

Livingston July 5th 53

Dear Henry

Yours of the 1st inst.
is at hand. I thank you for it,
and hasten to reply. Though I can
give you but little news in return
the most gratifying piece of intelligence
that I have to communicate is that
on the evening and night of the 3rd
we had a most delightful rain, the 1st
that has fallen since your father
and mother left. Suffering vegeta-
tion has very much revived:
the corn particularly has been
greatly benefited & improved. It
is looking very well now. whether
the hemp will be brought out
by it is somewhat questionable
A great deal of it I know
through the country is past re-
demption. I was out yesterday
evening - found all the "darkies"

except Matilda very well. She
 is suffering severely not seriously
 with mumps. The farm hands
 are actually engaged in hay
 making. I am very sorry that
 I cannot satisfy your very nat-
 ural and reasonable desire (I felt
 the same for a long time when
 I first left home) to know how
 the dogs and all other living
 animals are doing about home.
 Jack was the only dog that I
 saw yesterday. He seemed to
 be very glad to see me but
 there was a look of sadness about
 him that declared as plainly
 as words could do it that he felt
 keenly the absence of his young
 master. He was crouched at the
 front door evidently looking for
 and desiring your return. Rover
 and I are not on the best of terms
 lately. But I must do him the jus-

34
I beg to declare that since he
made a furious assault upon me
with intent to kill he has treated
me with marked civility and has
been rather conciliatory than
otherwise

Mrs Gratz and Mrs McKee
have both heard from you latter
in. Mrs Gratz requested me
to say that he would have an-
swered the letter had he known
to what point to direct it.
I have not heard of the arrival
of Dr Marshall. I presume that
he is at Buck Pond.

From your bill of fare I see
that you are feasting extravagantly.
I want you bring home a water
melon or so. John has been
anxious to send an fruit to
you. From your account of
the variety of the fresh fruits of
the temperate and torrid zones

spread out before you at the
table I hope that to do so
would be worse than sending
coals to Newcastle for coals will
keep and fruit might not
He divided the plums between
Mrs Gutz & Mrs McCalister
I see that Dr Abner has
subscribed a thousand dollars
to the C. M. A. at Cincinnati
Nothing is doing here there
Mr Rungheim the artist is here
He spoke of painting a life sized
picture of Mr Clay if he could
have the use of a good original
I tendered him the use of your
father's by Healy. If he accepts he
will copy it there and leave the
copy till your father's return to
be sure of his fullest approbation
May best love to all
Yours affectionately
A. Jenkins

Duncan June 6th 1853

My Dear Brother

We received your
despatch and letter and were very
glad to hear from you I am very
anxious to see you it seems a long
time since you left us I think of you
very often and wish we were with
you I often wonder what you are
doing we expect to start Thursday
I hope we will not be disappointed
Daniel Jenkins arrived in Lexington
the same day you started he passed
the train you were in he said he
would have gone in in the other train
to see you if he had known you
were in it his Father in law moved
to Louisville last fall he lives on
Walnut street near Dr Flint's
Daniel left on Friday he took
some strawberries and cherries to his
wife

Mr Thorne came out on Monday
to stay Mr Ballard was here on
~~Monday~~ ^{Tuesday} Evening Father and
Mother Ellen and Lilly went
to Bedford in the little carriage
Tuesday evening they started
at three in the evening and got
home at nine o'clock

Miss Sally and Miss Carrie
McLau and Mrs Kendle got home
from the south Wednesday week
a Miss Blunt their ^{cousin} came with
them Miss Sally Carrie and
their cousin are going on to the
worlds fair they brought a great
many bananas and pineapples
with them.

Mrs McLau
was out here one evening last
week she brought Emma
Lucy Nina Baby and Nurse.

Cousin Maria has been
sick for a week or we would
have started she is going to Louisville

when we start she sends her
love to you I have a great deal
to tell you I will tell you
when I see you — give my
love to Dr Marshall cousin Mary
and Mary Rebecca

Mother joins
me in much love & regards
from your affectionate sister
— Mary Duncan

Sister Mary

June 5-1883

While I was writing Viny came
in she said tell Master Henry
I hope he has been well and is
well give my love to him
she said give her love to Dr. Marsh
all and she hoped he had been
well and was well and got
enough good soup

Washington House Room 117

My Dear Cousin Hal

Your partnership letter to Mary C, Mary D, & myself I received yesterday afternoon I would have replied immediately but was engaged writing at the time to Mrs Worsley & my Brother, enclosing Mary Rebecca's accounts —

The girls send many thanks for their portion of your letter & Mary C spoke of writing to you & as she has not yet written I felt as though I could not let your very interesting letter remain unanswered any longer, thought by my prompt reply it would encourage you to let us hear from you all again soon — We could not make out the Location & I told Mary C — I intended to tell you not to write me anymore of your Log Location — Mary C is now in my room enjoying your Book & promises to read it aloud to me — we will take good care of it & send it with your Umbrella the first opportunity — We feel the absence of you all very much 101 books very lonely we do miss you all so much at the table, how long will you remain in New York — I presume

untill after the 4th Nov. do let us hear
from you occasionally & I will promise to
answer your letters promptly, tell me how you
pass your time & places of interest you visit
the girls join me in much love to Miss
Culhutton & Mary & tell them to write to us
we are all getting along about as you left us
& feel very lonely without you all - how does
Lucia Lilly & Ellen like New York, kiss them
both for me & tell them I often think of
them - Much love to your dear Mother & tell
her I have paid her & Miss Culhutton's account
at Miss Stringer's & all is right, also Mother's
account at the Dispensary - How my dear Pgy
I hope you have come down in the settlements
of your friends, from your account of the height
of your Chamber, I told Mary you were much
worse than you could possibly get
by giving the Pike in your Father's Buggy -
the girls join me in much love to your
dear Father & reserving a full portion for
your dear Self from your affectionate Cousin
Mary A Ballard

Mr. William

June 20. 1893

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst. in relation to the matter of the purchase of the land for the proposed road. I am sorry that I am unable to give you a more definite answer at this time, but the matter is being considered by the proper authorities.

I am, however, sure that the interests of the community will be fully considered, and that the best possible arrangement will be made.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
J. W. [Signature]

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
J. W. [Signature]

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
J. W. [Signature]

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
J. W. [Signature]

Mrs. Ballard

June 30. 1883

Lexington June 30th 1853

Dear Henry

I have just received your letter, for which receive my thanks. To give you full opportunity to get the reply I exercise all possible despatch in answering.

You have certainly been deluded in supposing that your letters are food for laughter to me. Mary was quizzing you. It is a source of pleasure to receive and read them but not of the kind to excite the action of the muscles of risibility. But let that pass. I hope that Mary will give me an opportunity before she returns of seeing one of hers. Mention this desire to her.

Of course you have found your tour productive of much pleasure and profit and on your return will delight us with a long and in-

directing account of all you did & saw. I have written about four letters to your father, but I fear that the most of them have shared the fate of the one to yourself. I am surprised and sorry to hear that you all will not prolong your stay in or near the city of New York until the opening of the fair on the 15th prox. You will certainly be well repaid in doing so, if the accounts of the papers are at all reliable. It will prolong your stay but a short period and furnish a sort of gratification (that of seeing the fabrics and handiworks of all nations) that may not again be presented in a long lifetime. We can spare you here for a short period longer in consideration of this, unless you can bring rain back with you. Some of consequence has fallen since you left and of course everything in the vegetable kingdom is

almost parched up. The alternative presented is rain shortly or famine. Your sister Mary will not remain in Philadelphia at school? Had she any desire to do so? You say nothing in your letter relative to Dr Marshall. What disposition did you make of him? I see that Dr Breckinridge has returned minus the profusion of hair upon the face mentioned by the correspondent of the N.Y. Times. How do Ellen and little Lillie enjoy themselves? Is not the heat excessive and almost a total barrier to sight seeing and enjoyment generally. The heat here last night was too great to allow comfortable sleep. Will you have the pleasure of the company home of Miss Matthee McKee? Miss Culbertson returns? You ^{say} have been certainly favoured in having the company of young ladies. I have no news - all are well at home and at Bedford. Mr. Shaw

does not complain of the heat or want of rain John is anxious to send on to you a box of grapes and plums as a fourth of July surprise & pleasure; but I tell him that the chances are too great that you will not get them to go to the trouble. The sweet water are ripe and he is protecting them from the flies & wasps & other predatory insects & animals for the purpose of preserving them till your return. I hope he may succeed.

My love to your mother father & sisters Write again before your return I shall be very glad to hear again from you

Your affectionate cousin

W D Jenkins

To H I Duncan Jr

Washington House
Nov 29-1833
Dear -
I am very sorry to hear
you are ill. I hope you
will soon be well.
I am very sorry to hear
you are ill. I hope you
will soon be well.
I am very sorry to hear
you are ill. I hope you
will soon be well.

I thank you kindly
of Glad for my portion
of your letter, which
was received this even-
ing, and am gratified
to hear you had a
pleasant journey, and
are now comfortably
situated at the Ft.
Nicholas.

We were somewhat
diverted at your account
of the ascent to your
room. No doubt you've
concluded to take that

in preference to the
"Pike", as a more direct
road to Heaven.

I found your book
in the sitting-room
soon after you left,
and shall take care
of it till I hear of an
opportunity of sending
it to you. - Perhaps
shall read it in the
mean-time. Mrs Bal-
lard will attend to
the umbrellas.

What is Mary doing
with herself? Tell her
she has no idea, how
much I miss her, par-
ticularly at meals and
night. I was not aware
that she was so essen-
tial to my comfort, or

rather, my amusement
It has been with the
greatest difficulty, that
I resisted the 'Phus'
since you all left;
and am just beginning
to realize that I am
so far from home.
Tho' knowing that it is
for my own good, I've
determined to be recon-
ciled to it, and remain
at least a year, unless
providentially prevented.

When will your Father
leave New York? I regret
exceedingly that I shall
not have the pleasure
of meeting him again,
before he returns to Cal-
Give my dearest love to
him and your Mother,
Mary and Joe, and a kiss

to the little ones. Tell
Lillian she mustn't for-
get her 'Auntie.'

Can you not let me hear
from you all, from some
of the most important
points in your travels?

Tell Mary she must
write and tell me of
all the ridiculous things
she has seen and heard
that I think a right heart-
ily laugh, would cheer
me up amazingly.

I had not until now
discovered, that my paper
was blimished. Please
excuse it.

Mrs Ballara and Mary are
both asleep. If they have any
message I'll add it in the
morning.

Good night. Phoebe means.
Yours truly
M. A. C. B. B.

Henry

N.Y. June 14-53

I recd your letter or rather
card at 3 P.M. yesterday & called
at the Astor & they told me
you were at the New York
Hotel. I called there & they
told me Mr. H. P. Duncan of
Sketches. Showed this to each
you - please call & see me at
once 37 Irving Place I am
in from 9 AM to 2 P.M. only
being in the country with my family
on North River where I want
your father to locate. I wish
you to go up with me some after-
noon. You can return next morn-
ing. You would enjoy the ride & might
spend all your night with us
Very truly
Wm Hall

W W Hall

June 14 1853

June 7, 1853

My Dear Brother

It seems a long time
since you left home, the one so anxious
to see you again and join you in Phil^a
which we hope to do very soon, and
would have done before this, but for
Cousin Maria's sickness (who has been
very ill since you left) she is now
much better - Has cured herself by
eating cherries - which she has taken
in great quantities, this stopped the
fainting and she is herself again

You do not know my Dear Brother
how anxious we are all to see you
We miss you so much - How necessary
your presence is to our enjoyment
& happiness - Sisters Mary & Ellen
have been waiting to you for a
week and have made but little
progress in the laudable enterprise
so that I have felt it necessary
to write myself - or might not

have from either of us - Sister
Many times many a good resolution
but is not so famous for keeping
them - What do you think she
was up & dressed before six o'clock
this morning - This is a better sin
- time in the way of your getting
a letter - than I have yet seen
she is now writing & I hope before
she gets up, will write a letter to
you -

All our well Servants dogs &
all - we hope to be off this week
in 2 or 3 days

The servants all miss you and
wish to be affectionately remem-
bered to you

Father Mother Mary and
Ellen all join in love to you
Father has invited Mr. Shaver to
remain here & take care of the
house during our absence
He has consented to do so

and is now with us

In haste

Your Affectionate Sister
Lilly Deane

Sister Eliza

June 7 - 1853

June 7th 1853

My dear Brother

I hope you
enjoy yourself. I miss
you so much, but hope
to see you soon, how
have you been since
your arrival in Philadelphia
how is Dr Marshall?
give my love to him, we
expect to start this week.

