what we should wish I felt when you left us that you would enjoy a great deal I felt that you had much to make you happy that <*yo*> God had been very good to you in many respects that you were happy in each other and that you were so comfortably fitted out. I thought that although your situation would be retired yet you would enjoy each others society and it is an old mansion that if we have one friend we ought to think ourselves happy and I have often thought that man [Jim?] was a good one, now my children I am not very much disappointed that you Did not find things as you expected and as I hoped but I always [feared?] and I was tempted to tell you that I learned that you would not find in

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

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

New Haven [*Connecticut*]
Sept. 28, 1843

Dear Brother,

I take my pen to write you a little not because it is long since I wrote for I wrote three or four days since in Mr. Knapp's letter but because I know you want to hear from me, and Mr. Seward my clap mate is to start to day for Wisconsin and I can send by him to Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]. He takes his wife on with him, a lady whom he has recently married in

this city. I presume this letter will reach you about the same time the letter of Mr. Knapp will I almost feel afraid to write you many times for fear you may find it hard to pay postage.

We left home Tuesday night, and went with father's horse and waggon to Plymouth [*Massachusetts*] from whence we came by stage to New Haven [*Connecticut*]. Marcus came with us to Plymouth [*Massachusetts*]. We started from home about half past ten at night and left Plymouth about half past four. We had a terribly cold night, during which we suffered a good deal. You will I presume understand why John and Marcus did not write in the letter Mr. Knapp sent. Mr. Knapp used one half and I used a great part of the remainder so that there was not much room left for mother and Martha.

I left Andover principally because it was so far from home it being about 180 miles (by Hartford [*Connecticut*]) while New Haven is but 65 by Hartford [*Connecticut*] and 53 by Waterbury [*Connecticut*] and Plymouth [*Massachusetts*]. Another reason was that John is at New Haven and I would like to be where he is. Besides the advantages at New Haven [*Yale University*] Middle year are as great or greater than at Andover [*Andover Theological Seminary*].

But to you and your farm my thoughts occur continually. Perhaps I imagine you more dissatisfied with it than you in fact are, but your letters certainly indicate a very great degree of dissatisfaction. It comes rather hard for us when people ask us about you to be obliged to say "he is dissatisfied," when they at once say, "Why, what is the matter? He was not very well pleased when he was in Ohio was he?" Thus intimating that they do not think it easy to please you. But do not think that I would be any such considerations induce you to repress any dissatisfaction you may feel, for you ought to make a faithful exhibition of your real trials, but might it not be well for you to consider if you are not, in fact, rather hard to please. And when you write letters home would it not be well to write in the cheerful manner your wife does dwelling on the things which give you pleasure, and write your letters of complaint to me? I can take them to our people and let them know as much as is best, and it will thus be kept from public view. When I carried your last letter to Mr. Burr's people a conversation like the following took place, "Well have you heard from Daniel?" "yes" says I "What does he write" was the next eager question. I answered "He writes <*a fo*> several <*verg*> tolerably pleasant things, <*but*> and two or three extremely unpleasant ones, expressing his dissatisfaction with his place and Joe's management. He wants to sell his place" "Dos he? Why we have but just received a letter from Caroline, in which she appears contented and happy, and Harvey Grant says Daniel and Caroline are very happy" Whereupon I sat down and read your letter to them, and a sad budget it was. Perhaps you will say I should not have done so, but you know your letters must be, for the present at least, common property in the two families. I hope therefore you will think best to write your complaints to me, and if Caroline has any that she would feel relieved to make known to her parents she can do so but I do not believe she has, and I am co[n]fident from her manner of writing that she would be contented, if you were, I never thought you would find as good a place as Norfolk [*Connecticut*] in Wisconsin, nor do I believe if you had $3000 instead of $300 to pay for a farm, and shou[ld?] with it buy a farm in Conn [*Connecticut*] instead o[f] [Wis]consin that you would find such a place. What do you want? Is it a farm in a village in Connecticut you might buy such a very small one for $3000, in Wisconsin perhaps for $1000. Is it a farm on the public road? Remember that to buy such a farm requires more money than you can command. Besides I have no doubt but that in twenty years your farm will be considered no more back than any others which are no farther from Prairieville [*Wisconsin*]. I did not buy your farm because I had not seen others that on some accounts were better. I did see better land, but I knew you would never live upon it nor could I wish you even if you were willing <*or I should*> or I should have been obliged to pay for them in such a way as to involve you in debt for the remainder of your days. But I think if you will be patient for a little time you will like the place you have. I am sorry about the house, but as I told you in Mr. Knapp's letter I will pay half the expense of making it better for you to live in a few years more till you can build a frame house. When you last wrote you had been in Wisconsin but three months, you had worked very hard, you had been [harrassed?] by ten thousand things you wished to do, and could not, and finally when you wrote the part, that was addressed to me you had been sitting up writing till after twelve o'clock at night, a thing which I trust you will never do again when you have been at work all day. All these reasons I presume made you feel very bad, & it may be you feel better now.

Pa says you do not write so that any one can find out whether you are doing any thing or not. Perhaps you had better mention in your next how many acres of wheat you have down, how much fence you have made and how much corn <*you will*> and potatoes you intend to plant next year. I trust you will remember that our happiness depends principally on ourselves and not on the place in which <*your*> live. Rest assured that I remember you continually with earnest wishes for your temporal and spiritually prosperity.

You aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

[*Notes to the side*]

How did Levi manage about the rails he was to get $30 worth, <*at*...>

It seems to me that two or three acres of potatoes would be as good a crop as you could raise for there will always be some people who will not raise enough in such a county as yours.

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

New Haven, Feb. 24, '44
Dear Brother,

Your letter of Dec. 12 mailed Dec. 17 I received on my return here at the close of vacation (Jan 10) [*at Yale University*]. How long it has been in the office I cannot tell, but probably some days. I was exceedingly glad to hear from you and your letter was the more acceptable because it removed some impressions which your previous letters had made in reference to your feelings. I should have answered it before this time had it not been that we had been getting up a letter at S. [*South*] Hadley for you and I thought it not best to write until some days after that had gone. I do not intend to finish this for several days but as I have many things to write about I thought I would begin now.

You certainly have been very unfortunate in your connection with Levi Grant, and I can very readily believe that he has cheated you a great deal. The affair of the rails is a very bad one. I had an idea that you understood the matter at least as far as this that he was to get but $30 worth for you in any case, so that at all events you have paid him $10 too much. I made no bargain with him before I left Wisconsin but merely told him "Perhaps we should like to have you get some for us." I afterwards wrote to him as follows, (As I used the manifold Letter writer there is no possibility of mistake.) "My Brother Daniel has concluded to take the lot which lies south of yours, and I herewith send you some money with a part of which I wish you to get some rails split for him. If you cannot get them for less than $7.50 a thousand, you may use $30 of it for that purpose. But I trust you will be able to get them for something less. If you can get them for $6 per thousand you may get 5000 but if you can get them for any thing less do not get more than 5000 but apply whatever of the $30 there may be left to transporting those that are split to the farm during the winter I do not doubt but you will manage the business in the most prudent manner." The letter from which this is an extract is dated Springfield Nov. 16, 1842, and doubtless Levi has a copy of it now. In his reply to it he says, "You stated in yours that you would like to have some rails got out this winter and also that you would like to have me look out and get them. I saw a man a few days ago which lived about two miles from my house that has a plenty of timber and he says he would like the job of splitting a few thousand, and he thought that he would get them for five shillings per hundred or $6.25 a thousand. I did not make a bargain with him at that time, but promised to see him again and let him [him?] know. I think however that I can get them at the fence about one mile from my house, which will be worth considering."

This is all that I wrote and all that he wrote about it. You may judge of my surprise when I read in your letter that you had paid him $40 for 3000 rails. My letter to him as you see did not authorise him to get more than $30 worth at any rate I am very sorry I did not explain this to you, and until I read you letter I had always supposed I did, and it is with difficulty that I can bring

myself now to believe I did not. But perhaps it is not too late now to do something about it. If you have actually settled all your accounts in reference to the rails, it probably is, but if you have not and will let me know it the next time you write, I will send a letter to Levi and if he does not pay you $10 I will see to the matter myself and I think I will make him pay $20 at least. I think however you had not better say anything to him about it at present. I have proof positive that he was not authorised to expend more than $30 for rails for at the close of my letter to him I say “The $20 left of this money is to go towards paying you for the house.” If therefore the matter is at all as I left it there can be no doubt about it, but if you chose on your own responsibility to buy of him 3000 rails for $40 there is no help in the matter. I sent him at the time I wrote my letter $50.

You never have written me how your accounts with Levi were you should have been his Dr. to the house $65 to the rails $30. Total $95. You should have been his [credits?] for the $50 I sent him in the fall of 1842 leaving a balance of $45. By paying for the rails 40 instead of $30 you made the balance $55. But I should not wonder if he had made you pay the whole $105, thus making no account of the $50 I sent him. The next time you write do not fail to let me know about these things. I am a little surprised that you did not ascertain by enquiry that rails were not worth $13.33 a thousand. The enormous price he charged should have excited your suspicion.

But setting this aside, let us have a little talk about land &c. you do not think your land was very well chosen nor do I feel disposed to assert that you cannot now see where money could <*not*> have been laid out to better advantage. All I would claim is that at the time a better choice would not have been made. Still on some accounts your location is not so bad you already have a road laid out by your house, and it will probably be opened next summer, nor have I any idea that it will be many years before there will be one at or near the west end of your farm. But be this as it may, you evidently wish you were rid of your land and that you had an opportunity to get some other place. Under the influence of this feeling and urged on by one of your neighbors, “who is considered by all who know him a man of good judgement,” and who “tells you you had better leave your farm if you do not get a cent for it” I fear you will be parting with it for some trifle. Now I <u>know</u> the farm is not worth less, and all the talk of all the neighbors you have or ever had or ever will have would not convince me to the contrary. Now I am willing to take the farm from you for more than it has cost you although that will be much worse for me than if I had never sold it you. Last May you paid me for the farm $3000. I gave you then $100 making the expense to you $200. After getting there you had to pay Levi $55 (the whole expense for the house and rails being $105 of which I had already paid $50.) making the farm cost you $255 Next May the interest on that will be a trifle more than $15 making a total of $270. I will now offer you for it $300 and allow you to have all the crops you have taken the pains to sow, and you may go where you will. I might however attach one or two conditions to the payment of it for I do not think I can raise $300 at once. $150 I will pay at any time besides so much of my money as you now have in your hands (I know not how much it is I suppose $40 or $50 please let me know next time you write) and the residue with interest I will endeavor to make up next fall. Perhaps you would like to exchange your lot for the one you bought for me last summer, if so I will give you $150 to boot. In case you should think it best to accept my offer of buying your farm I should like to have you sell the 40 acre lot though I think it ought not to go for less than $200. I am getting to be in want of money or shall soon be especially if I buy your farm, but I am very sorry you are not permitted to suit yourself in reference to a place and will therefore do almost any thing to assist you. I would not have you think, however, that I wish you to sell your place to me, provided you can sell it to someone else to a better advantage, only I exhort you to be careful to whom you sell and do not trust any one without the very best security. I make this offer to you that you may know you can dispose of your farm on terms which will at least clear you from lop, and of two purchasers offering the same or nearly the same price, I expect you will prefer me. Beside if after purchasing another place you should find that its unforeseen inconveniences were greater and its <*anticipation*> conveniences less than you anticipated if I should not sell the farm I would let you have it at a reasonable price, though I will not promise it at the price I give you and the interest thereon. suppose, however, you are fully satisfied that once off from it you would never wish to come back. But can you get places equally convenient to town to meetings, post office, &. things which will be every year more important for you? I hope you will not delay a week to write to me what you would like to do and what in view of the offers I have made you, you are willing to do. I suppose Mr. Knapp will probably come out in the spring, and if he should I suppose you would

like to buy a place where he does. I would on some accounts be pleasant to do so, but doubtless should you have him for a neighbor you would find in him some qualities you never dreamed of before, which would make him disagreeable to some extend. He is a very excellent man but has his fault, as all other excellent men have. We are perhaps liable to infer too much from the fact that any one has an excellent character, at all events we do so when we infer that all he does will please us.