Mother is very busy getting
ready, Cousin Maria has
been very sick, she is better
up walking about again,

There is so much fruit,
and the weather so warm
Father is trying to persuade
Mother to give up the trip
until autumn, but none
of us like the idea at all,

We have had so many
Cherries and straw berries
I always wish you could
have some too, you have
seen Cousin Mary Ballard
give my love to her, & say
I hope to see her soon.
Mr Ballard left here last
wednesday for Louisville.
Mr Shane desires his
compliments to you.
Mother joins me in much
love to you, your
affectionate sister
Ellen Duncan

Ellen Ellen
June 7-1853

Washington House June 6th 53

My Dear Cousin Hal

There has no letter yet come for you, nor a telegraph - I wrote to Sister Maria the day you left me & sincerely hope she is now convalescent from the favorable report My Dear Husband brought me of her - he reached home Saturday evening about 9 O'clock & told me he stayed all night at your Father's, last Tuesday night, & when he left, Maria was somewhat better your Father said he expected to get off in a few days - so I think they will certainly get her, by the last of this week - Mary Rebecca left me this morning for school & was grieving all day saturday, you will not see her & that she did not get to see you again - I hope you will enjoy your trip - Our best respects to Dr Marshall & say to him, I regretted not seeing him again before he left from my Dear Cy do not become so fascinated with him - I wish & hope that you will not enjoy a second visit to our Quaker Village - there are many places of interest I hope to have the pleasure of taking you to see upon your return to Phila - Now do take good care of yourself & let me hear from you again soon - Husband joins me in much love - Affectionately Your Cousin Mary A Ballard

[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is arranged in approximately 20 horizontal lines across the page.]

Shington June 4th 1853

My Dear Son

In my letter to you a few days ago, I informed you of the illness of your cousin Maria - which might interfere with our getting off in time to fall in with you - In which event I suggested to you to join the Dr in his trip - and advise me of your movements & purposes - Though if we get off in time - we should be greatly gratified to have you join us - Maria is better & we shall get off this week & be in Phil^a next - at which point we shall hope to hear from you - If not to see you & be particularly interested of your movements - your proposed route & as your mother will remain in Phil^a a week or more - If you go on without waiting for us - you had better

borrow of Mr Ballard, some \$50
more than you have which I
will hand him upon my arrival
(He will be at home this week)

I was gratified to hear that
you had called upon Capt Carl
Deverson - You did not inform
me whether you saw Mr Sumner
and whether it was the Sr or his
Son - I hope you have had a
pleasant trip - by which you will
be benefitted - and that it may
more deeply impress you - with
the absolute necessity of your
devoting yourself to hard study
as the only way in which you
can make yourself a man
of standing & position & influence

Our love to your Cousin
Henry - All join in the warmest
love to you very Dear Boy

Yr Affectionate Father
H J Sumner

May 31st 1853

I received your letter yesterday and was
very much gratified to hear of the well being of my
friends and of your own health and intended visit
to this city. I wish you to visit the Ecceademy of fine
arts well worth your attention and I wish to go on
the same day to N Y as I shall be very desirous to
get to West point before monday when the exami-
nation will commence you will find me at the
corner of sixth and Vine streets or at the central church
where the Gen^l Assembly sits and I shall rejoice to
meet you

Your real friend
Louis Marshall

Henry T Duncan Esquire

Washington House

Philadelphia

May

May 31. 1853

De Marshall

Antean Church 8th & Cherry

Lexington May 29th 1853

My Dear Son

I fondly hope that this letter will find you safe & well in Philadelphia. I left Louisville the morning after started upon arriving at home I found your cousin Maria ill - so much so, that we are apprehensive that it may prove fatal - She is taken with fainting spells frequently and last night had to be carried to her room - I fear that it will interfere with your Mother's starting for I have no idea she will leave her in her present situation.

I will keep you advised on the subject - but will now say that if we do not come on in time to meet you - you had better join the Dr in his travels & return with him - should we be detained by

Mania illueps - I shall come &
communicate with you by Letter &
graph & letter - which will de-
termine your course whether
to join us or keep on with the
Doctor - write every day or two

I enclose you a letter
to Mr Chas P Senenich of New
York - The Son in Law of Mrs
Gustie - Should I not come on
I wish you to call on Mrs Gustie
Miss Emily Senenich - The two Mr
Seneniches & their Ladies - They
are extremely clever people
Do not be out at night - attend
to the Dr - go to Church when
you have the opportunity, read
your bible - avoid all unsuit-
able & bad company - If
you should hear of Dr Stephen
Senenich's arrival in New York
with his family - Call upon them
by all means - They will prob-

ably be at the New York
Hotel - I hope however we
shall be with you in time
nothing but your Cousin's
sickness will prevent

All join in love to you
& Cousin Mary Ballard.

Your devoted father
H. T. Duneau

enclosed is a letter to John Leonard
of N York - he lives with Mrs Gustine
on West 22 Street - the Directory
will enable you to find the house
going up Broadway in an hour -
without that high & getting out, it
is a short walk - when you call
to he is not in - enquire for the
Ladies & hand them the letter
It is an open letter & you must
not seal it - Do not go out at
night - unaccompanied by a
friend or friends

Father

May 29-1883

W J Duncan - Pa

Boone County Apr 17th 1853

My Dear Son

I have written to your dear Mother - from Louisville St Louis & this place all of which I hope have duly come to hand

There is a surplus of Hemp Seed at Bedford, which I hope you will see Mr Rankin about and have sold the 2 Houses I had up for sale when I left - Shoresater & Hilander - I wish you would take in & sell to Mr Craig takes for the two 200\$ or \$100 for either of them single or as much more as you can get - We are feeding too many horses and must sell off the surplus - In relation to the cattle about which we conversed, I wish to have purchased some 3 or 2 year olds - that will match with the lot we have - after the 25th of this month, when the grass is good

as to a lot of full fed aged cattle
that purchase had better be de-
ferred until my return home
when you go to Bedford - see also
Rankin about - The division fence
at the Scott place between Lewis
and myself - The fence between
my Clover field & the one occu-
pied by Tanner - must be made
secure - perfectly secure; Tell Bak-
er to mark all my hogs before
they go down to Bedford, to be put
on clover - Tell Proctor to be
very attentive to the hogs - and
count them frequently & keeps them
gentle by giving a little corn
my own Sows at Home I do
not wish to be sent down but
kept at home - Cut both the
Boars - You & Baker pick out
at least 4 of the neatest and
best looking young sows and
keep them for breeding sows
at home in addition to those

we have -

I wish you to send Henderson
with the 2 horse waggons - up the
Winchester turnpike - to select some
R Duncans - within some 3 or 4
miles of Winchester (this side) near
or adjoining farms to Col John S
Williams - for ~~two~~ young Boars
I engaged from him - One you
will keep at home & send the other
to Bidford - Baker had better
go up with Henderson to select
Cans for the Boars - as there
may be some choice - give them
money to pay the toll - and also
to pay for the 2 young Boars - If
Baker likes the stock - He had
better take a young Sow - for
our home place - It is a matter
of importance that you send for
these young Boars - immediately
as they should be with the Sows

I have found this country
much improved since I was here

last - Columbia has quite the
air of a town

Your Aunt & friends here are
all well

I hope you & your Sister Mary
will devote yourselves diligently to your
Books - that you will make hand-
some progress in English - and read
a few chapters in the Greek
Testament

You must all be ready for
your trip East - We may have
to postpone it - as I understood
the fair does not come off
so soon as was first proposed

My warmest love to your
Mother & Sisters - & Cousin Ma-
ry - Remember her very kind
ly to the Dr & Dr Jenkins

Your devoted Father
H. L. Shumway

U. S. Patent Office
Washington, D.C. Mar. 16th 1853

My dear Henry,

You may remember that very shortly after my graduation, I was very desirous of going to Cincinnati to study there in the preparation of my lectures, but was not possessed of a certain sum of five dollars to pay my fare thither. You may also remember that you put into my hands that amount, which has thus been one of the strong foundation stones of my prosperity from about that time.

In memory of this most opportune assistance, and as a token of my still warm affection for my grandam pupil, I enclose this mail with a ring, for which I hope your fingers will not all be too clumsy and which, I trust, you will allow to express again some of the affectionate feelings which you gave me when we examined into the mystery of Greek verbs together.

My life is growing, I might almost say,
monthly, more and more distinct in its future
outlines, and ever brighter and brighter. The
sciences, (Astronomy in particular,) are still
my hobby, and I have some thoughts of
going to Europe for my further improve-
ment. *Sons verront.*

Will you give to your Parents and
sisters my Mother's as well as my own
warm regards. and remember me, if you
will, as your old teacher and very affec-
tional friend.

Wm Chauncy Langdon.

Wm C. Langdon
Washington D.C.
Mar 16. 1843

Yale College Jan 22^d 1833

Dear Friend -

It affords me no little pleasure to be the medium of conveying to you whatever information is in my reach with regard to the course of study pursued in this Institution.

During the few past years much progress has been made in all the departments of the College - in the strictness of discipline, in the standard of scholarship and in the cultivation of English composition and oratory. As the Catalogue which I send presents a truthful outline of everything connected with the Institution it might seem unnecessary for me to say anything further; but with your permission I will merely call your attention particularly to what is very often overlooked by Western students; the study of the grammars - not Syntax alone - but all that comes under the heads of Orthoepey and Prosody - I would not be so presuming as to do this were I not aware of the peculiar stress which the Faculty place upon thorough grammatical knowledge -

The page of Virgil or Horace with a correct application of all the rules laid down in the grammars will gain admittance into the college much sooner than a superficial knowledge of every line these two authors have written - Multum in parvo is a favourite maxim.

The expense is much more than it is represented to be in the Catalogue - Half of the students in college are extremely poor and of course incur but small expenditures - On this account the average expense among the students is considerably reduced and is correctly stated in the Catalogue - The expense of one who wishes to live comfortably & genteelly, I do not say extravagantly, will amount to at least three hundred dollars. This will cover nothing more than Tuition - board, room, washing, fuel & books & stationery - Clothing is very cheap - everything else very dear.

There is not a more beautiful city in the Union than the "City of Elms" or one more congenial to study - There are not outdoor attractions except green walks and shady trees - There are no indoor attractions except books - There are no dinner parties or brilliant evening entertainments here as in Lexington - Everything is in repose & quiet - No bustle of trade or show of fashion & wealth is heard or seen -

The climate is not very good on account of the continual changes in the weather - The thermometer

varies of 96° above to 25° below Zero - These are the extreme points -

It will afford me much pleasure to give you any further information should you desire it -

I am sorry that we shall not be in college together - as I shall graduate this summer - Nothing however would give me more real satisfaction than to welcome you to these ancient halls of learning where so many social pleasures abound and where so many opportunities are to be enjoyed for the cultivation of the mind -

Be kind enough to present me to your Father and family -

Yours truly
R. L. Gibson

Mr Henry Duncan Jr
Lexington
Ky

R L Gibson
Yale College

Jan 22-1883

Lexington July 23rd 1853

My dear Henry

Your welcome
favor of the 16th inst is at
hand, for which except my
thanks. Though I am afraid
you will not receive the reply
I will write and direct to
Niagara Falls. You will
have left Saratoga before a
letter can reach you there.