So it seems you do not think school teachers would have very good encouragement, with you, I presume the decision of [S]ister Caroline is correct. I suppose there are children enough that need teaching <*and*> to emply abundance of teachers, but there parents do not know how important is education, nor when their teacher is a good one, nor are they willing to pay their money for such objects, so that good teachers who go there must go as missionaries with the desire to do good not to make money. It will not be best I presume for Cousin Margaret to go there, although I wish she might do so. In reference to preaching the difficulty is I presume the same-that is, the people have more preachers altogether than they are willing to employ, but not half so many as they ought to have, and those not of the right kind. However, I think I shall come to some region of the West when I finish my course, though it is by no means certain or even probably that I can be near you.

March 11 I have delayed my letter a long time partly because Mother who is still a[t?] S. [*South*] Hadley [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*], hoped we might be able to send you more decisive information concerning Martha. M. [*Martha*] has been much worse than when Mother send you the letter, nor is she now as well as at that time, though better than she has been at intervals between that and this time. Almost fifteen weeks have passed since she was prostrated on a bed of sickness (Nov 30) and she does not seem to make any advances towards the recovery of her health of course we have very great fears that she will never be any better. She is very weak indeed not able to sit up any. She expresses perfect resignation to God's will respecting her and to him alone can we commit her as the help of man has proved indeed vain in this case. Physicians have done her no good nor does it seem probably they can. Mother has been with her about 11 weeks nor does it seem probably that she can leave her soon, unless indeed death should terminate the disease. The Dr. says it must be a long time before she recovers if she recovers at all. You can easily imagine that our family must be in the deepest affliction possible short of being called to mourn her death. At home they are there are only Father and Marcus. Father has been to S. [*South*] Hadley twice since Martha was sick.

I hope you will be careful to answer this letter immediate as spring is now close at hand. If Mr. Knapp goes to Wisconsin he will wish to start early and I shall be anxious to know something about your calculations. Our term here lasts but six weeks more, and if you cannot send the letter so that it will get here by April 24, you must direct it to Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] I hope by all means to receive one, as soon as I get home, and if possible before.

What do you think of [...]sociation? I have a somewhat better opinion of it than when I last saw you. I do not know but it might be well for you if you wish to leave your place to go into one as on some account I think you might like it. You would have a comfortable place to live, and as much company as you would like I suppose, without the trouble of buying stock, waggons, &. I think I will send you some publications on the subject that you may look them over and form an opinion for yourself I would not have you say thing about it in letters wh. [*which*] you send home as Father does not like it at all. Indeed I have no hesitation in saying there is a great deal of nonsense in their pretensions, but still I think the idea of getting together and helping one another along some is a good one. Something of the kind will be I think eventually adopted though not according to the plan of the Fourierites.

I think you ought to write home somewhat often you need not do it all at once but keep a sheet of paper by you and every few days write a few lines and thus you will before a great while have a sheet filled to send home. It is a very great comfort to Mother to hear from you as well as to all for us. If there are any particular books you would like to have, if you can write me before I go home I will try to get them & send them to you by Mr. Knapp.

I have not much more to say at present. John sends his love but has not time to write now. He has an oration to prepare for Junior Exhibition [*at Yale University*] – is a good scholar and in good health. Good-bye dear brother, remember to take with patience the unavoidable evils of this life and to look for the consummation of all your joys in a future and better world. Do all the

good you can to your neighbors, and strive in all ways to make your own house the abode of peace and contentment

your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

Dear sister Caroline, If I have not written any part of the above letter directly to you it is not because I do not think often of you, and rejoice that Daniel is permit-to spend his time with one who is so anxious for his happiness and so well calculated to promote it. I hope you will be able to cheer each other on in life's rugged road and find in each other a happiness which does not depend on the changing and capricious world around you. You have troubles in Wisconsin, so down here, and probably not many less, though of course as this is our native country it is dear on that account, and must be viewed by you with tender feelings. What good ma[y] [c]rown your days with joy is the prayer [...] [your?] aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel.

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

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] May 6, 1844

Dear Brother and Sister,

Your letter we received three days since and as there are somethings in it which seem to require immediate attention I think I will write at once. But first in reference to Martha I will say we have moved her from S. [*South*] Hadley [*at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary*] home after she had been there five months (from Nov. 30 to April 29) upon a sick bed. We brought her upon a bed in [Esq. Badlelle's Barouche?] and were but three days on the journey. She cannot sit up at all, and was a good deal affected by the journey, but has now we think nearly recovered from it. She is no worse than when I wrote you last, and perhaps we may be permitted to indulge greater hopes of her recovery though that is very doubtful. She very probably may live months before the disease conquers her, and it must be moths before she recovers.

I visited your father Burr's people yesterday and carried your letter to them. We talked over the proposition of Mrs. Burr and as you ask my opinion in reference to it, I am ready to say I see no objection to it and would advise you if it be not too late to adopt the plan she suggest if you still feel anxious to get the lots of which have been thinking. You may have my part of it for what it cost me and the interest at six per cent from the time I sent the money and I am ready to give a bond to that effect, though I should not like to wait more than once year from this time for my pay. If you can get the other half on terms to suit you I advise you to engage it and send, for the money as soon as you possibly can. I presumed Mrs. Burr will not be willing to forward it till she knows whether you can have the place of not. If she can send you $200 or so, would you not do better to buy with it some place entirely new farther in the interior, and by selling your present place get money enough to put up a house? If you like the place you think of <*such you*> however, as it is near a village and not far from Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] probably you had better take it. I suppose however it is not as good land as you can find elsewhere. Do not exchange your present place for one which you will not like, but if it is possible to get any place you can like do by all means leave the one you now have. I should be unwilling to make you a better offer to exchange your lot for mine than that which I made in a previous letter. Hope it is not enough, but I do not want anything to do with it.

You state that you do not think Levi has ever paid the money I gave him as attorney for somebody who formerly owned the lots east of the creek. I think I am safe whether he did or not, but I would thank you to ascertain whether in Wisconsin it is necessary to have a Power of Attorney to sell land recorded before it is legal. If it is not I am perfectly secure, if it is I must send it out at once to have it recorded. Should you find it necessary you will write me at once. I do not believe it is. I am in haste and shall write no more unless I think of something

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel.

P.S. You ask how you can pay Capt. Hayers If you are to receive money from Mrs. Burr you can direct her to pay him any amount you have in your hands and that will save send it to you. If you should not, you must buy a draft on some of the Banks of Hartford or New York for which you will have to pay about two per cent premium or more but which must be at Capt. Hayer's expense of course you must if possible make arrangements for the purchase of the lot immediately, and take care you do not pay too much for it. The owner, seeing how much you might want it, may take advanta[g]e of you. I do not see why you might not take my half and keep the whole or a part of your present farm, but you probably do. I wish in your next letter you would make a kind of a map of the lot putting down the roads for I have not a very good idea of their situation.

I am very glad Mrs. Burr is willing to make arrangements to [acc?]ommodate you, for though I offered to send you $150 it was only because I wished very much to accommodate you. It would put me to great inconvenience.

I have no doubt your present farm will sell at 4 or 5 dollars an acre during the present season some time. Were it mine I would not take less than five but you know best.

Martha sends her love. Marcus is well and grows more awkward continually though I hope he will make a good man. Cousin William talks of going to Wisconsin this summer, but it is doubtful. We have procured a pendulum rod and ball for you and intend to sent it, by Mr. Hurlibut of Norfolk [*Connecticut*] who is to start in three or four weeks. It is impossible for us to imagine that yours were left here but if you can not find them that makes not difference. Mr. Knapp talks some of going to Wisconsin in the fall but has hired to father till Sept. and it is doubtful whether he will go at all, I think he might like your present place. I will talk with him and let you know next time.

Yours Joel.

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

Mill Brook [*Connecticut*] May 22, 1844
Dear Brother and Sister,

As cousin Wm. [*William*] starts for Wis. [*Wisconsin*] next week, I sit down to write you a few words. And first let me say to you I hope if you have not already bought the place of which you have written some two or three times, I hope you will not do so with consulting Coz. Wm. [*Cousin William*] for I have some question whether you may not do better. Nor do I exactly like the plan of your being obliged to pay interest for what your farm may cost you till such a time as you may be able to pay it, though in your circumstances I think it advisable, for you ought to leave the place you have at present. But if it is not too late I hope you will ponder well the idea of taking my 40 and uniting to the west 40 of yours, and selling 80 acres and the house of yours, by which means you will be able to pay for my 40 and have something considerable to build with. Act with discretion and do not let your zeal to leave a place you do not like transport you beyond the bounds of reason.

I send you by Wm. [*William*] a book called "A New Home Who'll follow?" in which are some good descriptions of life and manners in newly settled countries. To one point only would I now direct your attention viz. the rusticitiy and coarseness of some or most of those who inhabit such regions. [To] this you may be some what exposed as our whole family are somewhat inclined to it naturally. I think you may gather a great many good hints from the book, and I hope you will use that and every other means in your power to promote refinement in yourself and in all around you. In order to do this you need to direct your thoughts to the subject and you will find to your astonishment, (at least I have done so) that "in many things you offend all" while you do not dream of it. Make others feelings a portion or your study, carefully observing what language is offensive to them and what manners are disagreeable. It is astonishing to see how much better some people who have very little kindness get along than those who have a great deal and do not manifest it rightly to those around them, I do not think this is right. We are commanded to "let our

light shine before men," and he who has real excellence of character, and yet through a neglect to manifest it by those means that are calculated to with he hears of other does as truly "put his candle under a bushel" as any man whatever. Do not then consider such things unimportant. They add greatly to one's power of doing good. Let it then be your aim to elevate by your example and acts the society around you for no society can be really good, or thoroughly Christian where such things are neglected. Get sister Caroline to make suggestions to you, for the perception of ladies in reference to these things is always more keen and ready than that of gentlemen, and from the advantages she has possessed she will be particularly prepared to make such suggestions.

As to your note against Wm. [*William*] Swift I will ascertain where he lives from his father and will bye and bye write to [Strong?] about it. The note will, I doubt not, have to be prosecuted and I think the best plan will be to wait about one year from this time, or till it has run five years, and the interest becomes $6 and [...] give directions for the prosecution. I [believe?] that notes become outlawed in six years in Ohio. I think that [Mother?] and Strong will have no difficulty in collecting it, provided Swift is worth any thing. Swift has removed to some part of Penn. [*Pennsylvania*]

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
Joel.

P.S. I have written to Phelps about James Craig's note and I presume he will do all that can be done.

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Canton, Ohio. June 25, 1844
Dear Brother,

I this morning sent to Massillon a large box in which was contained all we can find of your things, excepting your rocking chair, which it was found very inconvenient to pack. It is to be addressed to you at Praireville [*Wisconsin*], care of – Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*]. I sent it to Mr. Rhodes with a request that he would name some suitable house in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] to whom to consign it – he will name I suppose the same persons to whose care the box I sent last year was sent – I forget their names. I never heard of the arrival of the box I sent last year, but presume you must have received it. When you receive the box I now sent please sent a newspaper, if you have neither time nor occasion to write.

My family are all well. I have no information from father's family except such as you must know you have of course hear of Martha's long sickness. A letter from Joel written about a month since, expresses a hope of her recover, but she was still very feeble.

The same letter states that you consider yourself as having a claim to the note of $35 against Craig of New Philadelphia. My own recollection is that I have accounted for that note in full. When I gave to Joel the note for $75 payable to you (which note Joel now holds) I considered it in full for all which I had of yours, and thought it very liberal. But Craig has never paid but $20 on the note and I am afraid will never pay the rest. I have always supposed however that all money I should realize on this note would belong to me.

I should be glad to hear how you get along if you can find time to write.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother
E.P. Grant

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Yale College [*Yale University*], July [] [1844?]
Dear Brother and Sister,

Joel has just informed me of [...] opportunity to send you if we prepare something immediately & glad to improve the same I now will [...] the moment of time I can command in penning a few word. I wrote you last term but you have I suppose found yourselves to busy to give me a separate answer. Though I feel as though I could excuse you Daniel do not think I can you Caroline for I cannot suppose you are so busy as necessarily to neglect to write even to me also as well as the rest. I hope too that such is not the case with you Daniel. You ought not to feel

that you must devote all your time to labor to the exclusion of all [...] else & I hope you wont forget your brother & never write him again. But if you cannot command the time when you would just [...] Caroline to act in your stead. I am well aware that when [...] labors it is hard to give time for such matters & even hard to get the dispositions [...] besides is pressing (for I often fell it myself) yet a proper degree of resolution can I find be [...] by sufficient effort But I will not suppose that you understand my wishes and hopes, & pass to something else.

I have nothing new to say for our life is but a round of some monotonous duties & like a revolving wheel we move slowly along our way, Slowly I say, but slow as [...] the flight of time yet such it flies & is fast bearing us along to the end of our coarse.

This term I have been very busy indeed our lessons to do them justice have required all my time & I have devoted the most of my time & attention to them. This is the second letter I have written this term [...] almost you. Two weeks from next Monday our examinations begin which continue through week in which we are to be examined in all the studies of the past three years. And then we shall be Seniors & I hope not driven through thick & thin without mercy. You must not infer that I am possessed of a spirit of complaint from what I now say It would, include be possible to get along with less toil & effort than I submit to; but to do justice to one's self requires a constant & persevering struggle. My health holds out firm yet though I feel that it is not quite so much so as it sometimes I long for vacation again. And so we are always worrying along – never satisfied with the pressure, but for for a [moment]. I suppose it is wrong but when I see such lessons before as my next, for example, I cannot suppress a [complaint?]. My next lesson on [...] about 20 pages of Tyler's History, most of it as destitute of interests as any other document or volume.

I presume Joel will write you all the important news & so I need not be particular. Martha is better we heard from home a little more than a week ago & she was decidedly improved, which of course will be glad tidings to you as [...] was to us. Her improvement seems to have been very rapid for some time before winter [I.E.?] for a few weeks in which we had heard nothing. She wrote herself with place so that you may well believe her much <*improved*> better than she had been. [...] friend are well as far as I know. I have not time to write more & I would apologize for the appearance of this except that I know you will excuse it without provided you can read it. When I re-an answer I will try to get time to write a longer one & a better one too. The time has come when I just go about my other duties. Don't forget to write Your aff. [*affectionate*]John.
I received the paper you send me in due time.

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

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

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

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

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

I find there are some objections to sending you a power of attorney to sell my land, though they have reference to the expense solely, which after all would be no more than two or three dollars. If after my explanation you think best to have such a power, write me and I will send it. It must be made before a justice here, and must be recorded at Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] before it will be good for anything. A better way seems to be for me to authorize you to sell and I will give the deed as soon as the name of the individual is made known to me. This will be I think satisfactory to any one who wished to buy, and will save expense and trouble. If

you think differently however, let me know. At all events such a plan will suit some folks, and therefore I authorize you to sell the whole or a part of the 80 acre lot. If you sell the whole it must not be for less than $200 or $2.50 the acre. If a part it must not be for less than $3 per acre, and as you know far better than I what land is worth you may get as much more as you can, remembering that all you can get more is your own, though unless you need it much I should prefer that you would apply it to the extinguishment of your debt to me of whose amount I know nothing. [Terms], either cash, or one half cash and the remainder secured by mortgage, interest 8 per cent, (or more if you do not think it wicked to take more, less if you feel that it ought to be). Perhaps you can divide both your farm and mine thus making two pretty fair farms with plenty of wood, though at some distance. Do as you think best but remember that if you wish any one to value your farm you must not run it down yourself.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Missionary Society [*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*] sent <*me*> us here, but this place is so large that I shall not be expected to supply any other while I remain here. It is I think about the size of Prairieville [*Wisconsin*], perhaps a little larger than that was when you went there, though I presume it has grown some since. This place sprung up

when the canal which was to connect Lake Michigan and the Illinois River was projected, and it then promised to be a large village. But when the state found itself unable to complete that work, the village was prostrated or at least checked in its growth, Now that the completion of that Canal is rendered certain, the village has started again and promises to grow. Many new houses are now building and the village is so crowded that it is with the greatest difficulty that we find a place to stay even. We could not do so, only we are content to take a room in a garret of what may be called a high one story house a room hardly more than six feet high in the highest part and sloping on each side because it meets the roof. It is about 9 feet long and perhaps eleven wide, and here we have every thing. It is our bed, sitting, dressing, and study room, in short it is every thing but our cooking room, for as we board we have no cooking to do. It would be impossible I presume to find here any place to keep house, at least it would be to find any convenient place at any reasonable price.

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

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

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

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

P.S. Since writing the above we have received a letter from John dated Richmond Va, [*Virginia*] Oct. 14. His school is small not promising as well as he hoped, but his health is good. He wishes to be remembered to you. Brother Phelps not succeeding with his Association in Ohio went East as you know some months since. Susan was present at our wedding But Phelps was at N. York [*New York*] to ascertain if there was any place for him in some New Jersey Association The Ohio Phalanx proved a complete failure as all of them probably will eventually

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

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

When you were married and came to this western world, I had little thought of so soon following you; much less of coming as your sister. Almost the last words of Caroline to me were, "I hope we shall some day see you at the west." Vain hope, thought I, for <u>why</u> should I ever leave New England. But so it is. Norfolk [*Connecticut*] is no longer my home, but a pleasant village in Ill. [*Illinois*] where all is now new and strange to me, but where there are doubtless many congenial spirits, and much that will help to make life happy. The particulars of our wedding, journey, &c. I will defer till the happy time when we may meet, and have an opportunity to talk of these things. Neither can I tell you much of the people here. Several ladies have called, and seem very cordial, One who was prevented by a sick child, from going out, sent for us to spend Sat. eve with them. We went, and spent an hour or two very pleasantly, indeed all whom we have met, greet us with smiles and kind wishes. We have a good <u>boarding</u> place, <*with*> in a pleasant family, though from Joel's description of our <u>room</u> you can judge that <u>more</u> would be

desirable. But as we care not with the idea that every thing must be for our accommodation, but rather to accommodate ourselves to circumstances, and be happy whatever they may be, we find ourselves contented in this small room, without door, or closet. Still we hope for better things, though it may be a long time before we have them. We should feel ourselves rich indeed, had we a log house like yours, or even two rooms in any other.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My dear brother,

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

Your letter to Joel [*Joel Grant*] was recieved sometime after he left us. We were glad to hear from you that you are getting along so comfortably. I regret never having an oppertunity to see and become acquainted with sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*]; give my love to her and to

the little Abby, who is I presume a source of much enjoyment to you already. May her life be spared for many years! You have probably heard ere this of Joels arrival in Ill. [*Illinois*] and though you may not be able to see him for many months, it will be a gratification to you to feel that he is so near you. John is engaged in a school at Richmond Va. [*Virginia*] with what prospects I cannot state, as I have not seen his last letters and have heard nothing said about it. Martha's at Lebanon Springs at a hydropathic establishment. She, as well as the rest of us had become satisfied that medicine could do her no good and we hoped that the application of cold water as practiced by the hydropathists, might stimulate her nervous system, and restore a healthy action throughout her system generally. She has been there a little more than three weeks, and as yet there is no perceptible change though some symptoms are more favorable. For two years she has been obliged to take cathartics daily or suffer severly. When she wrote last she had been able to dispense with them for 5 days. Dr. Graham considers her case a very critical one, but gives encouragement that she may recover. We have much confidence in the application of cold water, but it cannot cure all diseases and hers may be one of the incurable. You may feel some desire to know something of the operations to which she is subjected. I can not state it accurately, but she is plunged into a bath of cold water, then rubbed briskly, then walks as much as she is able to do probably after an interval of rest. after this she sits in a tub of cold water 1/2 an hour is rubbed again then walks. In the PM she has wet napkins applied to the spine & abdomen and is bandaged with dry blankets for 2 hours. This process seems at first a hard one but it seems in many cases to be very effectual in removing diseases often of a long standing, and is said to be much less unpleasant than one would suppose. Mother and Marcus intend visiting her next week if the weather should be favorable.

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

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

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

Dear Brother

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

My Dear Children

I was glad to hear from you by Joels or the one you wrote to Joel and I will here mention that has taken quite a rise I cannot state definility how much but think I will send you a paper before long that will give you more information than I can give you I am glad that you think of keeping more stock I think keeping cows and sheep in your situation will be a good course not that I would advise you to go largely into the business at first a small stock will soon make a large

one and I fear that you feel a desire to be rich but if it is so I hope you will remember the Bible injunction be not in haste to be rich also that riches bring a snare
I want you should be come[...] I want you should keep a horse and waggon that that you may go to church and wherever you want to go with less futigue I am glad that you call your little daughter Abby I wish her name to be Abigail Caroline. I hope you will give her to the Lord in baptism and consider the Lords and may you pray the Lord to sanctify her wholly body soul and spirit and preserve her blamely unto the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [live?] near to God my dear children
I want to have you bathe the dear little one from the crown of her head to the soul of her feet in tepid water daily I think it will prevent her crying so much I would not have it [creuelly into?] I must stop for want of room may God bless you is the prayer of your Mother [*Mrs. (E.) Grant*]

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

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

Dear Brother Daniel,

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

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

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

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

Mr. B. [*Burton*] is now wishing to get rid of his farm. He tried hiring for a time & though he had little difficulty with his hands, he wished to try renting. Having built a comfortable hewed log house, he has tried renting his farm to two men heads of families, first, for five years, secondly for three years, but in each case, before one year had half expired, such was the state of feeling between <*the*> us, that it took no small effort to settle it. In the last case wh. [*which*] was last fall, we lost considerable in the settlement. Indeed the older I become, the more I think of the importance of acquiring absolute control over our passions, while young. My little boys are hard to govern. I fear for them, but O for more faith. Every good gift is from above, & with God all things are possible. We have enjoyed more peace in our family for about a year, than I once expected to enjoy in this life. Doubtless all we endure in this life is designed to wean us from the world, & bring us home to God. Strange how slow I have been to learn, for I have had many lessons. I have been a great backslider when shall I return? Never? I cannot think so. O that by

the grace of God the time might not be far distant when I shall experience that joy & peace in believing wh. [*which*] the [world?] can neither give nor take away.
Feb. 28. This day is very cold. A heavy snow has fallen wh. [*which*] might be of some advantage to us, if we had sleighs as the ground was hard frozen upon which it fell.

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

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

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

Dear sister Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

Your affectionate sister

Elizabeth Burton

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

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

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

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

Mill Brook Ct. [*Connecticut*], Dec. 28, 1847

Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I received your letter of Nov. 7, about a month since, and have delayed to reply to it for two reasons, the first of which is a very common one, viz. that I have been busily employed otherwise, and the second and most important is that I have not known what to write. The apparent importance of writing something however has at last led me to take my pen.

It seems that you have sold my 40 and now have a team; whether your investment was wise is more than I can determine, and it being already made there is the less need that I should as the action can not be recalled. But as I am now the owner of a team perhaps it may not be amiss to say something about the future control of the matter, though even here I can do but little more than to suggest some ideas which perhaps are even more palpable to your mind than to mine. In the first place take good care to curry and to feed them well. Be careful also in muddy weather not to drive them, or if you do so to take very light loads. Remember “the die is cast,” if this speculation fails I know not where you can look next. I know not where you can stable them, nor in what shed you can shelter your wagon, but this I trust is known to you.