I received the kind letter
of your father two days ago.
He is quite enthusiastic in his
admiration of Boston & Bos-
tonians and Mr Choate seems
to have fascinated him greatly. I see
that you share his opinion. It
is doubly richly merited.

You give your father's opinion of
the relative merits of Yale &
Cambridge Colleges, but omit

your own. If Edward Everett is
the President of the latter I sho-
uld not hesitate in deciding
between them. Mr Everett I
regard as the first man of
the nation as both orator
and Statesman; but I believe
that his connection has ceased
with it
or was it with Harvard?

The speech of Mr Choate you
speak of as being extremely
able and convincing, carrying
with it the sense of the convention.
He of course opposes the elective
judiciary? Excuse my blun-
dering in relation to Cambridge
& Harvard. Harvard is the University
to which Cambridge is attached.
On Tuesday evening it com-
menced raining; rained thro-
ugh the entire night and a
considerable portion of the next
day. It was very general, and

moistened the ground thoroughly. The corn will be made by it and the grass renewed. The hump is beyond redemption. I was at Bedford on Monday, to see one of the boys who was sick. The highest hump was about the height of my head; a great deal of it was much lower. It will barely repay cutting & the labor to prepare it for manufacture. The corn is very good. Political excitement is running very high: both parties are sanguine of the success of the respective candidates. Large sums of money have been bet on the general result \$20000 or more. The democrats have started the absurd report that Collins & Co of the Steamship line have furnished 30000 or 40000 dollars to secure the election

of Litcher. The motive revenge
towards Brackenridge for op-
posing the appropriation asked
for to sustain the line. I am
frequently asked if your father
will be home in time
to vote. My reply has been in-
variably that he will. You must
strive a point to reach here by
Monday at 11 o'clock AM at the
latest. To illustrate the amount
of feeling entertained on the
subject I will mention ^{of} speech
of old Dr. Dudley showing his
determination. He has been quite
ill and fears of a speedy death
have been entertained by his
friends but ^{he} is now convalescing.
A few days ago he declared
his purpose to be hauled to
Brier Hill if alive and that
if the Lord spared his life to
vote, he should die contented
if he died on the return home.
The democrats are becoming less
sanguine - somewhat dejected

July 23, '53

All the negroes are well at Seneca and are getting on very well. Mr. Shaver is in good health and spends his nights constantly out at home. The work of cleaning has been thorough and complete and all things except the presence of the silver are ready for your reception at any moment. I will attend to having it there at the desired period and in order. You will find a good many of the grapes ripe and some plums are your return. The sweet water grapes have been ripe some time but, notwithstanding John's efforts to prevent it, they have suffered greatly from the incursions of the flies

wasport & Lees.

Dr. Marshall returned only
a week since. He is in town
to day, and spent two or three
hours in the office this morning
giving me an account of his
travels. ~~With~~ The New Haven he
was perfectly delighted. He expressed
a regret that you were not
with him through Vermont
New Hampshire and Canada.
He thinks that you would have
enjoyed yourself vastly & says
that your presence would have
enhanced his own. He would
have written to you and your
sister Mary, he says, had he
known where a letter would
have reached you. I remarked
to the Dr. that you and your
sisters had been now so long
out of the school room that
it would require a little time

to enquire your habits of study.
What do you think he was all-
-natured enough to say?

I replied to your letter
written from New Haven &
directed the letter to the Re-
surre House Boston. I am
afraid you did not receive it.
Among other things I stated
that the Telegram from your
father did not reach me; that
I had dispatched word im-
mediately to Mr Rankin to
have the wheat cut &c

On Monday the hands were
engaged in cutting it. But it
is so much fallen that it will
scarcely justify the labor of
reaping now. Mr Rankin
said he would ^{have} the best and
most upright cut.

Your own & your father's account
concur in making Miss

Mattie McKee a very accomplished and interesting young lady. She is about your own age is she not? Take care that the fascinations of her society under your escort (she will of course fall to your charge) do not kindle a flame. That at your susceptible age requires but a spark to kindle. Beware!

Pardon my long illegible and desultory letter. Give my best love to all and believe me to be affectionately
yours Sir W D Jenkins

To H I Duncan

P.S I am desired by Judge Buckner to say to your father that he must be home to vote! There is much depending on it Mr Bayler needs a little management which will come best from him

Dear Cousin

Cincinnati Sep 8th
1853

I received your letter last Monday was delighted to hear from you. & also of your safe arrival at home after so long an absence. home seems to be the pleasantest place. I could not imagine why none of you did not write that almost come to the conclusion you had forgotten me.

Father left last Monday with Mary & Libby for Canandaigua with two other girls under his care. will also visit the boys. we expect him home the last of next week. we hardly know how to get along without him, as he is at home nearly all the time. owing to Father's absence I regret it will be out of my power to accept of your parents kind invitation to

visit them this week. I would
like to go at this time as I would
have an opportunity of seeing
more than any other time I will
defer my visit for some future
time hoping I may be able to go
this fall.

When does Miss McFee expect to
return to school, remember me to
her and will be delighted to have
her call & see me on her return
east.

I presume you are hard at work pre-
paring to enter college in the spring.
Dr Marshall will dislike to part
with you. Mary had better make
up her mind to go to the school
Mary is attending, there are eight
conveniences there at present.
I hope she will visit me this
fall. she made such a flying visit
before she had no time to become

acquainted with any of our city ladies.
Our city is at present in quite an ex-
citement on account of an occurrence
which took place last week. I suppose
you heard of it. That of Dr. James -
shooting Mr. Foll. the papers all
writing about it & is the topic of
conversation every where we go.
Mr. F. is better though not out of
danger. no one seems to care
what becomes of Dr. James
public opinion is so much
against him. I do not know
what is to become of us every
day we read of some fight in
our streets.

I will be very glad to have some of
you visit us. we are all well.
Mother unites in sending much love
to your parents & sisters.

I remain yours truly
W. J. Culbertson.

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like to go at this time as I would
have an opportunity of seeing
more than any other time I will
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you visit us. we are all well.
Mother unites in sending much love
to your parents & sisters.

I remain yours truly
W. J. Culbertson.

Miss Culbertson

Sept 8. 1853.

2

Louisville Oct 12th 1853

My Dear Son

Your two letters I duly received - For them I return you my most affectionate thanks

I regret to hear of the ravages of the hail storm - The glass you want is not here inform me by letter, how much you will certainly need - I had it ordered by Telligraph from Cincinnati on yesterday - I have also ordered to be sent up one $\frac{1}{2}$ Barrel whitening to make the putty of

If the potatoes are not dug you had better have them secured immediately the corn cut &c &c

The Contributions to the Monument are here - up to this time nearly Four Thousand Dollars - I have no doubt that Louisville will come up to Ten Thousand though it will need more or less of my personal attention

If I remain over this week I wish with your Mother & Sister to come down on Monday - I am staying at Mr Ford's - where I have delightful quarters - Keep your Dear Mother & Sisters for me

Your devoted Father

H. S. Duncan

Boonville April 13th
Mo. 1854

Dear Henry Your kind favour

Received some time since and
have often reproached myself
for not giving your letter a spe-
cial answer. You will make
me allowance for any delay
in the answer. I am certain
when you know the difficulties
under which I labor. Your
letter came to hand during
Mr. Warfields absence in Ill.
that time had the entire
management of my place to
attend to and I assure you it is
no light task with the amount
of stock we have on hand and
the multiplicity of our hands.
From day light until sun-
set - I was constantly on my
horse riding around. Let me
tell you the amount of stock I
had to see to watering feeding
& salting. First we had feeding
on our place 1900 head of stock

Vermont
Missouri

Since your letter

for the California market. These
thank Heaven we started for
the gold region some time
since. Also two hundred head
of stock cattle - these we have bran-
-ched and turned loose on the
prairie and will sell in the
fall. Also 40 or 50 cows about half
with calves - Also 150 head of hogs
50 mules & horses 30 of the mules
are are putting - 20 are work mules
& horses - 19 head of Durham cattle
10 of which I brought from Ky.
All of this stock I had to see feed
watered & salted. I have thought
during the day frequently that I
would certainly write to Henry
Duncan tonight. Night would
come and I would retire my
weary body driving all thoughts
of writing to my friend from
my mind. I hardly touch a bed
before I am asleep. I never ex-
pected Henry to receive a letter
from you as I thought you would
be so much engaged in Collegi-
-ate studies as to have no leisure
to devote to a kind word to me
I do assure you I am truly

grateful and gratified. With
spring every thing assumes
a brighter face in my prairie
home. I am in love Henry
with the country. It is beauti-
ful. No more rolling breezes
have I ever seen and Italy
can not produce more lovely
sunsets. The sun goes behind
our prairie hills and falls beyond
them as though it were the sea.
Get in the middle of a prairie now
and you have a vast carpet
of a velvet green. No two ply or
three above it but it is the finest
tapesty. Can I ever persuade
you to visit us. I will take you
to a place where you can pick
out a bear such a one as you
wish, as you would a hog from
your hog pen. I will show you
a stream where you can scoop up
bup with a dish pan & as to Quail
Ground Turkey Grouse Brant Ducks Ring
Plover there is no end to them. I
invite you Henry to share Missouri
hospitality. I will provide guns dogs
horses &c. I remember you asked me in
your letter some questions which excuse my

not answer any as I have not the
letter with me and have forgotten
what they were. My kindest regards
to your Mother Father & Sister and
believe me

Ever Your Sincere Friend
Horace Brand

Apr 13

April 13 - 524

Horace Brand

Chicago May 27th 1854

My Dear Son

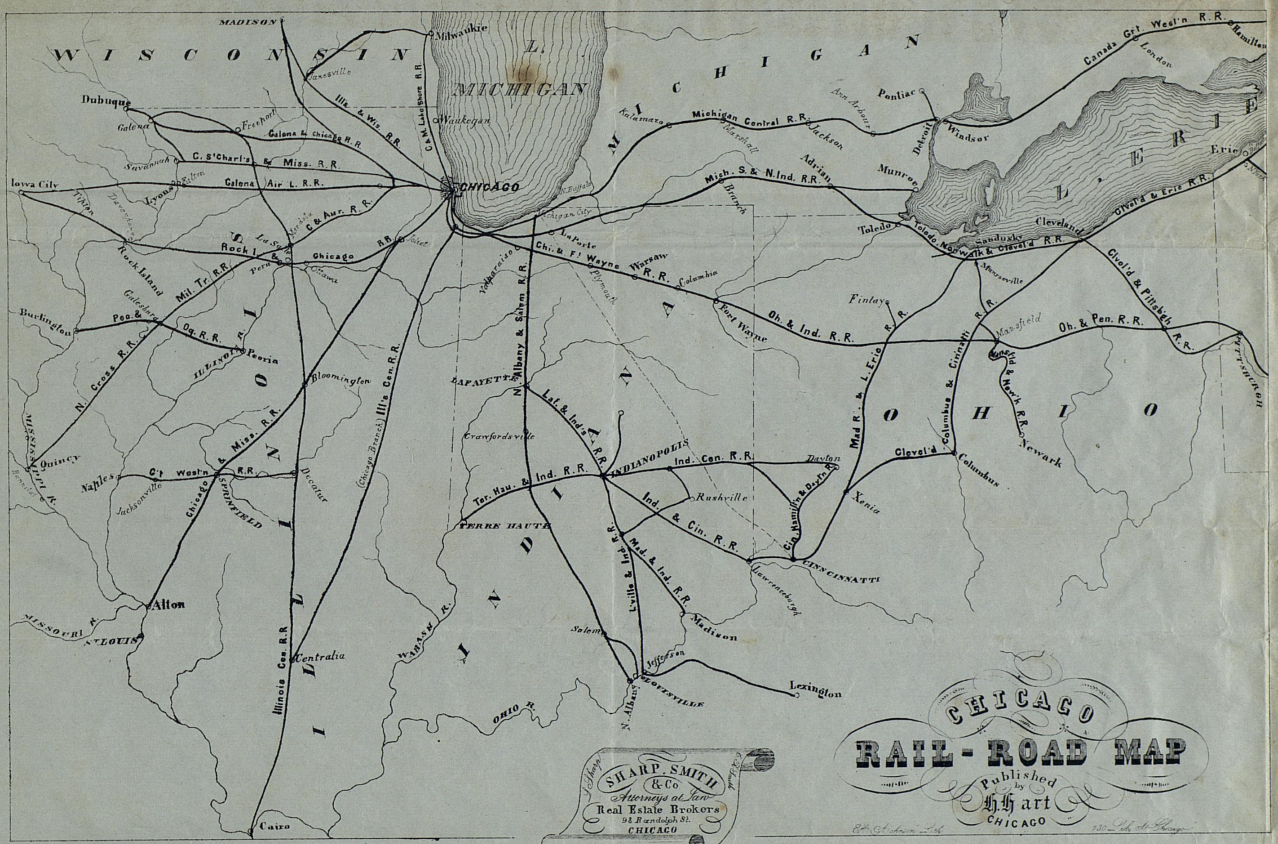
I have not received from ^{your} line since I left home - I am getting very anxious to hear & a little home sick - Between your mother & yourself Mary & Ellen I should have had some tidings of home - I feel that I have been rather slighted & neglected - My dear little Sally was afflicted when I left and complaining - yet no information about her