But I wish to write you something respecting the religious bearing of your business. It is God alone who can give you success; none but He can save you from the thousand dangers of failure and consequent loss both to yourself and me that attend you. This truth should be acknowledged, not merely with our lips, but in some way that is calculated to carry more of the feelings with it. I have become satisfied that it is every Christians duty to give, at least, one tenth of his prosperity to God -- to consecrate it to the promotion of his kingdom on earth. This

principle I have acted on for the last six months and I mean to do it while God shall give me life. Now as far as I have any share in the team you drive, I wish this principle applied, & I should feel much, very much safer if you would apply it to your share. I wish therefore to have you <*state in some*> ascertain what is the amount of my capital you have invested in paying for <*them*> it. I propose something like the following. Horses, wagons, and harnesses are of so perishable a nature, that if you cannot pay for them in the three years, it is not probable you ever can. The business will be far from a profitable one, if you cannot do as much as this. This will be 3 per cent a month for 36 months (allowing about 3 months in which to pay interest) I propose therefore that you at once enter on a plan of paying that amount month by month for that object. I think you can find no difficulty in doing this; certainly you cannot if the business is to be any other than a losing one either to you or me. As nearly as I can estimate from your account of the matter you have invested or are to invest about $237. dollars in the team, $163 of which you have already paid. Aside from this you seem to have used $15 paid by Mahar, $29 paid by some one else, and $10 or more from the store <*which goes to pay*> in payment for the lot, making in all $217. You ask also to be permitted to use $29 coming to me early in Jan. which will make $246 -- not lacking much of $250. I give my consent to your using the note of $29 come due in Jan. and as all the rest that comes from the lot will be used soon we will call the whole lot invested in the team, that is $250. Three per cent on this is $7.50 per month which I shall expect you to lay aside to pay for the principal this, beginning, if possible, Nov. 1, 1847. or at least as soon as Jan 1, '48. If you cannot do this your business will be far from a profitable one, I am confident, and <*unless you can*> the loss of the whole team will eventually fall on me.

I cannot give my consent to the investment in a team of the mony that is to come from Mahar next spring <*in a team*> unless you can make the payments I have just mentioned. I am owing nearly $300 which those funds are consecrated to pay; I cannot therefore venture to place them in so uncertain a state. But this I am willing to consider upon, viz. If you will pay $7.50 a month from Nov. till May (which will make $45) I will consent to the investment of a part of it, otherwise I cannot.

Mahar is sufficiently correct in saying that I gave my consent that all the taxes that had been laid previous to the sale of the farm might be deducted from the amount he was to pay. If the taxes have been laid since I sold the farm, no deduction can be made.

I wish you would write to me as often at least as once a month, presenting a clear and distinct statement of what you earn with your team and also of your expenses. Such a statement will soon show you whether you can live by teaming, and also whether I can expect a remuneration for the investment of my property. Of course you understand that it is no security for you to call the team <u>mine</u>, for it is property that will not avail much as security. I like the proposal to have the deed of your lot taken <*from*> for me, but not because it gives <u>me</u> a security that is of value, for if you cannot pay otherwise, do you think I shall take the lot from under you? Unless I am willing to do that, such security is of no worth to me. All my security lies in the hope that you will manage business well, and that God will smile upon your efforts, and add his blessing.

I presume you will appreciate my motives in what I have written. I have endeavored to be accommodating to every member of your family. I shall still endeavor to help if God gives me the means. But I now am poor, yea $300 worse than poor. I have lent brother John $1000 (with the interest it would now be $1200) and that is sunk beyond hope. How much <*what*> I have heretofore lent you, I have no knowledge, but believe it is not less than $60, which together with what you now ask for will make $300, and perhaps by next May $350. It is plain that I must stop the practice of lending money where it is so uncertain whether it will ever return. The $250 you may take, and may God's blessing go with it, but with present prospects ought I do more? I think you will feel that I ought not. Still if you can show that teaming is a business that holds out a prospect of supporting you I will do so much as to lend you a part of what you may earn between this and May, but the Mahar money must not be touched.

If you have not forgotten your Phonography I should like to have you write to me in that, as I care not to have every body read our business transactions. You can write it first in long hand and then copy it is Phonography: You must not suffer yourself to neglect writing for in a few years you will forget entirely how. I see you have forgotten very much already.

I hope you will consider carefully the subject of benevolence and if you do not feel able to consecrate one tenth to God, try one twentieth, and do whatever you do cheerfully, laying it aside as a sacred treasure, and taking of the best you get, that is money for this purpose.

I have as yet not employment. I have been preaching for two sabbaths in West Avon, and perhaps shall settle there, but do not know. Abby has for the most part recovered her health. John is teaching in Woodbury [*Connecticut*], but his school is small only about 30 now, and will not have so many in the summer. Marcus goes to school to him. Father and mother are well as usual as are also Mr. Burr's people. Am sorry to hear that you suffer so much from ague. hope that a change of business will relieve you. My love to Caroline and Abby. <*and*> In haste

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Joel

I believe Mother intends to write soon but I have filled this letter so full that I cannot well give her a chance in this.

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[*Addressed to*]

Mr Daniel Grant
Waukesha Waukesha Co
Wisconsin

Millbrook
Ct March 3d

From Mother Grant disapproving of Daniel going to California –
March 1849

late *Feb. 1849*

My Dear Children [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]

I have for a long time wanted to write to you but I have never been very well since I was sick last fall and now for several weeks I have had a cold which has made me quite unwell but I now feel quite well. We received your letter along time ago which was a great relief to me I felt anxious about the barrel I felt that we did not know how to lose the contents and it rejoices my heart to hear that you had a dear little son which I hope will prove a blessing to all the friends and to learn about Dear Abby and that Caroline had been carried through her confinement so comfortably I was sorry that Daniel was home with his wrist and that he was troubled with Dispepsia but if it must be so I want to know it I do not hear from you near as often as I should like to but yesterday we received a letter from Joel stating that you Daniel was thinking of going to California which was to me inteligence of a very unpleasant nature and I thought I could delay writing no longer but must say to you immediately that I cannot endure the Idea your health is poor <*and*> and for you to think of going to California in pursuit of health I think you will be disappointed should you do it your Physician may recommend it and so I might think favorably of it if you <*was*> were in circumstances to go there and live at your ease and have a Physician and nurse to attend to you <*and*> but under your circumstances I feel that your prospect is nothing more than an increased state of suffering and then how can you be separated from your Dear family dont indulge a thought of any such thing Joel seems to think it might do but I feel that he has incorrect views he said to me that he did not know but it might be well enough for Marcus to go but I shall never give my consent to have any of my children go and your father is very much opposed to it I understand that you have sold your place and are gone to live with Mrs Root I am glad you have kind friends there but I hope you will make arrangements to return <*n*?> in the spring to Conn [*Connecticut*] should I live it will be pleasant to me and I hope that I shall be able to contribute to your comfort I am in the decline of life but should the Lord see fit to continue my life and give me strength I shall always want to do what I can to make my children comfortable I think was you here you might enjoy better health than you do <*there*> where you are but if you must be sick I had rather you would be sick here than abroad There are a great many gone and going to California <*and many that are gone*> Chauncey Canfield and <*Albert*> Alfred Cooper and Samuel Seymor Erastus Seymore, son of Lewis <*an*> Andrews Daniel Andrews' son is talking of going Mrs Andrews died the winter past so that he has no mother to feel bad about his going and if you should live there will be no hurry about your going there is such an extent of territory that is

called the Golden region that it will not be exhausted for a great while to come now I hope that whoever says go that you will not regard it _____
Marcus has been teaching this winter in Danbury Quarter and I hope that he may have health and strength <*be able*> to labor and with the blessing of God he may be made happy I have not seen any of father Burrs people this winter I have not been able to go out myself but very little and your mother and Mary [*Mary Burr*] I suppose have been very busy I expect Mary is to be married about this time but I do not probably know as much about it as you do I hope that when the weather is warmer we shall see them more I hope that Mary and her husband will call on us before they leave but perhaps they will not I do not think of any special news of Joel and his wife and and babe but they are now better John is tutor in [W?] Haven yet he had another tumor removed from his back the forepart of January but he was able to return to his duty in about three days after the term commenced he was well felt no inconvenience from the tumor but knowing there was one commenced he thought he would have it removed while he was well____

Your uncle Luther is much as he has been though rather finding other friends usually well Martin has taught our school this winter I hope you will not set your hearts on glittering dust I want you should be comfortable I hope you will cast all your cares on Jesus and not forget to pray. I want you should not neglect to to pray God to bless your dear children both spiritually and temporally Kiss them many times <*to*> for me and tell them them that grandmother thinks much of them I have had grandmother Burr's letter to read and I love to read about Abby my dear children I want to have you write to me immediately and let me know your plans may the lord bless and direct us is the prayer of your affec mother Ely

Dear cousins,
As I am spending a few days, with Aunt, and there is a little space here, for a word, to assure you of my kind remembrance, I gladly [improve] it. Though you have so long resided at the West, presume letters from <u>home</u>, and news from old friends – are ever <u>acceptable</u>. Norfolk [*Connecticut*] seems much as usual. There have been several deaths among children recently from <u>croup</u>. Nothing particular has occurred that will interest you. Please accept my love and best wishes – Cousin Margaret
.
Hope you will be able to train those dear '<u>little ones</u>,' in the good and right way, and that they may prove <u>continually</u>, a rich blessing.

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

Mill Brook Ct Mar 4

Monday March 4th 1859

My Dear Children [*Daniel Grant and Caroline Burr Grant*]
I wrote you last week but on receiving a letter last evening from your Mother and Mary [*Mary Burr*] it seems to be necessary that I should write again though I know not what to say I am decidedly opposed to your going to California I feel that you would probably never return and if you should I believe that you would be poorer instead of richer[.?] we are all journeying to Eternity and we had better not set our hearts on glittering dust I believe there will be more of the gold diggers that will be ruined than there will be made rich I am sorry that you have sold your place at such a loss I do not think that it will be required of you to make sacrifices of much money to the public to whom much is given much will be required if you could dispose of what you have there and come here and buy a small place where you could keep six or seven cows I should feel that you might do far better than you have done since you left keep <*a*> few cows and raise a few potatoes a little corn and live respectably <*and not be able*> I do not know what to write but I fear that you find those that are disposed to take advantage of you and if you was here you would find friends with whom you might counsel and might be benefitted in that way I fear that you will find it difficult to dispose

of what you have for what it is worth I will now say that I hope you will not sell your bed I think the feathers were of your own raising and probably worth twice as much as any you can buy if you have a good bed keep it the officers cannot take your bed from and any thing that you have that is good I advise you to keep it will not cost as much to bring them here <*them*> as it will to buy them and if you undertake to sell them you cannot get much for [them?] there will be many things that you cannot bring can you sell your [Large?] Co land for any thing more than it cost you or than it has cost at this time now if you can dispose of what you have there and can put it into the bank here and can work in a factory or any way to live I would be glad but let who will say go to California I hope you will say nay I do not wish you to sell your property for two thirds what it is worth hope you will not need to do so want to have you write immediately when you receive this I rejoice that you have Abby Root for a mother give my sincere regards to her Joel wrote to us that he thought favorably of Daniel's going to California but I think that it needs the most robust healthy persons to go there I want to have you come here if you come with the feeling that you spend your days here for I believe that if you can live any where you can live here may the Lord guide direct and bless you is the prayer of your mother Elizabeth Grant love to Abby and a kiss for the baby

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

It is not very often that I write to you but as their is a little room left here I will add a few words

This winter I have been teaching school in Danbury Quarture for $18 a month for three months which will help a very little a long in respects money matters. What I shall do this summer I do not know yet: shall know very soon <*prop*> probably.

Perhaps I may stay at home donot know what Father will think about hiring me nor do [I] much care there is work some where to be done.

I am sorry you do not prosper a little better where you are. As <*for*> to your going to California I think you had better do as you think best about it. You might go there and get some gold and you might succeed as well as you have <*there*> where you are. But it seems to me that a sick man in California digging gold in the water up to his knees would look funny.

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother Marcus

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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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California, Oct. 20 1849.

My Dear Wife [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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[*Addressed to*] Mrs. Caroline Grant [*Caroline Burr Grant*],
Norfolk
Litchfield Co.
Connecticut

Jan. ‘50

I suppose this sheet will make double postage but I dont care for that, I pay a dollar to get it carried to the states, & I suppose it will be the same whether I send one sheet or two. The man

that takes it leaves for the states on the 16th of Jan. and will take the Feb. boat, he is from Mo. [*Missouri*] has made $1,500, and thinks he can't stay from his family any longer He run a carriage from Hangtown to Sac. City [*Sacramento City, California*]. will not be more than a year from his family. I have been able to preserve your letter sent by Dr. [Blye] and have just read it, & will answer it. The logs Mr. Root was right about. You did right about the saddle. Mr. Tichenor must have been mistaken about the dollar, for I paid him the common price for all he did. The long dress I did not want, but shall I ever get home, should have thrown it away as I did a good many things, if I had had it. I sent a letter from Ft. Larimie [*Ft. Laramie, Wyoming*] in wh. [*which*] I enclosed a lock of hair, but perhaps you did not get it. Will send another lock in this, my hair is short now, cut it myself, & cliped pretty close. I will give you some description of our company. We have 2 houses built in a small <rav> ravine, about 2 miles from the road leading from Hangtown, & Weverville, to Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] about 45m from the City. Our house is 14 ft. by 12 ft. with a chimney at one end, built out side. My chums are Walter Young, of Sheboygan [*Wisconsin*] & Joseph Ludington, of Mil. [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Young is a tailor & not very agreeable, though a tolerable good fellow. I worked with him, from the commencement of my mining, till <...> December first. Then we separated, & for three weeks, not feeling well, I did not mine. He is very profane. Ludington is a very pleasant young man 20 years old, also profane but not as bad as Young. Young left his wife with her father near Diesner's mill. He is 35 years old. At the other house is Mr. Burlieu, from Sheboygan 25 years old, quite profane but a <u>first rate fellow,</u> also Mr. Peters fr. [*from*] She. [*Sheboygan Wisconsin*] 25y old very profane, but a good companion in every other respect. Mr Jones from the lead mines Wis. [*Wisconsin*] 35y old I guess, uses profane language some, & is a clever man. The other (for there are four) is Mr. Matthewson fr. Hartford Ct. [*Connecticut*] A fine young man, does not use profane language, but is not so agreeable as I wish he was, a good companion though much more so than Young. He is my present partner.

Last week we took out $168, 80, $68, of it in one one day. We are at work in what is called dry diggins, or what I should call winter diggins.

In wet diggins there is too much water in the winter and in dry diggins no water in summer. The wet are much the most productive.

A good many came from the States last summer and got from $1500, to $10000, and returned, are at home before this time, but big strikes though somewhat common, are in proportion to the number engaged, few & far between.

The mine<*e*>rs however almost invariably make money, some spend it fast as they get it, others save it, some soon as they get a few dollars go with it, to the gambling table. I have heard a report that a young man came into the mines, & was successfull, took out in a short time $5000, went to Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] and bet it all at once, at the time telling the gamblers, that it was the last bet he ever should make, whether he won or lost, & if he won, he should go home, but if he lost he should go back to the mines, He won, took his $10000, & went home. Every store almost & every public house is a drinking & gambling shop. The Sabbath is not regarded here, except as a day of rest, and not even for that by some. Probably 99 out of a hundred of all the inhabitants of Cal. [*California*] are in the habit of using language. Yet there never was a country in the world, where there was better order, & less crime.

I enjoy myself very well. You know I mean as well as I can. My greatest trouble is I am separated from my family, and can't hear one word from them or any of my friends. I never could put up with it but I think the Lord had a design in my coming therefore, I try to be content.

The Indians are somewhat troublesome in some places, not far from here, they burnt a sickman about a week since. They sometimes steal oxen & horses and other things, but if they steal to much extent, the whites raise 30, or 40 men, go in pursuit kill all they can, recover the property & take what they can from the Indians.

The country is generally barren, producing little except trees, which are scattered all over the mountains. below the mountains there is no timber, or anything else except on the ranches, as the fertile spots on the rivers are called where grass grows luxuriantly.

The winter is delightful, so far, where we are located, but a little higher up, the mountains are covered with snow. I think every day how you are hemmed in with snow & the cold wind whistling through every crevice, while I can sit by the open door, & write or read without fire, and be warm & perhaps a little too warm. A little fire though is generally comfortable.

Oxen are generally worth about $200, [ ] & cows from $100, to $150, dollars a apiece, milk at Sac. C. [*Sacramento City, California*] is $1, per g't. Almost all kinds of business is profitable.

The rainy season is not so unpleasant as I supposed. Sometimes it rains for 3 or 4 days so hard that we cannot work, & sometime will be wet for more than a week, raining more or less evey day, then a spell of fair weather for a few days, or may be a few weeks. The nights are frosty in fair wether. The rainy season continues 3 months, & generally commences between the 20th Dec. & first Jan. This season it commenced the <first> second week in Nov. so I suppose the rainy season is pretty well along. Today is the 10, thursday & the third rainy day this week. I probably shall not make any more than $20, this week, perhaps not that.

I have written a long letter for me. I dont know who there is to read it, but some of my friends are alive. I dont know which of them. I will put a few verses in to this <...> for [Abby]. I clipped them from a Newspaper I hope that I shall see my father & mother a gain, but I fear I shall not. Your affectionate husband

Daniel [*Daniel Grant*]

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[Addressed to] <Mrs. Caroline Grant>
<Norfolk> Ct.
Dea. E. Grant [*Deacon Elijah Grant*]
Mill Brook [*Connecticut*]

California, Feb. 3d 1850.

Dearest Caroline [*Caroline Burr Grant*],

I wish I knew whether you are alive or not. I shall continue to direct my letters to you till I know. I have another opportunity to send a letter to the states, & this time to Boston, the chance is so good that I cannot let it pass, for if this man is careful<l> to mail it at Boston or N.York [*New York*], it will most certainly reach you. Twice I supposed I had sent for letters when I had not, the first time I left my name with Mr. Mudd, I think from Ct. [*Connecticut*] but instead of bringing letters he went to his home in the states. Next I left my name with 3 or 400 others at a store in Hangtown, to be sent by express but in consequence of some little difficulty between the merchant, & express men, the merchant would not let the express have the names, I have sent again & the man is expected back every day. If he does not bring letters for me I shall go myself pretty soon. It will cost me at least one hundred dollars to go to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*], & back, my time too will be worth another hundred, but I want a letter I would give a hundred dollars tonight, to get a letter, if I could get none cheaper.

It costs a dollar & 60 cts. [*cents*] besides the postage to get letters from S. Francisco[*San Francisco, California*]. We have papers from N. Y. [*New York*] & Bos. [*Boston*] of Dec. 13, so that we get some news.

It seems that the rush still continues from the states to Cal. [*California*] I suppose it will as long as one man in ten thousand makes a strike, as we call it, when he takes out a number of thousands of dollars in a short time.

I have pretty good luck now and then, but most of the time I am doing but little. Week before last I got $3, and about 60 cts, last week about $30, & my prospects are better this week, I think, but can't tell, we may get $30, or more in one day & next day not more than $5,. Week before last it commenced snowing on monday, in the forenoon & snowed till wednesday night, then turned into rain & rained till Sat. night, but many who think they know something about it say that the rains are over, & I think that there is reason to think it is so, I never saw a more beautiful<l> sky, or more delightful weather, than was yesterday & day before. Today has been very pleasant, but the sky covered with thin clouds. It is clear again this evening I hardly know what to write, because I do not know how things are at home, & shall not write much in this letter. I know if I have any friends that they wish to hear from me, & I shall take every measure that falls in my reach to have them.

My health is generally pretty good, but I have a slight attack of scurvy, think I shall be able to check it, but dont know what it may do to me, My blood is very thin, & I am troubled some with the nose bleed. I am better than I was a few days since.

Rather a laughable occurrence took place when I first began to feel the effects of the scurvy. It <seen> seemed that I felt bugs crawling about me, & biting pretty sharp occasionally. I did not know what to make of it, or what to do, I could find nothing but felt them frequently, they troubled me very much. In two or three days after I began to feel the bugs, one morning I saw Mr. Young My first partner, pick something [o]f his wrist & throw it in the fire, & said he "big flea."

I knew he was a dirty fellow, that he wore his clothes a long time, & that he had worn a pair of flannel drawers, nearly 3 months & how much longer I did not know. That, with the "big flea" set me going. I boiled all my clothes, blankets &c. in water and ashes, & left the house for another place – got in near by with a man from Rhode Island who was living in a small cab<b>in by himself his partner hav<e>ing gone to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*]. Got some mercurial ointment & used it pretty freely &c, &c.

At last I found some scurvy sores, & as I have seen no bugs – I conclude that it was scurvy instead of bugs, that was crawling over me.

Feb. 6

Dear Wife,

I have been made <about> happy today – I know you can guess how – this P. M. Mr. Hoffman the man I sent by for letters returned & bought 3 letters for me. I took them in my hand, and caught <anoter> one of my companions by the arm and <ran> asked him to pay the bill and ran for the bushes, but with my happiness there was a pang your hand writing I could not see on the outside. I fear I was never to see it again, I opened a letter the writing of which I could not recognize, I read a few lines & thought I could not get the news I wanted, & threw it down & opened another, there I found your own writing & learned that you were all comfortably well at home, though it is two months since the last letter was written, a load is removed. The other letter I looked at again and was satisfied it was for some body else whose name is Dan'l Grant & sent it back to San Fransisco [*San Francisco, California*]. The 3 letters only cost $5.20 I can't write more now, you know I must have a little time to think of what I have heard, this is letter No. ?

Your husband

Daniel

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

Marysville [*California*], Dec. 9, 1850.

My Dear Wife,

It is a long time since I wrote home, longer I think than it will be again. You may expect a letter every mail after this, or twice a month. I am now in Marysville [*California*] & have been for some time. As long as I remain here, or where I can get to the P. O. [*Post Office*] I shall send by every mail, & I would be glad to receive by every mail.

Have had no news from you since M. [*Marcus Grant*] arrived because I suppose, I have not sent for any or have sent but once & then the express did not return. I shall send to Sacramento city by the next mail, to have letters forwarded to Marysville [*California*], if the P. M. [*Post Master*] will regard my request I have no doubt I shall hear from you, but it is very uncertain whether he will, Post Master are either exceding careless here, or else exceeding indifferent.

I have been searching for a piece of land for M. [*Marcus Grant*] & myself & for cows that we could buy but both are very difficult to find or at least it is difficult to find land at the present time that suits in quality & location, six months ago I could have found it.

There is a place about two miles from here where I think to go & build a small cabin & if I can get a few cows, & keep there I will, & when M. [*Marcus Grant*] comes we will decide whether it is best for us to stay there, or not.

M. [*Marcus Grant*] is still on the Yuba river & I suppose doing pretty well, I have not heard def<*f*>inite from him since I left him, some six weeks since, suppose he has had no opportunity to send.

Marysville [*California*] is a flourishing place, & I think will continue to grow for a time yet, the city as it is called is regularly laid out the streets crossing at right angles. It is a very pretty

location, & I think healthy there were two or three cases of <clol> chol[e]r<y> [*cholera*] when it was so bad at S. City [*Sacramento City, California*], but I can see no reason why it is not healthy.

The buildings are mostly made of cloth & almost every house is a store, tavern or some other kind of shop. A great deal of gambling is done every day, every tavern is furnished with cards & tables for the accommodation of visiters, & loafers many is the game played for a drink & even for money, the monta bank [*montebank*] is the principal bank here, there being many of them, but Faro is common & Rolet, [*Roulette?*] Ronda & all other kinds of games are always to be found.

The stores are none of them furnished with stoves, but the weather is considered warm enough to throw the doors wide open & admit all the air.

There are but few women here of the right sort, but plenty of bad ones. It seems that bad women & gambl<*ing*>ers are good associates.

Yesterday I attended church, meeting was held in the court house. The minister is a young man, & <prety> smart enough for this country I suppose, he told us that he wanted us to contribute enough to enable him to live, said "the laborer is worthy of his hire," & "all he asked was enough to live," & I am sure it [will] not cost him but little more to [live?] here with the high prices, than it <*is f*> does most of our ministers at home. You must not think that it is for want of talent that he will live cheap, it is the absence of false pride, & a sense of our wickedness in this country, & a desire to do us good, he is some like that man we liked so well in Wis. [*Wisconsin*], I have forgotten his name.