As it ^{is} late I shall change my purpose and return directly home from this place and have written so to your Aunt Mary

I write this letter upon a little map showing you the rail road connections of this wonderful City - The estimated arrivals here daily by R.R. is averaged at about 7000 persons many stopping & others in transit - The place is perfectly anomalous - every thing active and busy - I may purchase # a fine property opposite the Court house on Randolph Street which will rent for some 15 per cent

My love to Mother & the children keeps them all

I am Love affectionately
A. L. Duncan



Y. H. H.
May 27-54
Chicago



Louisville Sept 5. 1883

Dear Henry I sent up to day by Adams
Express a small box of peaches as
present for your Mother. I saw
L. Young & he will have no fun
ding them peaches for two weeks
when I will send up a basket
for your Mother to preserve.

In answer to my dispatch to
Mr. Hall I learnt all about
the sad accident to your father.
I deeply sympathize with you & them
& will be up in all this week
to see him. With my kindest
regards to your Mother & all I
am

Yrs very truly
H. R. Pope

W. V. Pope
Sept 6th - 54
Louisville

Louisville Septem 7th /54

My dear Cousin

I received your
anxiously expected letter this Morn-
ing, giving us the happy
intelligence, that your Father
was comfortable & sleeping well,
at 11 O'clock - Monday night, we
have felt intense anxiety, about
him - but hope, from his present
favorable condition, that his
recovery may be speedy &
perfect. We had heard thro
Mr Davis, who came down with
Mr Burkey - the day you left,
the nature of the injury - &
how it occurred, thank God,
it is not worse, he has made
a narrow escape, the good
nursing, that I know he
will get, & quiet, & those nice
Grapes to refresh him, will

as much to facilitate his
recovery - I felt very much
relieved, that you got off - for
to have been left - in your
state of mind would have been
terrible, dear Mary - I thought
so much of the child all
day - pushed off, with her
clothes scarcely fastened, & no break-
fast, & she had not taken a
mouthful after hearing her Father
was hurt - I feel very much disap-
pointed at the sad termination
of your visit, which we were
all enjoying so much, you must
both come down to our Wash-
ing pair - the 19 & 20th of this
month - & Fannie & I will re-
m with you - if your Father is
well enough - I shall seriously ex-
pect you, if he does not mend as
we hope & expect, & your Mother
becomes very - I pray you let us

Knew it, & Marnie & I will
go up - & help you nurse him,
tho I trust - it will not be necessary
& that we shall soon see him
in his chair & well - I heard
this morning from my son, he
has just returned from a short
visit - to Edinburgh, the University
being closed for vacation, he could
not determine about his attendance
there this winter, he has gone
to Paris with M Barry - & will
go again to Scotland during the
autumn, on his late flying trip he
touches some classic ground, he
slept one night ^{at} Stafford upon
Aven, visited the home & grave
of the immortal Lara, i.e., he
tells me, upon being lighted to
leave, the Landlady - put them
in Washington Irving's room, who
by the bye - is highly esteemed &
admired, he says, Washington

Franklin, Irving - we can get
men abroad - tell your Father
we shall 'cut' all Europe if they
don't include Clay! I have
just sent you letter to Harriet &
the D; who felt equal solistiae,
& will be greatly relieved by its
contents, Give my love to Mary
& tell her, she must - send me
a line in a day or two - to
let us know if her Father still
improves, Alice says no matter
about the Port-Monie - she had
a awful day - the day you left -
& the next one, Alice took her
to his Mother - which cheered her
up - she sends much love to you
both & the little girls - Remember
me affec' to your Mother & Father,
& believe me ~~your~~ affectionately
M. J. Lora

My dear
July 11 1844

Dunsmuir Oct 8th

1854

Dear Henry

I found on reaching my office yesterday morning that I was missing the key; I consequently found some difficulty in effecting an entrance. Not finding it out here I am satisfied that I put it in the pocket of your overcoat that I wore the day before you left, and that it is still there packed up in your trunk. You will be kind enough to make a search for it and if found send it out by your further shipping of keys reminds me of your introductory letter furnished you by your quondam friend Miss Mattie. As it is not simply a letter of introduction, as it contains matters of a private and personal nature, I do not know but that in keeping it you make a tacit engagement to deliver it. This you very

properly decline to do. If I am correct
your only proper course ^{then} is to transmit
it to her, stating as a reason for doing
so that you cannot deliver it as it contains
something, if true, not at all creditable
to you, and it is requiring too much of
you to expect you to proclaim ~~your~~
your own shame and that you are
not at liberty to retain as it is in a
measure a private letter. If you
should send it back to her it would
be well to take a copy of the introduc-
tory part at least. She will have one
or more means of learning that you have
not delivered it through her correspon-
dent, the sister of the young gentleman
and she would suspect it from the
fact that "Dear Mary" will not write
as she requested giving his opinion
of your unimpaired self.

Andy came up from Bedford last evening. He reports Mr Rankin not so well as on the day preceding James Rhodes came over this morning and brought over with him all his hands, 7 in number. His idea is to unite the hands of the two farms as he can thereby superintend them much more efficiently. They will shuck and the corn here first and then turn upon his father's. The Bags got off in the cars in good order this morning. All things else are in statu quo. I am requested by Ellie to add a postscript for her.

your affectionate cousin
Wm Jenkins

My dear brother

I was very sorry to see you and sister Mary go. I cannot express to you my feelings all day long I thought about you

You cannot think how much
we all miss you. You must be
sure to write to me soon. Mother
Lille and cousin Maria send
a great deal of love to you.

Your affectionate sister
Ellen Duncan

P.S. Say to your father that Shropshire
feels that he will not be able to obtain
for Ned near the price that your father
has set upon him. He says that
Roberts has boys that are as valuable
as Ned for which he paid only
£200.

Hof

Saturday Nov "54

My very dear Son, You have been very good to write to me so often you can't tell the gratification & pleasure, your letters gave me, feeling so anxious & solitary, it was as water to a thirsty soul, & cordial to my drooping spirit, I would have written often but did not know where to direct, your Father was not very well when he got home, he had a cold & was very much fatigued, after a days rest he seems quite well, he went to Bedford on Thursday, as I had not been to see Mrs Rankin since the death of her husband, I accompanied him also Lily, who has teased me every day to write to her 'buddie', every blank piece of paper she would pick up & ask if she might have it, and

Then ask, "Mother, will you write to
"Buddie" on this?" so I was compelled
to do it, to get rid of her, you don't
know how delighted she was that a
letter was written for her, I wanted
to put it in mine, but no that was
not according to her notion of doing
it, she picked out the envelope &
put on the post stamp, put the
letter in, & asked me "Please direct it"
she felt then like it was really one
from herself to you, I will slip in
a few lines to you, Your Father
is pleased with your & Mary's
prospects, I hope by this you are
comfortably located, & that your
improvement will be according to
your opportunity, do take care of
your health, I feel very much
on that score, in such a cold
region. if you should go out on
a skating party, do not venture
too far, there are large air holes
sometimes that prove fatal to
those in such sport, out door ex-
ercise is very necessary to your
health, good bye, God Bless you your
devoted Mother E. D.

NOV 6 1854

Excuse Henry my neglect to send
the letter sooner. I do not know the street
Miss Stoddard's residence is ⁱⁿ, you can
enquire at her father's store, he is of the
firm Stoddard & Loring, or at the
Presby House, or of the City Secretary.

Respectfully

Lucy J. Webb

Mr Henry Duncan.

Miss L. Webb
Nov 6th 1854

Mr Henry Duncan, jr
Lexington
Ky.

Duncannon Nov 10th 54

Although only a few days have elapsed since we parted, I feel that I can not refrain from writing a few words to my dearest son, now many miles separated from. It is difficult to realise that you are really away, I find myself listening for your peculiar clack of the fingers upon my door, but soon feel how vain the thought. O my dear son if it should be the last look in time, (which God forbid) let it not be the last in eternity, if we lay up our treasure in heaven we shall meet to part no more, that reunion will be forever. Let me beg of you to regard the Sabbath. The violation of it, is viewed by him who can not change with great displeasure, & a blessing upon those who reverence my holy day & his sanctuaries. Let not your ears, or eyes be enticed to sin, flee from temptation as you would from a venomous serpent, partly not resist the devil

and he will flee from thee, do not con-
-clude from what I say that I have not
confidence in your good principles, not
at all for I feel the strongest reasons as far
as human strength, is concerned for con-
fidence, but poor human nature is
fallible, our first Parents were created
in a holy & happy state, still they were
tempted & fell, & brought their posterity
into an estate more prone to evil
and averse to that which is holy & good.
such is our moral nature that it requires
more than natural moral courage to resist
the flattering & deceitful temptations of
sin, we must seek strength from a higher
power, seek that wisdom that cometh
down from above, which leadeth us
unto all righteousness. may you be led
in this way is my ardent prayer, & that
your health & life will be preserved, & that
that you will succeed in your literary pur-
-suit to the largest desire,

The day after you left a letter came from Emma McGowan written at the request of Miss Edwards saying if your sister had not gone to school she had come for her immediately a young lady had left who was E's room-mate, Emma begged your sister to come & said if she did not care for a roommate I would feel much better satisfied had you & your sister been situated together, however I hope all will be for the best, I sent E's letter to Mary & added a few lines to it.

Write to me particularly about your dear sister, how she liked Pittsfield, was she comfortably situated? did she seem satisfied? how do you like her prospects? You will write to her often, comfort and encourage each other, in aiming at high attainments, she is a girl of great mental acumen & is susceptible of making a very brilliant woman, urge her to diligence & perseverance in whatever she undertakes. Dr Perkins told me he had written to you in regard to Mattie's introductory letter & advised you to return it if you did not use it, I am not of his opinion

if you return it you must give some reason for so doing, which will not be very agreeable, you exercise your own Judgment about it, if your Father is still with you consult him, if he concurs with the Dr, & act accordingly, Dr Marshall is still here, & Dr Perkins is out every evening. Mrs Gratz came to see me yesterday afternoon, to cheer me in my loneliness, & insisted on me to go in the next day & spend it with her, I declined. Then she said the next day I answered when I felt like going I would send her word, her manner was so kind affectionate & sympathizing, I do love her sincerely, she says Mr Gratz goes to Philadelphia next week, & remain some weeks his Brother that has been in bad health for several years is very desirous to see him. We have had most beautiful weather until today it is raining not much but so as to

Nov. 10, '54

make it disagreeable for out door
business, I hope you have had pleasant
weather for your travel, did any
of you take cold in your night
travel? did your Father get many
winter shoes? I am so much afraid
she will neglect to keep her feet
warm, & so be liable to take severe
cold, it is sometimes more serious to
take cold in the ^{feet} than any other
I enjoin it upon you to be careful of
sudden changes in your clothing.
when health is gone it difficult to
restore it, this is the most abomina-
-ble paper I prefer fools caps to it
I can not pretend to see the lines
it is thick as a leather apron, so
you must excuse all irregularity
Lily says give my love to my dearest
brother & say it is so lonesome here

without him & Sister Mary
but she says Mother wont you go
& see them next summer?
I hope so if we live; All join
in much love to you and your
dear Father if he is with you
God Bless you both, Your devoted
Mother E. Duncan

Mr Dankin was no better
when we last heard from him
Frank went to Bedford today
to take powder, & the brand to
mark the cattle, so we will
hear this evening how he is.