Do you think I thought of home while I was at church, ah! you know I am thinking of home nearly every moment, but the impressions were more vivid when there.

I thought to write a full letter this time & give you a good deal of information about myself & other things here but, I think I must cut it short & see if I cant do it next time.

The last letter I sent home <&> contains ½ an oz. gold dust M. [*Marcus Grant*] wrote in the letter, he stated that I was going to packing, so I did, & succeeded in getting the load to the place, but on my return I lost both of my mules for which I paid $165.00 I then gave up doing any more packing. Send your letters to Marysville pay no postage unless Joel continues to be postmaster I am pretty well. Your aff. [*affectionate*] husband
Daniel

<There is something of a revival here I hope you & Mary [*Mary Burr Hill*] will remember & pray for us all that we too may be blessed I went to meeting last Friday there was a very full prayer meeting Halsey Stevens & Ralph Cressey and others have hopes think Erastus & nor Ralph haven't been awakened R. could not very well attend meetings, I believe it began among the Methodist

Mrs. Rebecca Sexton Canfield has a son 6 days old we had never though of the thing till Mrs. Welch told of it yesterday Elmore Canfield's wife has one 3 weeks old we heard for the first time today There was a man killed yesterday in Capt. Duvals shop by the burtsing of a grind stone

P. Burr [*Pamela Burr*]

Jan 25>

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

Marysville [*California*], Jan. 1, 1851

My Dear Dear Wife

If we were differantly situated I might wish you a happy new year, & of course I do, but in our present condition, if you have any enjoyments, they are lessened, by our being so far from one another, yet may you have a happy year, & pleasant times in your far off home.

I do not look for enjoyment while I remain in this Country, but <*yet*> I must stay sometime yet. This year I may wish may be more happy than last, but I see no reason why it will. If I can get some gold & start for home I shall then be a happy man, for a time I know. Marcus has been

more lucky than I have since he came I suppose, he had a last accounts. I had a letter from him 10 days since, but it had been a whole month coming, he had then done very well, & wished me to come to him I could not then leave, but shall start tomorrow, he & another young man are together, some distance from my neighbors, & I don't feel quite easy about them. If I find them doing well shall stay with them but if they are doing nothing we shall probably leave that place, & seek employment elsewhere.

I have found no place to suit for a farm nor shall I be able in this section. Cows & milk are falling in value, I have not bought any.

Wm. Elder, passed through this place on his way home about a month since I saw Wm. Graves as I was walking through the streets, he recognized me & hailed me & told me that Elder had started for home, in a small boat to go down the river. I went to the landing & found the boat had not yet started, saw him got some news from home, & I learned that John Howel was at or near Weaverville, & had made
by tra<*i*>ding 30 or $40000,00 G. C. Cone had gone home with about $1500, Eliott & Woodworth were in the mines & had a good claim. He gave me to understand that he had made by tra<*i*>ding about $8000,00 but Graves said he had not made $1000,00 Graves said that he himself had made nothing, but I think he had, two or three hundred dollars, he is keeping a small ranch about 20 miles from here, says he is going home in the spring.

I have been reading some of your old letters presume you can judge better than I can tell you how they make me feel. You inquire if I suffer with headache? I was never so free from it as since I have been here.

Whenever I have paid for a newspapers it has been with others, but never have bought but two or three.

It does me good to think you enjoy many comforts, you say that last winter you did not suffer with cold feet in bed, how bad it is that next winter must come, before <*you*> I can know but what you do this winter.

I sent to S. City [*Sacramento City, California*] for letters but got but one, from Joel to Marcus containing but little news. He stated that his success in geting letters to me was so poor, that he should not be very particular. Now I presume you do not wonder that I was careless when I did not know as I could get a letter to you. I believe that we receive the letters that contain no news, but none that <*do*> are filled, I wish I could be situated so as to at least hear from home. This letter to M. [*Marcus Grant*] was mailed Sep. 9.

The weather is very dry for the wet season, there has been but five rainy days & then but little water fell. I have been told that the Indians prophesy a dry winter, & thus far the prediction is true.

You will find enclosed a draft for a little money, made payable to the order of brother John, one half is for you, & one half for John I sent it to you, because I do not know whether he is yet in N. H. [*New Hampshire*] & if not, it might be more likely to get lost. You will notice that this is number first. I shall send in a month number second, I think to Joel at Avon [*Connecticut*] if he is not there it would not be likely to be lost as at N. H. [*New Hampshire*] No. third I shall keep till I hear whether you have received no. first or no. second. I want you to use your part of the money as you please but pay sister Mary what I owe her if you can, the rest use yourself. I hope to be able to send more soon, but you know that it is hope alone that sustains me so dont be disappointed. I am pretty certain that nothing but ill health will prevent my getting something this <winter> year.

I should like to hear something about our affairs in Wis. [*Wisconsin*] but if you should write ever so much I might not get it. Mr. Hubbard did not take the land in Waukesha only till next spring, if you can make any arrangements for a longer time perhaps you had better. I fear I have said more about home in this letter than I ought. You must not think but what I am happy I have a good many comforts Much love to all health good Your aff. [*affectionate*] husband

D. Grant [*Daniel Grant*]

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Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] Sept. 21, '58.
Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I am thus far on my way to attend to your business at Jefferson various causes have combined to delay my going -- it is not necessary to mention any of them.

Arriving here I have received $75 from Mr. Hill -- and to night I start for Whitewater as being the first point necessary to make on the journey. How I shall go from Whitewater does not yet appear, for no one I have met here seems to know any thing about the way from there to Jefferson.

I obtained from Mr. Hill a statement of your affairs and find them substantially as follows

Due on the note of Mr. Rogers (the last of those given for your place)	$38.00
Due on the money lent by Mr. Hill	139.00
Total	$177.

I carefully examined, the sum total might vary a few cents from the above. Of course the amount will increase a little every week.

Mr. Hill says the money can be paid on a very short notice. The $139 is loaned <*his*> to be paid on call, and probably will be paid when asked for, though he must be doing a remarkably good and safe business who can pay 12 per cent interest on such conditions. On the whole Mr. Hill thinks it will be as well to have the whole settled up, as you have no other interest in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*].

I would not attempt to advise you particularly, but would say that as the amount secured by Mortgage is now very small (only $38) a sum too small ever to warrant the foreclosing of a Mortgage I think it would be well to end that if there is an opportunity. Mr. Rogers says he will pay for it Oct. 1, and as soon as may be convenient thereafter he would like a release of Mortgage. He does not require it at once, but if you think fit to ask payment, you had better get it as soon as may be convenient. I inclose a form of release and will suggest one or two ways in wh. [*which*] you can execute it.

The best way, if not too inconvenient is to have the release acknowledged before some Justice of the Peace, who can attach to the document a Certificate of the County Clerk, certifying to his identity. <*Another way probably more*> I presume there are Justice of the Peace in Norfolk [*Connecticut*] who can secure these certificates with a few days delay -- perhaps at once.

On consideration I think this is the only way it is safe for you to use. In Illinois such a paper acknowledged before a Notary Public would be valid, but this is Wisconsin, and the laws are different.

I am <*am once*> expecting to move again -- I am going in the course of a few weeks probably three or four to Newark [*New Jersey*], part by to see John [*John Grant*] & consult with him about his affairs, and partly in the expectation that it may be best for me to take his school. Abbey [*Abigail Cowles Grant*] will remain here for the present until something definite is arranged. The times are so hard that just now it seems not easy or advisable for me to insist on the payment of certain debts due me -- amounting in all to near $300 about half of it for salary & the other half for other things. Under these circumstances, I would like if you think it best to take up your money in Milwaukie [*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*], to secure the loan of it for a year at 10 per cent. It will be a help to me & I should consider it a great kindness on your part. Perhaps you might be willing to let me have a part if not the whole.

If you think fit to act on this suggestion, please answer this as soon as you can inclosing an order somewhat like that in your last letter.

Should you wish it, I can secure you by mortgage or transfer of secured notes.

I will write you again after I have been at Jefferson

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother

Joel Grant.

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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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[*Addressed to*] Mr. Daniel Grant
Norfolk
Conn. [*Connecticut*]

Bristol, Ill. [*Illinios*] Feb. 5, 1859.
Dear Brother,

Yours of the 29th ult. reached me to day just one week from date. It reached Lockport [*Illinios*] day before yesterday. My family are still there, but I am employed here, a place 25 M. West.

As to St. Paul, or lots in it I know nothing whatever about it or them, and if I did, it is now too late to give you advice. This letter cannot leave till Mond. the 7th and and will not reach you before the 12th, or a fortnight from the date of yours. As to the lots in W. St. Paul [*Minnesota*], so much depends on this situation that no one could tell whether they were worth little or much without seeing them. You need to sell your farm well <*to*> if you take them. One annoyance connected with them will be the taxes, for in a city or growing village (as I presume W. St. Paul may be) the authorities lay taxes almost as often as the months come round for some purpose general or Special. How ever, if you have become the owner of them you must, I suppose, do the best possible with them. It is a place much visited by travellers in summer, and by some of them we may be able to learn something. It is a good ways from this – about 330 miles from Chicago, in <*in*> a straight line; probably 375 <*in*> by any of the ordinary routes of travel. At present real estate is very much depressed in Minnesota generally, & I presume in St. Paul also. If these lots are not now sold for taxes, and you can keep them free from that kind of incumbrance for three or four years, they may prove of value, but I should rather have $300 than both of them at a guess. I presume you think so too.

As to your taxes I have to day received the last letter that I needed to get them into shape. Matters have gone a little contrary, but we shall now be able to manage them I think. You will recollect a letter I wrote to the Clerk of Board of Supervisions & sent from your house. I received answer to that to the effect that he had made <*a*> two mistakes, in the letter to wh. [*which*] mine was an answer. This speaking of the sale as taking place March 10, instead of April 10 he admits was a mistake, but says truly, that it was of no consequence. Another mistake is of consequence, but it is against us. The sale was April 10 for $19,98, and in his first letter (Oct. 16) he had added 12 1/2 per cent ($2.49) for interest for six mos. and 25 cts <*cost*> fees, making $22.72. In his second letter he says this was a mistake because the Rule & Practice of the Office is to charge 12 1/2 per cent interest for the first six moths, and 25 per cent for the second, and if it is six months & a day the charge is 25 per cent & 20 on to the end. Hence after Oct. 10 -- then close of the first six moths -- he should have charged 25 per cent $4.99 instead of $2.49. As the matter now stands he demands $25.22 -- or $5.25 more than what it sold for last April. As he will charge no more until April 10, I have concluded to let the matter rest till March 1.

This years taxes too (or for 1858) have been the innocent cause of some annoyance. Just about the time (after Robby's death) I had concluded to return to Ill. [*Illinois*] Abby received a letter from the Collector at Ashippan, <*station*> answering mine written from your house. Without taking any note of its contents, she inclosed it to me at Newark. (Let me throw away this horrid ink) I suppose this was about Dec. 20. I arrived at Lockport Dec. 24. The same day John, to whose care letters were directed left Newark to spend the holidays in Williamsburg -- to be gone therefore some 10 days. I leaned this, and therefore did not wonder that the letter did not return at once. It did not come, however, as I expected even up to Jan 6. I then wrote to John telling him the letter was important. He wrote back that it had not come at all -- perhaps it was among advertised letters -- he would look -- I have not since heard from him. Jan. 20 I wrote to the collector (not knowing his name even) & to day I have received answer. He says he had transferred to the county Treasurer the tax list, the day before he received mine i.e. Jan. 30, and that now I must deal with him. He states the amount to be when in his hands $22.89, and I suppose it will be enlarged $2 or $3 by the transfer. I shall write to him by the first mail, setting that matter at once. Mr. [Tichenor?] says they can be paid with 5 per cent added till last of Feb., I think. I will try that plan, and will let you know its result

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

P.S. Feb. 7. In the accompanying letter I have given you the history of paying taxes under discouraging circumstances, but I think the matter will be closed up soon -- in three or four weeks. If it should prove necessary to visit Juneau before, or at the tax sale I will do it.