This paper would make a
good black smiths apron
it is stiff & hard enough

Buffalo Nov 19th 1854

My Dear Son

I arrived here this morning about seven o'clock and have to lay over until to-morrow morning - when I leave for Cincinnati - We found the snow very deep this morning - which impeded the progress of the Cars a good deal - I found your Sister well and quite cheerful & she stood the separation yesterday evening better - than when you & I left her - I think she will soon become reconciled & I hope do well.

Since I parted from you my dear Boy - I have thought much of what should be your best course - and I am still firmly persuaded that your best course is to join the Freshman class in March if you can - because it will give you a better opportunity of knowing your classmates and winning if you can the honors of your class when it graduates - besides it stops early the extraordinary expense of 2⁴ a day for your tutor & expenses I am persuaded a higher standard of attainment - if it does take 3½ years to get through & I am sure you will never in after life have cause to regret it.

I cannot impress upon you too strongly a due regard to economy in your expenditures, I fully explained to ^{you the} importance of this particularly in your two first years - as this will enable me to get through my present commitments and then I may come under
If I buy of Louis the tract he wishes to sell me - One other subject I will reiterate - remember you have lost much time of late with Dr. M. - And that to prepare yourself fully & will to join the present freshman class - you will have to become a diligent & close student. This to you is of first importance - upon it depends mainly your College standing & indeed your social position in the Boston & Cambridge Society - May even your future influence and consideration in after life. As a young man stands with his youthful associates - so will he stand afterwards among men - win for yourself & name distinction and influence - This my dear son can only be done by close application to your studies & the practice of a virtuous upright & honorable bearing in every situation and under all circumstances - forego temporary pleasure & enjoyment - for the successful & triumphant attainment of College honors and distinctions - nothing I assure you will contribute

move to the qualification & pleasure of your friends - No distinction was ever yet won without labor & hard study

Be cautious in the formation of friendships
Be polite and courteous to all - ever maintain-
ing your own self respect

Write me candidly and fully your be-
gunning with your tutor - I apprehend you
will have to brush up your Latin a good deal
as well as to learn Greek almost from the
beginning - How do you like Chase as tutor
are you making satisfactory progress
You must keep up your labors during the
winter vacation of 6 weeks lose no time
and if possible enter in March - Be not
at the earliest time you can get ready
How does your Mathematics come to you
or not! Did you dine with Mr Gurney
yesterday! How were you pleased! Did you
see his Father - your impressions of him
Go occasionally to see Mr Sparks & family not
too often - Also call on Mr Gardener Mr
Bowditch & Mr Silsby - not often my son
for you would lose time by this all impor-
tant to you & you might tire them - never
cheapen yourself thus

I shall write you often

Yr devoted Father

H I Sumner

I have been thinking of you very much lately
 and wondering how you are getting on.
 I hope you are well and happy.
 I have been very busy lately
 but I have managed to find some time
 to write you a few lines.
 I have been thinking of you very much lately
 and wondering how you are getting on.
 I hope you are well and happy.
 I have been very busy lately
 but I have managed to find some time
 to write you a few lines.

Friday Nov 23rd 1854

My very dear Brother if I could
write I would very often trouble
you with a letter, how do you do
this long time? for it seems a long
time ^{to me} since you left home,
but it will seem much longer
before I will have the pleasure
of seeing you, we were so glad to
see Father, & hear about you & sister
Mary, I went to Bedford with Father
& Mother yesterday, it was a most
lovely day, the birds were singing
like spring, Father is going to
have a room fixed at Bedford
& wants Mother to go & spend a
week at a time there, I expect you
will have a nice time. Thanks-
giving day, you must write all
about it, Dr Marshall left there
the Sunday following of the week
you left, he did not talk any
thing ^{about} you, Cousin Maria says

she is going to Vincennes to spend
Christmas, what do you think
about it? she sends a heap of love
to you, sister Ellie has written
a letter to Aya Logan, & one to
sister Mary, she is writing to you
now, Aunt Jane says you must
be a good man & try to get to heaven
& Mary says study hard & be a
great & good man, Tom says he
thinks about you every day & wants
to see you, do you want Carlo
taken care of for you? if you do
I will feed him & see that he is
taken good care of, Father says he
will take Carlo & a gun with
him to Bedford, & train him.
Father, Mother, & Ellie send you
an Ocean of love also your
ever affectionate sister

Lily Duncan
Mother rec'd your letter of the 14th
this evening, Father arrived here
on Tuesday at 10 o'clock,

Lexington Nov 28th 1854

Dr Henry

Engagements, not, however, exactly of a professional character have delayed my reply to your letter of the 14th inst. except my sincere thanks for it and pardon me if I do recompense you by writing as interesting a letter in reply. Your father reached home the day I received yours (day before yesterday) a little used up by the fatigues of travel and somewhat complaining. He is so far recovered to day as to visit Bedford, however, and in a day or two I doubt not will have entirely recuperated. He speaks in terms of rapturous commendation of the Pittsfield Female Institute: he thinks that in all its arrangements & appointments for imparting a finished education to young ladies it is not surpassed or equalled in the U.S. It is now no source of regret with him that he was disappointed in getting Mary in Miss Edwards' school. I am very glad that Mary was so fortunate as to fall in with Miss LaFont, or Sanford? a young lady so entirely pleasant, amiable and agreeable as a companion and that she has secured her for her room-mate. Pleasant school companions, possessing a similarity of tastes and dispositions with our own constitute a great part of the pleasure of our school days and greatly facilitate and smooth our ascent up the rugged hill of science. From home too they reconcile us in a

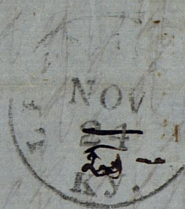
great measure to our absence from parents and friends
there. Mary now will just ^{fairly} and earnestly begin her educa-
tion and with the personal pride and ambition that
I am confident she possesses an unobscured desire not to
be surpassed by those of her own age will prompt
her to vigorous and assiduous effort to recover the
ground she has lost during the last three years under
the inefficient and careless teachings of your unre-
sponsible Mr. M. I think that both of you have
great reason to be thankful to Providence for
interposing a bursted blood vessel to break off
your further connection with him as your teacher.
It is a cunning little pretension to sagacity to declare
that I think no great while will have to lapse to
persuade you, if you are not so already, that he
has superiority in the art of teaching even the Latin
Language upon which he plumes himself so van-
tastically - your father entered into a long detail to
me of his views respecting the course you ought
to pursue in reference to your entering college. His
advice seems to me to be based upon sound reason
and I think that it is the course, were I in your
place, I should pursue. Both your physical &
mental constitution will be best regarded in my
opinion by doing so - but I will not fatigue
any further on this subject and will turn to some-
thing else. Your father says that by his advice you
will not return Miss McKie's letter and I think
myself that under all the circumstances it will ^{be} quite

great measure to our absence from parents and friends
there. Mary now will just ^{graciously} and earnestly begin her educa-
tion and with the personal pride and ambition that
I am confident she possesses an unobscured desire not to
be surpassed by those of her own age will prompt
her to vigorous and assiduous effort to recover the
ground she has lost during the last three years under
the inefficient and careless teachings of your unre-
sponsible Mr. M. I think that both of you have
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advice seems to me to be based upon sound reason
and I think that it is the course, were I in your
place, I should pursue. Both your physical &
mental constitution will be best regarded in my
opinion by doing so - but I will not fatigue
any further on this subject and will turn to some-
thing else. Your father says that by his advice you
will not return Miss McKee's letter and I think
myself that under all the circumstances it will ^{be} quite

as well. As you present no letters of introduction it will be placing her in the same category of others and therefore there can be no ground of offence to her.

Presuming that you take some interest in my movements I will tell you that on Tuesday evening (21st) I visited Franklin and the next day had the company of cousin Mary back to Lexington. I need not tell you I had a very pleasant time and as she expects to remain some days I expect its continuance during that period. I have not yet visited "Natie Burling"; but promise myself that pleasure at no distant period. Wishing to do nothing to interfere with your educational interests I shall in my future letters make very rare allusion to the young ladies. You have of course determined to blockade the entrance to your mind of all thoughts concerning them in the laudable determination to permit nothing to retard or obstruct your inward and upward course in the pleasant paths of knowledge. I will throw no hindrances in your way. There is no news of interest to you; all your friends are well. Your last letter to your mother has reached here as well as your college catalogue sent to your father, but they have not been sent out yet. Write when you can. I will always give me pleasure to hear from you.

Yours affectionately
W. J. Perkins



Mr H. C. Duncan

Cambridge

Mass.



Lexington Nov 25th 1854

My Dear Son

I arrived home safely on Tuesday
last - finding your Mother Sisters & family
all well and anxiously looking for me - and
to hear of the dear ones I left behind - I wrote
you on last Sunday from Buffalo where I laid
over for the day - upon leaving Monday morn-
ing in the Cars I found Lewis Castleman whose
company I had as far as Cincinnati arrived
there late & leaving early I had no time to see
either Capt Culbertson or Mr Lacey Adersons
to both of whom I have written since my
return - Your Mother & myself have spent
a day at Bedford this week - I shall have
bedding & furniture for a room moved
down next week for my own accommoda-
tion - It being absolutely necessary - that I
spend at least 1/3 of my time there & not
more - I shall have my time fully occu-
pied with care & trouble - I fear too much
but there is no other alternative - or my
business must suffer - I shall push it with
energy - and withdraw from all other en-
-ployments - As my mind approaches this point
I feel that it would be better that my family
were in Lexington - as more protected than
in

The country - This presents the Idea of either
selling or renting this place - For to keep all
up is too much care and trouble - But an-
nounce of all this - I found your Sister
on Saturday last quite cheerful - and bear-
ing the separation better than than when
we left her - I think she will become satis-
fied and do well

Now my Dear Son again I must impress you
with my convictions, of what is your best course
in the circumstances in which you are placed
And that is that you make up your mind cheer-
fully & undauntedly prepare yourself to join the
present Freshman Class in March if you
can (which is preferable) or at an advanced
stage - at any time you can get in - In order to
accomplish this first - I take it that it is abso-
lutely necessary - that you study during the
Winter days vacation of six weeks - in order to
possibly to join the class at the beginning of the
Spring term - This opinion I think you will
find Dr Sparks concurring in as the best - The
economy of this course will be obvious to you
besides it will make your whole course eas-
ier - and your attainments when you
graduate much more satisfactory - You
are not pressed for time & what difference
is a year or two in your course - I shall
be

much gratified to learn from you that
your own mind has come to the
same conclusion - Surely the opinion of such a
friend as Dr. Sparks is entitled to great respect
& consideration by you - Superadded to the
wishes of your own Father - who would ad-
vise nothing which he did not believe for
the best - With this course on your part I
truly believe that the honors of the class are
within your reach - If you are diligent in
their pursuit

Your letter of the 14th written to your
Mother while I was with you was not re-
ceived here until yesterday - which is the
latest intelligence recd from you by letter
Nothing of later date - We were all quite
disappointed at getting no letter to day
Write me early & fully & candidly - of your
progress & prospects with the Chase - "Does the
thing pay," are you encouraged to expect
that you can join the Freshman~~th~~ Class
in March or at a later period? What is your
progress with him? Does he come up to expec-
tation? - Write me all & fully