And if you have sold your farm what do you propose to do? You will bear in mind that the proceeds belong to your family, and only in a modified sense to yourself. You will of course lay them out in such a way as in the opinion of judicious persons is safe, and best adapted to

promote their good. If you could arrange to invest in Ill. [*Illinois*] or Wisconsin, on good security, at 10 or 12 per cent, wh. [*which*] will be readily done, (and I will do it for you at the latter rate if you wish) that might be a good plan. At your earliest convenience I should like to know your plans. Some very good farms might be bought now in either of these states at reasonable rates, for cash, and this may be the best course. Many places are now sold under mortgages, usually bringing only the face of the notes for wh. they were mortgaged, & of course going into the hands of those who have the mortgages.

I am not certain where I shall go at last. I am engaged here till Oct. next, though not so but that I can probably leave previously if it should seem best. I do not quite like the place, though the people are kind and appreciative & give me $800 salary. I go home to Lockport once in two weeks or thereabouts -- am going to day.

If you could contrive to work a part of Father's farm, and occupy a part of that great house, and let whatever money you can command be loaned, will not that be the best plan? I wish you would think fit. With love to Caroline [*Caroline Grant Burr*], Abby & Eddy I am

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

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Bristol, Ill. [*Illinois*] March 24, 1859.
Dear Brother [*Daniel Grant*],

I have to day received the last paper necessary to put your taxes in a satisfactory shape. It has been a long, though not a very laborous process. It has cost something, but less than to send a messenger to the place, while I think there need be no difficulty in managing it hereafter by correspondence. This course is best as it is hard to tell whom we can trust in such matters. I give below a Tabular view of the whole transaction so far as I have been able to arrange it. Some parts of it (as for example the original tax of 1856) I have had to come at by calculations not having the papers.

Original Tax	Int. for		Chgs. including 25 cts for certificate		Total
1856 $16.75.	2 1/2 yrs.	$10.47	.75 cts	pd Oct '58	$28.00
1857 18.47	1 yr.	4.62	3.00	pd March 59	26.09
1858 22.89	<*no*> Int.	.52	.[88?] [*smaller*] 28	pd Feb. 10 '59	23.69
$58.11		$15.61	$4.06		
$77.78					

Now this it must be confessed is not a pleasant show for a man who has to earn his money by the hardest, but even this is not all. To all this must be added the $12 expenses of my trip last fall, and the postage on more letters than I can now think of (each letter inclosed a stamp & therefore [counts?] 6 cts) the interest of the money deposited in Bank to meet the claims, and the interest of each of these payments up to the present hour. I mention these things as you are only part owner of this property & others must therefore share the burden with you.

I will now present the account so far as I am able to make it out.

Charges to last fall's journey	$12.00
Postage on 8 letters & replies (I presume there have been more but these are all I can recollect)	--48
Int. [*interest*] on $37 kept in Deposit in Chicago to meet these taxes as soon as I could find their amount; 3 mos. at 10 per cent.	.90
	13.38

To this you should add such expenses and such interest of money as <*to you*> is justly due you. The account, as already met by you is something as follows

Oct 1858 To Mr. Sandborne <*Dodge*> Jefferson Co.			$28.00
Feb. 1859 Allen & Atwater Dodge Co			23.69
charge 1859	do	do	26.09
Expenses of my trip in Sept. last			12.00

Postage paid by me .48
Interest .90
$91.16

Thus far for the taxes. Let us now look at our individual accounts.

In Nov. last you let me have $50, conditioned on my paying up these taxes.

Daniel Grant Cr. by Cash Nov. '58 $50

Int. 3 months (ere the three months was up I had to Deposit it to have it ready)
1.25
$51.25

Contra Dr. 1859.

Cash Feb. 10 to A.A. Atwater $23.69
do March 22 do 26.09
Postage .48
Interest----------.90
51.16

Due you ------ $0.09

I gave you due bill for $50. If you think under the circumstances you can be satisfied to strike the balance, and give it up, you may do so at your earliest convenience, sending me due bill in a letter. You will notice that the charges connected with the taxes of 1857 are large = $3. There is dishonesty there though I see not that it can be helped. You recollect the German correspondent whom I suspected so much when at your house. Well he wrote me in two letters that your tax last April was $19.98, and after Oct. must have 25 per cent added to it making 24.97 & 25 cts for certif. $25.23. I saw no reason to doubt this <*but*> and therefore sent him $26.09, judging that he ought to have 75 cts. or more for his trouble. On the first of Jan. however he & his Company went out of office, & were succeeded, I suppose, by those who sign these certificates. They present an account whose total is only $23.08 add 25 cts = 23.33 almost $2 less than he claimed. I can discover no explanation for this, other than that he deliberately exaggerated the tax. But having got the money he keeps it $2.75 for his expenses! He would have kept the whole, unquestionably, if I had sent it in bills, but I sent it in a draft in Chicago, that specified the purpose for wh. [*which*] it was to be paid.

I am sorry this and some other accidents have happened, but am glad the matter is ended & doubt not you are so -- I inclose the certificates. With love to Caroline & the children as well as yourself I am,

Your aff. [*affectionate*] brother,
Joel 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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Austinburg, Sept. 6th, 864.

My dear Aunt,

Some time ago I took a letter from the office directed to mother, which as she had gone to Iowa I forwarded to her there. I took the liberty to open the letter, thinking it might contain something for me, and can testify that the draft came safely.

Today I had another good full letter, containing also one <*another*> from Eddie to mother. I will certainly write to Abbie before long, but today I feel like writing to you.

Mother started west the 11th of Aug. with a large part of our goods & had a prosperous journey, and arrived in Grinnell in pretty good health. The boys had rented a small house near the farm, and she expected to keep house there for them, but became so homesick, and so discouraged at the prospect of building at the present high prices, that she made herself almost sick by worrying and seemed so changed from her former self, that the boys were alarmed for her health, and almost feared she would become insane. Under the circumstances they concluded it was best for her to come back with her goods, and for them to sell out their stock and abandon the project of improving their farm any further at present. On the sheep they took out in July, they have cleared $700 profit, and they expect to sell their other stock to good advantages. They have also a fine crop of corn and a $100 worth of hay, so that they feel well paid for their summer's work -- But mother is so distressed in view of her discouraging circumstances and reproaches herself so much for having made such a mistake, that it does seem as if she never could be contented and happy again. --

We have [...] home here, and it is a question pressing heavily upon my mind just now, what we would better do. Thedie came with mother, and we three would constitute quite a family, and besides one or more of the older boys would be likely to be with us occasionally. But I have made all my plans to go to Painesville after this term, and it is not certain we shall any of us want to be here long. We can not now rent any very desirable house, and would it be best for us to buy under the circumstances? Both my brothers-in law offer mother a home with them for the present, or indeed as long as she chooses to stay, and Thedie could board at the Institution and go to school. But would mother be contented long with such an arrangement? I confess that I am much concerned for her. I fear that unless affairs take quite a favorable turn, she will never get over the breaking up of our family and her own unfortunate move to the west. We all try to take as cheerful a view of it as possible, and to make her feel that no one will blame her, but she can not seem to see any thing but poverty and ruin before her and the family.

I think that $500 would fully cover the loss, in expense of moving and sacrifice upon sale of furniture, and the estate has suffered several greater losses within the last ten years, which none of us though of, worrying about, but this mother thinks is the greatest mistake any body ever made.

I wish that something could be done to divert her mind from dwelling upon this subject, and have thought that if it would be convenient and pleasant for her to visit her friends in Colibrook, especially if she could be made to feel that it would be a satisfaction to them to see her, and that she could do any good by going -- it would be the best thing in the world for her. She is now with my sister Jones -- I spent the day with her yesterday (she got into Ashtabula Saturday night), but she seems not to have any plan for the future, or any more idea that I have what is best.

Do not let what I have written alarm you. I trust mother will seem more like herself, when she gets rested. Meantime I may not hear from you, or if you choose will not write to mother? I have though that if Abbie was gone mother might relieve you of some of your cares if she should go to grand [...] awhile. Please remember me affectionately to each and all of your dear family.

With much love

Mary E Banister

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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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[*Addressed to:*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
Care of Mr. Hill Esq.
Flemington N.J.

Cambridge Ill. Feb. 22, 1872.

Dear Sister,

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

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

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

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

Your aff. brother
Joel Grant

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

Arkansas City June 4 1872

My Dear Wife

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

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

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

I want to be an Indian
A warior of the plains
I want to wield a tomahawk
And scoop out people's brains
I want to build a camp fire
On a human beings breast
And watch his writhing agony
With a noble savage zest

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

3

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

4

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

5

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

At Washington -- Red Tape
6

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

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

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

These verses exactly explain the policy of Government toward the Indians and this <*poll*> policy is applawded and sustaned by almost the whole east. They say it is wrong to crowd upon the Indian. Give him the Country to roam over it is his. Let him alone they say. <*have it.*> If this had been the policy in years gone by where would be our country now Why did the Almighty sweep a tribe out of existence by a pestilence just in time to make room for our forefathers on the shores of Mass? and why have the Indians been continually killed off and driven back ever since until</> the white man has nearly the whole country under control and the Indian nearly become extinct. It will be argued that our policy should be more humane as the race becomes less and of course more easily controled

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Ark. City, April 4, 1875.

My Dear Wife,

Yours of March 24 is just recd. Ought to have written before in answer to your letter of Mar. 7 but I am slow in getting around and have not done it. My evenings have been occupied most of the time so that if I got a spare evening I wanted it for rest.

The check you sent me saved me from suffering. I got along with it better than I expected.

Was able to get four dollars advanced upon it Expected I would not get anything till it would be sent back and collected. The remaining six dollars probably will be able to get in course of another week. Your last contains P.O. Order for $38, wh. I presume is right and will be cashed on presentation tho it looks to me somewhat deficient but I am not acquainted with P.O. Orders and believe it is right. You do not state by what means this is raised. I would like to know for the sake of gratifying my curiosity. You have done right in sending money. Goods cannot now be sent to individuals or localities without paying freight.

I do not wonder that people east think they have sent enough to supply us for they don't consider how much it takes. Ascertain for once how many car loads it takes to supply the little town of Flemington and its surroundings for one week then compare it with the great state of Kan. and you will have a better idea then consider that Kan. is not half of the famine stricken district and you will see at once the enormous amount it takes. I am unable to state whether the relief sent is all distributed as it should be or not. I fear it is not. There are so many false report about the relief Committees that I don't believe anything I hear. I have as a member of this TP. committee been assailed by many and it does beat everything how much ingenuity is used in fabricating falshoods. It is fairly astonishing. I pay but little attention to them and a majority still stand by me. I am not aware of making but one mortal enemy and I don't fear him. The committee sent in their resignations last week but mine was not accepted. The other two members have got out of it two others appointed in their places. We get so little to divide that it gives great dissatisfaction each needy one thinks he ought to have it all.

I am glad of your suggestions for it shows you think how it might possibly be improved but you will have to think of something else to think of something I have not tried. I would not advise you or any body east of Indiana to send goods of any kind for I fear they are not distributed as they should be. Send money to some one who can be trusted or to someone who is ascertained to be in destitute circumstances so that if the individual receiving uses it all himself it will be well appropriated then it will not be lost. I hardly know just how to use what you have now send me. I sadly want it myself and I feel more like appropriating it than I should <*but*> for the time I have spent and the trouble I have been at for these needy ones. I have earnt it and not only need it but think I deserve it but if I can have instructions from the donors I will use it accordingly. I have had almost nothing of what has been received for I could not bear to take it when others needed it. Nearly everything is for sale in the markets here at reasonable prices if people had money to buy. All kinds provisions probably cheaper than in the east.