I see from a Catalogue you sent me
that Stephen Minor is in the Scientific
School - rather I think a surmise - that
he has not improved his time - I fear - Still
is

rather a fast boy - and not a desirable
intimate - of this you can judge the latter
treat him politely - but not as an inte-
mate unless you find him all you would
wish - I would not seek him out - There are
cautious hints - which would naturally
occur to you

I am yet undecided - whether to sell
or hire out my surplus Negroes - the latter
would best if the price were sufficient -
the one or the other I will do

I have been talking to your Mother
about going to town ^{to} like - and rent
out this place - I think she rather fa-
vors it - The absence of yourself & sister
makes the country rather lonely to her
Maria Timberlake goes she says to In-
diana Christmas - & so I hope she will
stay - all circumstances seem to favor a
life in town for a few years - until we
are all reunited - When it is decided to
go to town - the move may be beyond
Lex - it may be Pittsfield or somewhere
else - Your Mother Sisters & all send
you much love - your Affectionate Father

H. J. Duncan

Lexington Nov 28th 1854

My Dear Brother

We are all very anxious to hear from you - every day we are anxious for the arrival of the mail in hopes to have a line from either our dear Brother or Sister - But we are often doomed to disappointment not having received from Sister Mary but a single letter - But Dear Brother you have been more attentive to us Mother has received 3 letters from you - which made us all very happy - And if you only knew ^{how} happy we were to receive them ~~we should be~~ you would write oftener

But no doubt Dear Brother you
write as often as you have time
As you must not neglect by
any means your studies - For
we are all ambitious that you
should distinguish yourself at
College - and consent to occu-
py no position of even me-
diocrity - But place yourself
in the very front rank for
Scholarship & high personal
standing and merit - For you
must know my Dear Brother
that I should ~~we~~ love our dear
Father - we shall look to you
as the head of the family and
that you will be both Father
& Brother to us - So Brother you
must not be surprised - that we
should

be ambitious about you, study
hard - as I expect to be at Cam-
bridge - when you graduate, &
should my dear Brother be the
valedictorian of his class, how
^{happy} I should be - How happy we
should all be - But enough
of this exhortation

Now my dear Brothers we
all get on quietly - we sit down
to a small table - Mother and
Father - I & Sister Ellen on
one side & Cousin Maria on
the other - Dr Marshall being
left - and as Father proposes
to spend $\frac{1}{3}$ or half of his time
at Bedford (since Mr Rankins duty)
we shall be very lonesome though
Mr Jenkins will be with us
at night while Father is at
Bedford

Father sent down to Bedford to day
a load of furniture - to furnish
his room there - To make him-
-self comfortable & will go down
in the morning - He wishes Mo-
ther to go down with him some-
times and spend a few days - then
Ellen & I will get to go there - The
servants all ask about you and
are delighted to hear from you
often - Ellen's little puppy was
drowned in the hole in the sill on
the other night - Ellen was quite
distressed about it - and had him
buried with all due respect

Mother & Father Ellen & Cousin
Maria & all the servants send
their love to you - Farewell my
my dear sweet Brother
Your affectionate
Lily

Lexington Nov. 30.

1854

My dear brother

It is very hard for me to write and sometimes I think if it were not for you and sister I could not write at all: but my love ~~and~~ for you and her makes me do it. I miss you at the fire-side and at the table, which is drawn up as small as possible.

Father says he intends to spend one half of his time at Bedford. He sent down furniture to furnish a room for himself there: he wants mother to go down with him and spend a week at a time.

I would have to board in Town
if I went to Mr. Jarvis this win-
ter. Mother thinks of letting me
study at home and say my les-
sons to father in the morning
before he goes to Town and
in the evening after he comes
back for this winter. I
suppose I will not start
before spring. I hope ~~on~~ you
get on well studying. Mother
is afraid you will catch cold
wearing your cap as you are
apt to wear it in the house.
It is very comfortable ⁱⁿ the house
but you are so apt to wear it
in it; that is the reason.

Do you get plenty of sugar to eat
with your mush; have you
plenty of apples to eat; do they
give you sponge cake and
cream.

Miss Trimble left this morn-
-ing. Mother Lily and cousin
Maria all join in love to you.
Mary and all of the servants
join in love to you.

Remain your
affectionate sister
Ellen D.

Boston Nov 30. 1854.

Dear Sir,

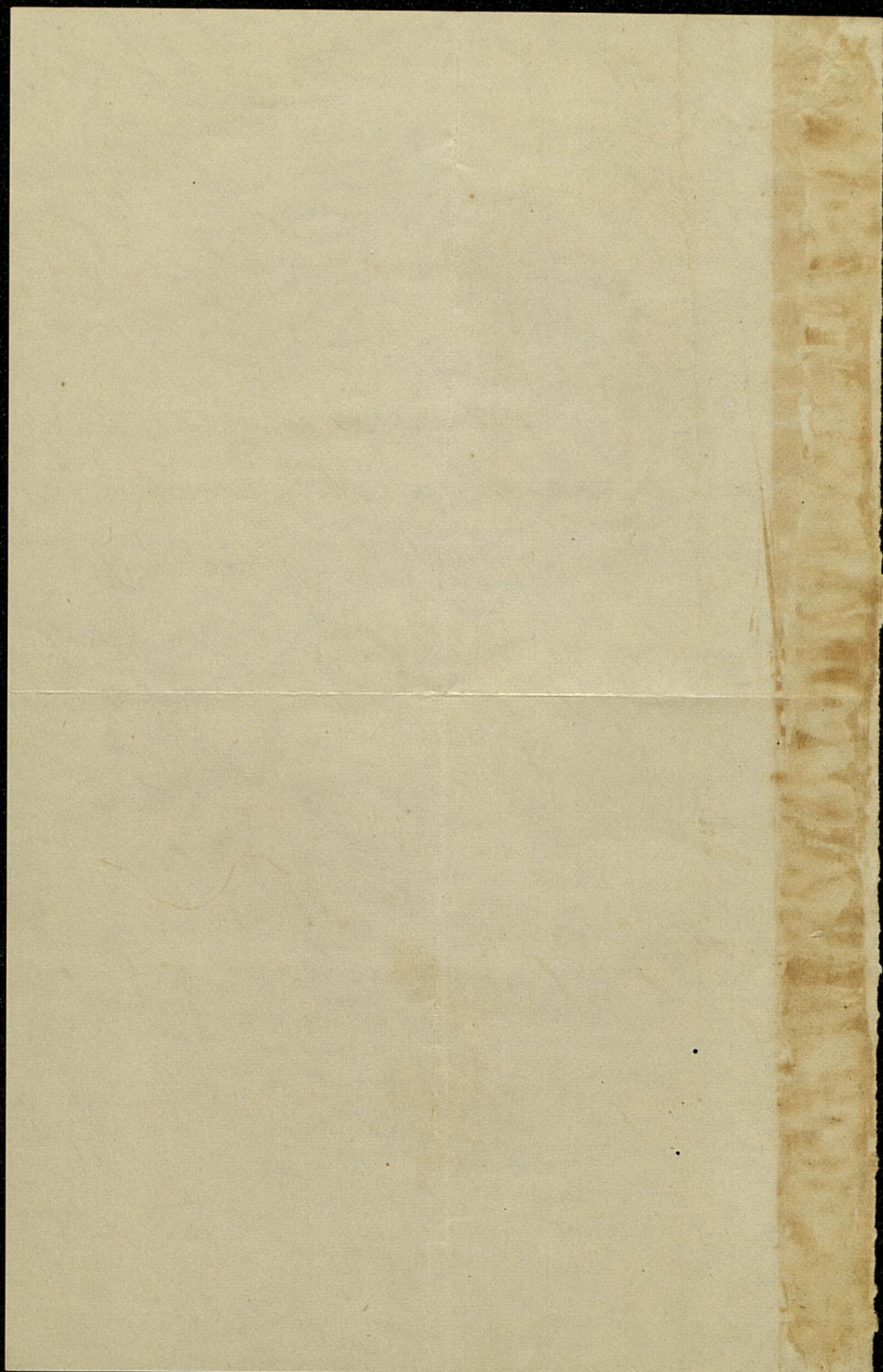
Mrs Stoddard desires
me to ask you the pleasure of
your company to dinner on
Saturday next at 5 P.M. in a
family way and without other
company.

Very Resp^y Yours

Charles Stoddard

St Henry Duncan

59 Hancock St





Lexington Dec 3^d 1854

My Dear Son,

Enclosed I send you a check upon the Bank of America New York for One Hundred & Twenty five Dollars - which is made payable to your Order, which you will endorse on the back as follows: "Pay to A B, on order" A B represents the name of the person ^{H. T. Dwyer} to whom you pass the check - If sold to a bank adopt the name of the Cashier - As - Pay to the Order of A B Cashier - H. T. Dwyer

I have spent most of the past week at Bedford & shall go down on to-morrow again & spend in the two days of the week - I shall be compelled to spend one half of my time there until I have a new & thorough reorganization - and get rid of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hands - While there last week Lewis came over & spent an entire day urging me to buy his property - on both sides of the road - I said to him if Illinois property or Louisiana property would suit him & prices could be agreed - that I might take all his property - I do not know what will become of proposition - But should not be surprised that we have a Trade

I am as yet without a line from you & have been very anxious to know how you

you are getting along with Mr Chase, How
the Greek comes to you - I will you be able
to enter the Freshman class in March - &
thereby stop this private tax of 50¢ per month
that you enter regularly the earliest moment
you can, is most desirable - you have time
enough - And this course will be most thor-
ough - Have you called upon Mr & Mrs Sparks
since I left - you should do so occasionally, did
you spend your Thanksgiving day with Mr Silsbee
Had you a pleasant day of it - Give me a letter
full of all particulars concerning you - which
I am most anxious to hear - This I think makes
my 4 letter to ^{you} since I parted with you - without
having recd from you a line - since my
return your Mother has recd a letter
both from your Sister & yourself - which
gave us all much pleasure - By the By - If
you have time (not without) I think you
had better make your Sister a visit of
a day or two during the Christmas holla-
= days & encourage her to diligence in her
Studies & excite her pride & ambition to dis-
tinguish herself.

In coming out of Church today, Mother
McKee & her Aunt Mary - waited at their
pew door to see me & had particular
enquiries to make about your Sister. Ptes-
field & Miss Reed - all of which I answered

I suppose to their satisfaction - As it was not
so modest perhaps to make special enqui-
-ry about a young gentleman - My Mother
forebore to make special enquiry about
you - as we came out - your Mother being
back - so I had quite a "to do to",

In your letters I observe - They are written
in too much of a hurry - letters omitted and some
bad spelling - a little more care with your
hand writing - you will soon write a good hand
If you take a little pains

I shall generally write you or your
sister every Sunday evening - when at home
A failure to hear from you every week
makes the family anxious & uneasy - so that
you must never fail certainly to write
every week to some of the family

I have been in Lexington but little
since my return - nothing has occurred of
any interest

I shall close this letter by offer-
-ing you the warm and devoted affection
your Mother Sisters & Father - with a
renewed expression of my deep and anx-
-ious solicitude for your early association
with your Class & of your high standing
for scholarship & all that is worthy and
honorable

Yr devoted Father
A. T. Duneen

you and your
family
I wish
to see
you

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]



Pittsfield Dec 5th 1854

Dear Brother

I received both your letters & was delighted to get them. I am busy all the time, & we are not allowed to write, except on Saturdays without permission. I have not asked Mr Agnew yet, ^{to let me write to you} I will finish my letter & then ask him. I know he will let me send it. I have had several letters from home, one from Mother and Father last week, all were well. I received one from Ell week before last, and others besides. Mary Lafon always wants to read your letters. I love her very much. she has been in her room for two days in bed most of the, with headache. It is very cold here now it snowed all Sunday & Sunday

night, the wind blew very hard,
and drifted very deep drifts, some places
4 or 5 feet deep, it is very cold here, you
must take care of yourself Dear Brother
and you must not expose yourself
and take cold, I am so glad you are
coming here Christmas, there is to
be a fancy ^{or party} Ball here at the Institute,
all the scholars have to dress in fancy
dress and go in the parlor. Thanks-
-giving was a great day here. I will
begin and tell you all we did, In
the morning we went to church,
we had dinner at a quarter before 3
and did not leave the table till
after 4, we had a very nice dinner
the table looked beautifully, we had
Turkey & selery besides vegetables
& Mince pies & Cranberrie Tarts
for desert, At six we went into the

Chappel where we had Thrones & Tabloes, I have been raised in position since I came here, I have been made maid of honor. Mary Lafon was Mary queen of Scots & she had six maids of honor (& I was among that number) True Galespie was queen Elizabeth Mary Agnew & Mary Reed were among her maids of honor.

Christmas we are to dress in the same costumes, I am so glad you are coming you will enjoy yourself so much.

Mary Lafon received a letter from her Brother John the other day, & he said he was coming Christmas. I received a letter from Emma McCaw since I have been here, she is very sorry I ^{could not} cannot come there, there is a vacancy now.

We are kept very busy here

we are doing something all the time.
The Monitress has been around to ~~see~~^{know}
if we are going to tea, and after tea we
go directly the Chappel & have prayer
& then study an hour. We have
organized a benevolent society, it meets
every other Friday. Sabbath night
we had the monthly concert of prayer
^{with the chapel} & took up collection for the missionaries.

I have written in such a hurry
I am afraid you cannot read my
letter very well. I will write again
on Saturday. The Tea bell is
ringing & I must stop. Good night
Dear Brother.

Your affectionate Sister

Mary
P.S. You must have your Daguerrotype
taken & bring it to me

Dec 5, 1854

Wednesday Morning

After I finished ~~my~~ letter last night
I received yours, and was so glad.

I think it will be very well
for Mother to go to Town. she will
not be so lonesome. Miss Maria
is going to Vincennes to spend
Christmas or the winter; ^{that is what} she says.

Bertrude Cress has a room
next ours. I like her very much.
I told her ~~you~~ saw her Brother
every day. she expected to get a letter
last night. ~~I~~ ^{but did} not get one.

I have not had a sleigh ride yet
~~now~~ I do not go any place, except to
church. We can go down town
^(if we want any thing)
on Saturdays, with one of the Teachers.

Mary Reed asked me what
^{word} you sent to her. Clara sends her

Love to you & all the family
requested me to remember them to
you when I wrote; Mrs Agnew
went to Newark New Jersey
last week, to be absent until
Christmas. I would like to
have heard Oke Bill & Leetitia
Clay Lucia Swift and the others.
I do not think we could have
missed much by not hearing the
two last.

But I will
have to close this uninteresting
scrawl. I hope you will be able
to make it out. I will write
to you again on Saturday. you
must not wait for me to answer
every letter. as Mr Agnew will
not let us write unless it is
very important as he says. The
Bell will ring for school directly.
Good bye your affectionate Sister Mary

Duncannon Dec 5th 1854

My very dear Son

You will accept my most hearty thanks for your affect & ^{thrice} welcome letters, you have been very considerate, ^{& the kind} remembrance of me in all your travel, the mingled feelings, of anxiety & distress in the trying separations, you were enduring, made your many tokens of remembrance doubly dear, I intended writing last week but your Father & sisters were all writing to you, I thought it better to wait awhile, that you should not have a feast & then a famine, and was surprised on the receipt of your Father's letter this morning that you had ^{not} heard from us the mails seem much more tardy than usual I have only two letters from your sister, does she write to you? dear child I hope she will feel the importance of pursuing with diligence a course of thorough education, write to her, & encourage her to perseverance, it will be a difficult task at first, but I hope she will rise above all & come off victor, It is quite unnecessary to urge you on in the indefatigable acquisition of knowledge, your deficiencies ^{in education}, you are fully aware of, & will press forward with that urgent perseverance that will enable you to rival all your fellows, & graduate with the highest honors, provided your health & life is spared, The promptness with which you entered the Bible class, was exceedingly pleasing & gratifying to me, I hope that the moral and religious ^{impressions} which have been made upon your mind may never be obliterated, & your

reverance for the Truth, which has ever placed you above equivocation, will not only remain but be strengthened. A study of the Scriptures in a spirit of real enquiry after a direction how to act, will certainly teach the way. I hope you will be led to feel the vanity of merely worldly pursuits & motives, & be permitted to know the mercies of a blessed Redeemer,

My dear Son you have entered upon the pleasures & trials of college life. You are obliged to rely upon yourself,

I am glad you have made the acquaintance of so many respectable, & intelligent persons, to whom you can resort in time of leisure, did you pass Thanks-giving day at Salem? a New England one is very different from ours, Your sister expects you to pass Christmas with her I hope you will if at all practicable, do not lead her to expect you & then disappoint, I hope you will be able to bear the cold of that northern region without any diminution of health.

Your Father wrote you & sent a check yesterday (Monday) & then went to Paris, from there he goes to Bedford, he said he would return on Friday or Saturday, he was exceedingly anxious to hear from you when he left home, seemed quite impatient, that no letter had come, it may hasten him home to hear from you, & the cold together, for it is very wintry, Dr Jenkins comes out every evening your Father is absent, You must

look to the Dr for Lex- news, as I do not
hear any, I try to keep the papers for you
& send them to Dr J to mail them,
write me all about your room, & furniture
your sister says she has a room about as
large as the store room, a little bed, a table
a washstand & bureau, she & Miss Lafon
room together, she loves her very much,
I hope they will harmonize together.
Your Father is so pleased with ^{the} school &
its arrangements, Mr & Mrs Agnew that
he talks of sending Ellen, there, it is high
time she was somewhere, her habits are
so idle it is almost impossible to get a
lesson from her, & a little writing
during the day, Lily also is old
enough to go to school, she is anxious
to write, that she may write to her
dear Brother & sister, she is just come
in & says she has written two letters
to you, & asks if that will do for her
she sends you more love than tongue
can tell, Ellen, Miss Maria both
desire much love to you, Miss
Maria intends eating her Christmas
dinner with Mrs Maddox, Aunt,
& Family, If the weather should
grow colder she will have a very
disagreeable time of it in traveling
Mrs Hankins sale is on the 7th she goes into the
mercantile business with John Hankins, Your
Father will rent the house she has occupied
to a tenant, he has not succeeded in getting an
Overseer, Mr Frakes is unwilling to undertake

it again, although it is so much care to your Father
he is thinking of buying out Mr. Louis, it will be
quite a territory, the more a man has the more he
wants is never satisfied, I wish he could be
made contented, & be led to seek a treasure that
will never fade, an inheritance that is incor-
=uptible, do not fail to write to your Father, he
said the other day he would not write to you
& Mary again, for neither of you had
written him a line, if you have only time to
say how you are, & to see your writing, let us
hear as often as possible, you are continually
my dear child in my thoughts, & desire to
write to you much oftener than I do, be
assured you are not forgotten, your place cannot
be filled, I hope you will receive this in good
time, and reassure you of the never dying love
& solicitude of your ever affectionate Mother
E. Duncan

The servants all miss you &
desire to be respectfully remembered to you
John made a beautiful bouquet for your
Father to take to Paris on Monday, to Mrs
Thornton, who is passionately fond of flowers
& is also an invalid during the winter
entirely confined to her room,
There have been a most beautiful bloom
of roses, how I wish you could have
some, I forgot to say to you, (the association
of flowers brings it to mind,) do cultivate a
taste for music, both vocal & instrumental
there is something so elevating & refining in
music, I have nearly filled my paper, good
bye my dear son, God bless you in time & eternity
is the ardent prayer, of your Mother



Longton Dec^r 11th 74

Dear Henry

I have just taken
your letter of the 2⁹th ult. from the
office and given it a careful perusal
The decided promptness you manifest-
ed in replying to my last demands
corresponding promptness on my part
You will always find me prompt in writ-
ing to you as long as I find an exhi-
bition by you of such evidence of inter-
est in my effusions

I am surprised to learn that three
weeks passed over without your receiving
any letters from home as your mother
and sisters have written several times
and your father once or twice. There
must be some irregularity in the mail
the time occupied in transmitting let-
ters from Boston here is now twice
as long as it was a few weeks ago
Obstruction of the railroad tracks by
snow may be the cause of the detention
Your letter^{of the 29th} like post-marked the 29th
was received yesterday. He could read
it very well and was delighted with it.

In commenting upon ^{my} last letter I
think you will find by reference to it
that you committed one or two im-
important errors. I do not think I stated
that engagements of a non professional
character occupied most of my time
The facts merely related are that I
took your letter from the office just
as I was on the eve of starting to
Franklin Co to see "Cousin Mary"
and accompany her to Lexington -
which occupied a day or two; as soon
as I got comfortably seated at home
on my return I replied. She remain-
ed in Lexington about a week and left
10 days ago for the sunny south - leaving
me of course very disconsolate, as she
was expected to visit me again and as I
have no idea of going South. This is
entirely the quod erat demonstrandum
of the engagements. That is to say I
made no positive demonstrations at all.
You are certainly facetious in demon-
strating my allusions to your college course
as a very elaborate article
The picture you have given of "Dear
Gus" if correctly drawn demonstrates
that you will preserve a trifling loss

in not making his acquaintance under
the auspices of the introduction
of your grandfather friend. Without
any advice of mine you will of course
steer as clear as possible of all fel-
lows such as he is represented to
you to be. I do not think that your
Pastor incline you at all that may and
before they can be a very considerable re-
volution will have to be effected in
your nature

As you seem to think that so far
from an allusion occasionally to
one or more of your good fair friends
in Lexington interfering with your
upward and onward course its
tendency will be to promote the as-
cent & afford the stimulus of ambition
I suppose, I will indulge you semi-
occasionally. you of course assuming
all the responsibility of mischief should
ensue. The danger in this quarter
I presume is very trifling if report
speaks true. It is currently believed
that your friend Horace Brund
and she will very shortly make a
match. She very stoutly denies the
truth of the report. I was in her coun-

giving a short time since; when I observed
on the ring finger of her left hand
a massive plain gold ring. I afterwards
mentioned the fact to a very intimate
friend of hers as in my opinion con-
firmatory of the report. She said
she knew the history of that ring
and that it had no connection
with her engagement to Horace.

Do you know any thing about it?
Some young ladies and young
gentlemen have organized a couple
of associations, one entitled the Des-
peration and the other the Indepen-
dent Club, which have for their ob-
ject social enjoyment. The means
of attaining it are meeting, each,
weekly at the houses of the young ladies
successively: eating, drinking, dancing
and talking. White kid gloves and
low-necked dresses are excluded very
properly. I am not desperate, neither
am I independent, but neutral and
dependent upon both for favors in
a social way. The first party was given
on Monday evening last by Miss Barrett
Grand of the "desperate club"; the second
will be given to night by Miss Bell
of the "independents".

I have received invitations to both.

Dec 7, '54

I could not attend the first & I shall be precluded attending the one tonight. Your father has been at the farm during the week I am going out home nightly to keep the folks company in his absence. He is not expected to return before Saturday (day after tomorrow). He spends a great deal of time at Bedford giving the farm a good deal personal attention - he has ^{not} obtained a substitute for Mr. Rankins yet. Your letter to him came several days ago, and was sent down to him yesterday. The weather for several days past has been very cold. The ice is two inches thick. Mr. Phoebe is putting it up to day. We have had no snow. The ~~xxx~~ folks at the north I see from the papers have been superabundantly blessed in that particular. I guess you have stringing cold weather about Boston. Mary has written twice to her mother. The tone of her letters exhibit satisfaction with her school, though she expresses a desire to see them all Christmas. I reckon they will hardly go on so soon.

All at home are very well. I can
think of no further news to give
you. Excuse my gross and un-
interesting letter. I am suffering from
a bad head-ache and I cannot there-
fore make up in other respects for
the deficiency of news.