Apr. 7 I will now try and finish this letter I think I have written enough on relief or will have done so when I state that you better not attempt to send any kind of goods unless you can pay the fright at the starting point. Then they need not be sent as relief goods and probably will reach the individual or locality to wh. they are sent. R.R. now refuse to freight goods to individuals or townships free of charges and all goods sent in that way <*or*> go into the general relief fund or are appropriated by the R.R. the amount of relief wh. has been received by this Tp. averages about 300 lbs. of corn meal per week. a little clothing has been sent here. Government however sent much the largest share viz. 12 overcoats badly moth eaten and 13 pairs shoes.

Now a little about a certain legacy If aunt B. [*Zilpah Polly Grant Banister*] has bestowed upon me $300, certainly I have reason to be thankful. It seems tho that you do not know that such is the case. now what is the use of working our minds up upon a supposition of that kind till we know something about it. I don't want to make my calculations upon receiving money to be disappointed. When I am sure of it then is soon enough to decide what to do with it. you have a good deal to say about how it better be invested wh. is all very natural and perfectly proper but you don't consider atall my wants. You know I have written several times that I wanted money to enter my land and you have consented to help me to the amount of $100, but now that there appears to be a chance to get all I need for that purpose you are not willing I should have it. I know you have a claim on the money and I am willing it shall be yours but why do you wish to prevent me from entering my land? or if I do enter to oblige me to loan money at 10 per ct. and then pay from 25 to 36 per ct. for it? I am not certain that I shall enter my land but I want to put in a bid for it and if the bid is accepted of course I want to pay for it and if there is a chance to do so without drawing from your private means why not let me have the chance? besides the idea that it is better to loan it there at 10 per ct. than to loan it here at 20 per ct. or more. I don't so much wonder at that idea in you for several reasons I might mention but wh. I think not worth while to mention here as I other wise should. It is no strange that people in the east who have money to loan should prefer to keep it near them <*th*> at 10 or even at six per ct. than to sent it west but the case is different with you at present at least but I know you have reason to think otherwise

If the legacy from aunt B. comes into my hands I am determined to look out for it and save it for you but don't let us worry ourselves about it till we know something about it.

You inquire how I am getting along? I have occupied so much room with a lot of nonsense that I have not room to tell you, with the help you have sent me I shall do very well. My health is better than in winter. I will try and write more upon this point in my next.

Ever yours
D Grant.

[*text upside down*] Turn bottom up.

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Omaha July 11th 1875

Dear sister Carline,

Your kind and sympathetic letter, with a note enclosed from Abbie, was duly received, and I was very glad to hear form you. I am very anxious to keep up communication with my husbands friends, but all have family interests and duties which occupy their time so that I cannot expect to hear from them often. I am sorry that Daniel finds it necessary to stay in <*Kansas*> Missouri when it does not seem to be desirable for him to remain, but I am told that there is every prospect of a very fine crop there this year. I was in Kansas about the last of March and all the crops were then promising and Mr. [Bossierre?] writes me that every thing is very encouraging. The grasshoppers have done little damage and crops fine. You seem to be able to make your self useful wherever you are, which must be a great comfort to you in your unsettled life. I hope Abbie will soon have a home to which you can go whenever you choose. I am here with my children and shall probably spend the remainder of my days in the west. Jennie Boyd and myself are boarding with Wm & Mary are just now on a visit of a month to Utah and Colorado, and I expect this week to take the two little children and meet them at Grand Island (where Libbie lives), on their way home, Libbie has a family of 6 children four boys and two girls. They are

living in a region which was devastated by the grasshopper last year and of course it injured Mr. Hurfords business very much. You who live at the east can have no idea with how much interest the movement of this insect are watched here. I presume half of the days for a month they have been passing over as so that looking up toward the sun was like looking up into a snowstorm. Very few have alighted in Nebraska though in some cases the gardens have been quite destroyed and I have heard of a few wheat fields which were consumed. We have had terrific storms this season of hail, wind and rain, but vegetation seems to thrive in spite of it all. I am glad that you can visit the old home of our fathers occasionally and that Newark lies in your way to Flemington that you can see John and Gertrude sometimes. It is matter of regret to me that I was not with my husband that last winter in Kansas but he thought it not best for me to go back there until our home there could be made more comfortable. The new house is now finished, and how sad it was to me as I went through the three pleasant rooms adjoining the library designed for our use, to think that he who had planned and labored to carry out the plan could not enjoy them. But I do not feel that his efforts to benefit humanity are lost. Others will arise to carry forward the work, while he is at rest. It is pleasant to me to read your words of appreciation of my dear husband and I know that he felt a deep interest in your welfare.

I should be very glad to hear directly from Daniel and hope he will yet write to me.

Please let me hear from you as often as you can find time to write to me

Your aff Sister
S B Grant

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Arkansas City, 2, 23, 83

My Dear Wife

Yours of the 9 ins't. was rec'd in due time.

Intended to have answered it night before last but it was not convenient and last night impossible before 11 oclock when I went to bed. I might as well have set up for I couldn't sleep. Now it is two oclock <*P*> A.M.

I was hesitating about a piece of land when your letter came. I was well aware judging from the experience of a pretty long life that whatever I did would be the wrong thing but was rather in favor of going east and comitting the wrong in that way than to commit it here but when I found by your letter that you were quite indifferent about my coming decided to stay here some longer.

I found 80 acres of land vacant one mile from town and have laid claim to it and am building a small house upon it.

It is not very good land. If it had been it wouldn't have been vacant for some knew that it was vacant who would have taken it if it was a good tract. They were very careful not to tell of it tho for they though if they could keep it vacant till they were ready to take it, it would be so much good luck for them. They are now sorry they did not taken it while there was a chance.

I believe I can make something out to fit as it is so near town. Even the township assessor whose business it is to know what land is vacant and what is not was ignorant of it.

I recolect when I was in Norfolk one of the Kilbourn boys testified in court that he made some rough land he had pay him the interest of $100.00 per acre in pasture. If I can make this pay half that I can make a good thing of it.

I intend to put about 50 acres in pasture. I can easily get all the stock it will keep. Some of it is very good land. It is thought to be good land for grapes. If it is that will pay. I can rent the good land so that it will pay better than to cultivate it myself if I was able to cultivate it.

My health is better than before I went to Eureka Sprints but my strength is weakness yet. I presume that a little hard work will bring back all the <*hard*> bad feelings I used to have. I have not had any hard sickness since I have been in trade.

When I tried to farm was more or less sick every year. I begin to feel sleepy Will finish some other time.

There are springs within 10 miles of here that are becoming quite celebrated even more so than Eureka Springs. They are called the [Guida?] Springs (Pronounced Goda).

I don't know what else to write about. Perhaps a little on the weather will not be uninteresting. I always like to have you tell about the weather in New England.
Feb. 24 I was Sleepy last night. Last Sunday was a very stormy day. Rain and snow. Good sleighing Monday Tuesday and Wednesday but snow most all gone now. Winter has been very warm and pleasant.

Vegetation had started considerable before this storm. Probably the fruit is mostly killed. I don't know as I have told you who to write to if you want to wh. I don't expect you will.

Ridenour and Thompson They are [juclers?] in this town and particular friends of mine.

My old partner Mr. Wm. [T?] Benedict with whom I stopped for a time after my return is dangerously sick. His disease seems about the same as old age tho he isn't quite so old as I am.

Much very much love.

Thine Entirely

D. Grant [*Daniel 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*] Mrs. Caroline Grant
New Mareldoro <*Mill. River*>
Berkshire. Co/ Mass
[*On side of envelope*] If not called for in 10 days return to John E Benton
Lansing Mich
Call Box 812

Lansing June 3./ 89

Dear Cousin,

Many, many years have sped since we meet [this?] last winter I think. [R?] received a letter from Jesse Benton of [Montana?] saying yourself and husband were in Mill river did not learn how long it had been since your letter from Kansas [by sore ly spirst?] wife and brought up by her is in Enon Barber. Co Kansas farming and selling [mechenery?] as that is his vocation the latter in perticular his naim is F.W. Benton (37) years old never has made large acumalations I am more ingaged in helping him [abought?] $2,000 Mrs Benton and myself (who have been marriade more than thirty years) live in this city wich if the census was taken would be 14,000 or 15,000 it being the capitle city grows substantial but not as fast as the western towns we retired abought 12 years ago in good shape say more $40,00 I speak of the amount for the reason that people always wish to know: just as if money makes the man: we had two daughters given us (one left) who is 29 years old married and lives eight miles from this city farming on an eighty acre farm wich I bought and gave them paid $4,000 for it they make a little have no children

My darling Bertha my pride and blessing whome resembled me so very much died five years ago at the age of 22 so you see I have no grandchildren onely [my?] first wife Fred has two daughters whome I have never seen one 8 the other 10 write me nice letters but I take but little stock in the blood of the tribe: remember the hotly contested land suit wich I had with the family more than 30 years ago at Cleaveland Ohio

Fred's mother who is now 63 lives near Cleaveland has ben marriade near 30 years her husband is an illiterate fellow some property [pay?] $20,000: 20: I was through the town one year ago met her on the street had not seen her for 30 years she was pointed out to me of corse would not have known her: as I had no fears of being known by her gaised on the girl that I once thought beautiful she once weighed 125 would have said then 200 how strange she appeared: did not disern one action to remind me of fame of long ago: I write or speak of her as we talked of the affair when we last met in Norfolk the boy Fred I sough onely once untill he came to me when 24 years old he was fareley educated: staid two or three days was up once or twice more before going west Fred and his step Father cant agree so I help him hopeing he will yet do well: our home is one block from the capital squair in the center of the town and we try to take comfort in our old age I am most 61 [Ms?] Benton 55 yet there comes to my mind the memory of youthful days I remember the kiss you implanted on my cheek at my old home a day or two before you first went to [Miseonsoa?]: remember the Berkshere hills with there senery attractions and all the acquaintances of youth and many times think it would have been as well or better if I had have remained in the land of my youth although I mite have obtained but little of this worlds goods: when I pass away a smaller [amount?] to leave perhaps would be as well or better to leave behind: well how many children have you what are they adoing many things have changed in thirty years all the old ones have gone and many of the young Erastus how many children has he Lesse says that he and his wife parted 4 or 5 years ago and Erastus is marriade once more was it his first wife after living together more than thirty yes forty: years where is your sister Mary how large a family has she I have received nothing from my Brother Warren for six years Albert dont write so I have got his boys to write: how large a plase is Mill River <...> what for a country is Kansas for farming was through that 'reagon' 8 years ago this month on a flying trip did not stop to investigate: their towns seamed to be growing finely can you give me Warren [Bs?] address well Cousin you are in the land of your youth that land that is dear or should be dear to every one I hope sometimes to tread those hills once more but then the gayety of youth with its happy dreams have flown life is a [faleuer?] at the best how I longed at 20 to go to the great west how I pictured this level country withought a mountain or rock hardly a hill: although blessed with plenty the picture that fancy [drue?] has fallen far short in every respect. Well I will close by saying if these hastey lines are though by you worth of reply address

John E Benton
Lansing
Call Box 812 Michigan

My regards to Mr Grant in running my eyes over this scribble discover many mispelt words but think perhaps you can construe its meaning I never could spell or write

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[*Stationary in upper right-hand corner*] G.W. SHURTLEFF & CO.
MORTGAGE INVESTMENTS.

Oberlin, O., *[Ohio]* Dec. 26, 1889.

Dear Uncle,

The papers in the Bolles loan are received, also your letter of the 10th. You may if you choose, send the $200, you refer to, and I will invest it as soon as I can do so, safely, allowing you, meantime, 6% interest. I shall doubtless be able to invest it for one year, at 8%, very soon. I have a loan of $143, running two years, on which I could allow you 8%. Should I fail to secure a good $200 loan, I will assign this one to you, and give you my note for the balance. I would not let the money lie idle.

With regard to Mr. [C.?] Knox, I would say, he is regarded as a very shrewd business man, but not a safe and conservative investor. You ask why I do not go further west. I have investigated that subject very carefully, having traversed western Kansas, with this in view, and I reached a very clear judgment that investments there are unsafe. Western Nebraska is much safer and yet investments there, must be made with great caution

Yours very sincerely,
G.W. Shurtleff

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