Write soon and believe me to
be very sincerely your affection-
ate cousin & friend

H. J. Jenkins

To H. J. Dimeen Jr
Cambridge Mass

Dear Sir,

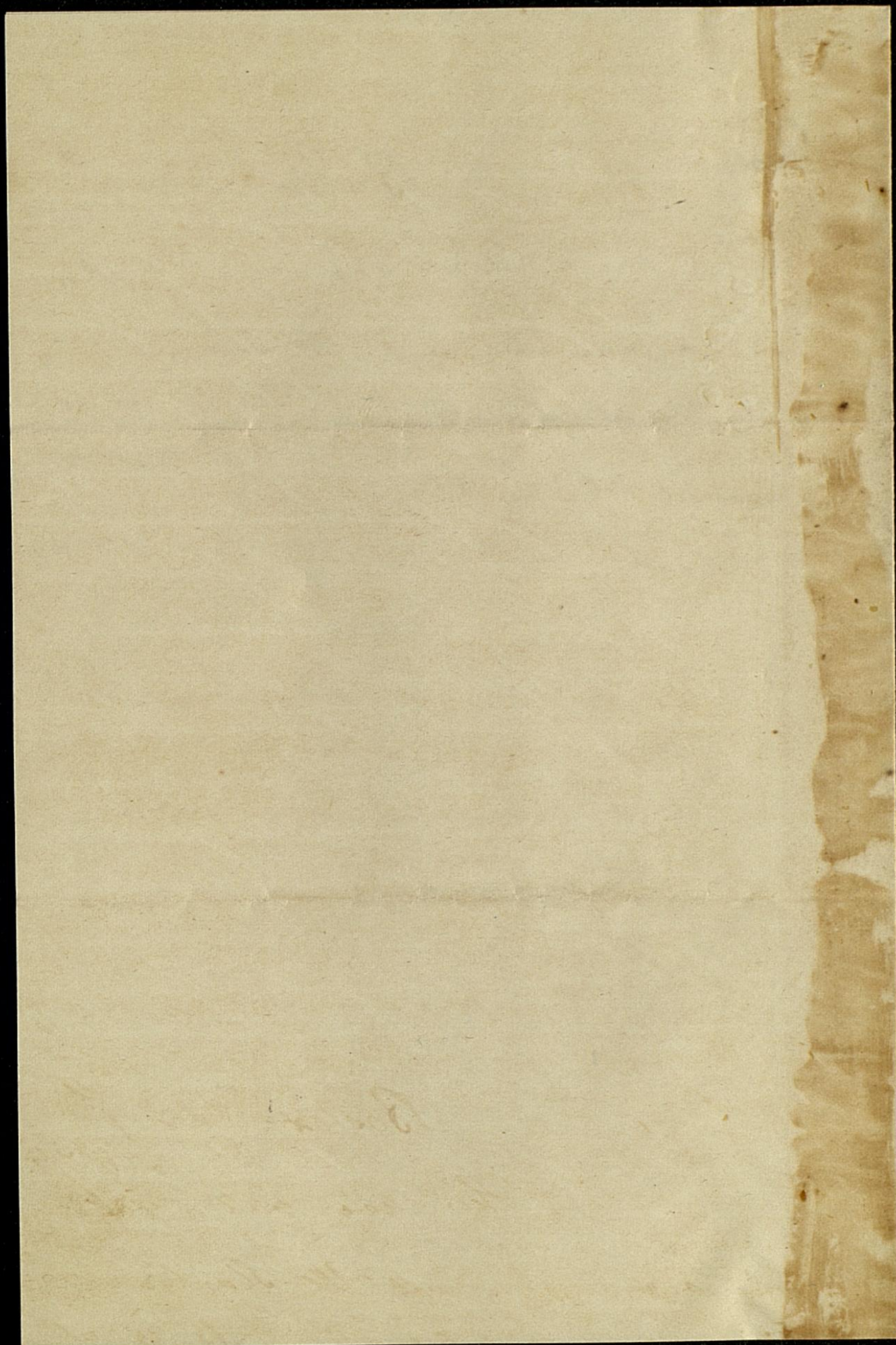
Boston Dec 9th
1856.

This note will make
you acquainted with Mr Stanton
Blake of this City — Mr B is at
Harvard & I am sure that this
introduction will be mutually agreeable.

Yours, Sincerely

Benj Leaven.

Mr H. T. Duncan
Cambridge





Lexington Dec 9th 1854

My Dear Son

I received while at Bedford this week
your affectionate letter of the 26th of Nov - and
upon my return home last evening your letter to
your Mother & Lily - All of which gave us great
pleasure - I infer from the confident manner
you speak of entering the Freshman Class in
March - that you are satisfied with your progress
under Mr Chase - And that you feel a confi-
dence which you have not expressed - Chase
must give you encouragement & be pleased
with your progress & diligence of all this
winter - Are you satisfied with your own pro-
gress? Does Mr Chase seem satisfied with it? How
much of your time do you devote to study?
Write me & give all these little particulars
do not permit your diffidence to restrain
you from speaking freely to your Father - who
of all persons should have your unbounded con-
fidence - Now caution is well enough - But do
not permit yourself to doubt or distrust Chase
I see no adequate motive in him to play a
disingenuous part - altho he gets a good salary
yet he cannot play such a part as some of
the Boys think him capable of - And be very
cautious on your part in hearing such
suggestions

at any rate do not give them credence in
your intercourse - act the open & manly part
you will find among Boys there are always ready
to make ungenerous suggestions & insinuations
which you should never heed - And by all means
say nothing in reply - that ^{would} ~~seem~~ in the least
to give it sanction or credit - Learn in the
beginning of life to keep your own secrets
you will find before you are much older
that few, very few are to be trusted - That
Banker Caution or reserve or apparent
coldness - is safer than the impetuous and
indiscreet temperament of the South - But all
this you will learn in due season I trust.

In regard to the suggestions of your
letter about entering the Freshman class in
March - though I would prefer it - yet
I would not have you squeeze in, or cut
through as it is called - If you find that
you can do it with ease & credit do it - not
without - And even if you were to do it - I
doubt not that you might with great ad-
vantage take still private lessons of
Mr Chase 2 or 3 times a week - In such
branches as you might feel the slightest
deficiency - Altho economy is a proper vir-
tue to cultivate - I would not carry it too
far, and continuing our arrangements with
Mr Chase until July - It is your own

judgement better for you, do so - For I would
prefer your entry in your Class with Char-
acter and ease - to have you "squeezing in",
It better to wait until July - do so - If you can
enter easy in March do so - and continue
with Chase a private arrangement say
some 5 or 6 hours a week & keeping with your
Class do so - This to perfect you in such stu-
dies as you may feel deficient in - But
not to employ enough of your time to
interfere with your College duties - But
if unnecessary & you can get on with credit
& respectability without them omit it, But
if you are satisfied that you enter the junior
Class - with credit & ease ^{not without} in July - do so
Altho my own judgement is against it.

Because I think another year would make
you a much better scholar - That is the
Sophomore in July or Freshman in March

I do not wish you to be satisfied with
merely graduating & going through at a hop
skip & a jump, But feel the ambition to
make yourself a finished scholar - and
when you do graduate do so with Character
& position in your Class & the Community
in which you reside - Therefore take the
necessary time - to accomplish this and
not hurry yourself - do not aim to accom-
- plish

more than you can do well & Thoroughly
so take your time - Always having in view
success, complete success in whatever you
undertake - Never consent to be a mere
smatterer - But aim to make yourself a
thorough scholar - Treat me fully, even
an 8 or 12 page letter if you choose - for
it will always be read & reread with in-
finite satisfaction & pleasure - Feel no fear
of boring me with long letters - And write
me particularly every thing concerning
you I have already asked you many ques-
tions not answered - every thing concern-
ing your studies & success - what you see
of society - who you find clever & who not
How often you go to Boston - rather an
unprofitable & unpromising trip & taken
too often - I wrote you some days ago
enclosing you a check for \$125 - did it come
hand - Your sister has been neglected
But one letter recd from her since
I got home - Tell her about it and say
that I complained to you about it
If you have time not without go and
see her Christmas & spend a day or two
with her, and give such advice as you

Dec. 9, '54

Think she may need - try and excite her
ambition & try and find out if she has
made any impression for talent & capacity
& how she is getting along in every way -
How do you like the young men at your board-
ing house? what sort of a set are they?
Moral or Wild? How are those near whom
you come - My allusion to Schinner was
rather suggestive - I rather apprehended
he was a fast boy - But with all may be
very clever & a gentleman - treat him kindly
and politely when thrown with him - and
I would occasionally return his calls, but
avoid associating with ^{him} in his parties and
frolics - If he indulges - how in your
letter to your Mother you speak of Har-
vard & Cambridge as having much pre-
tention ~~with~~ without the reality - This to some
extent is true & the same you will find
true every where & through life - Yet
my Son - with all this they have men of
learning & thorough scholars - and any
young man - who desires it & sincerely
wishes to improve himself - may attain
as high a position for learning & scholar-
ship at Cambridge as in any part of
the world - and the fault is his own
if

If he fails to improve it - So I exhort you to laborious & diligent application to your studies as the means to improve your opportunities

I have spent 4 days & nights at Bedford this week - I think I shall be able to get along with young Taylor after a little he is honest & industrious - The very qualities I want - I shall keep him and employ no other & when we reduce the land will get along without trouble

The last evening I spent there - I closed with Lewis the purchase of The Clarkson farm supposed to be 325 acres - at 75¢ per acre payable in 150 Shares of Bank Stock at 108¢ per share deliverable on 1st Jan, which gives me the dividend on the 1st Jan of 5 per cent making my stock produce me 113¢ and the remaining payment of 8040¢ without interest to be paid the 1st of July 1857 not quite 3 years hence - full possession 1st of March - a trade I am satisfied with this brings Bedford up to near 2500 acres

The family to wit & Black one all well
Your Mother & Sisters Dr & best wishes
Send you much love

Your Affectionate Father
H. J. Duncan

Lex - Ky Dec 11th / 54

Dear Henry

I recd yours of 30^{inst} yesterday,
to which I gave a most hearty welcome;
And I was, truly, made glad by the knowledge
of the "lordly cheer", which marked your debut.
You judged rightly when you thought that
I would like to peruse an account (rather,
description of classic Cambridge, penned by
you; but, I wish most earnestly, that the
brevity of the next, will not be, such as
the shortness of the one, with which you
have already favored me. I did as you
requested me in your last. — Horace Brand
has left Lexington, and it was impossible
for me to oblige ^{you}; then, that of course must
be excepted, when I inform you, that I
did that which you requested. —

The time for jollity is nigh, — sweet-meats —
fire-crackers, and Green Erin's excellence will
be above par, to the detriment of sobriety and
sense — Ouis Wright has made the drunkards

furious; already intoxication, by its premature appearance, has, and still, reminds me of the "Howling Devershees," spoken of by Ross Brownⁱⁿ is his work; nightly most horrible curses, and drunkards' boasts fill the mind ^{with} gloomy and disagreeable thoughts of the theatre in which it has to act. —

Yesterday I had the most yearned for pleasure of seeing Miss Mary Higgins, & Miss L. Warfield. They looked as beautiful, and were as interesting as ever. — Willie Breckinridge will graduate in April; he is going to make a speech on the 22nd of Feb. —

It is snowing, large and thin flakes of which for snow are falling; to see it, makes one glad. — I dislike cold ~~drudg~~ gloomily, ^{weather} such as that of which we may say, it

"doth chill the flesh, and cause the mind
To sicken;" —

The Young ladies of the junior class have formed a club; and call it the "Ante-matrimonial Club"; they have only twenty members — ten ladies, and ten green gentlemen. —

It is reported that the young ladies on
the 'Hill' have formed a secret club, called
the 'Desperation Club'. —

The Miss L. Wright that I have spoken of,
is an able and eloquent Temperance advocate;
she has spoken here four times, and every
time the house was crowded to excess. —

The Ben Johnson, ~~that~~ ^{it} ~~is~~ thought will marry
Horace's sister, is here; I saw him on the
steps of Mrs. Brand's house, as I passed. —

Write soon, Henry. —

Your Friend

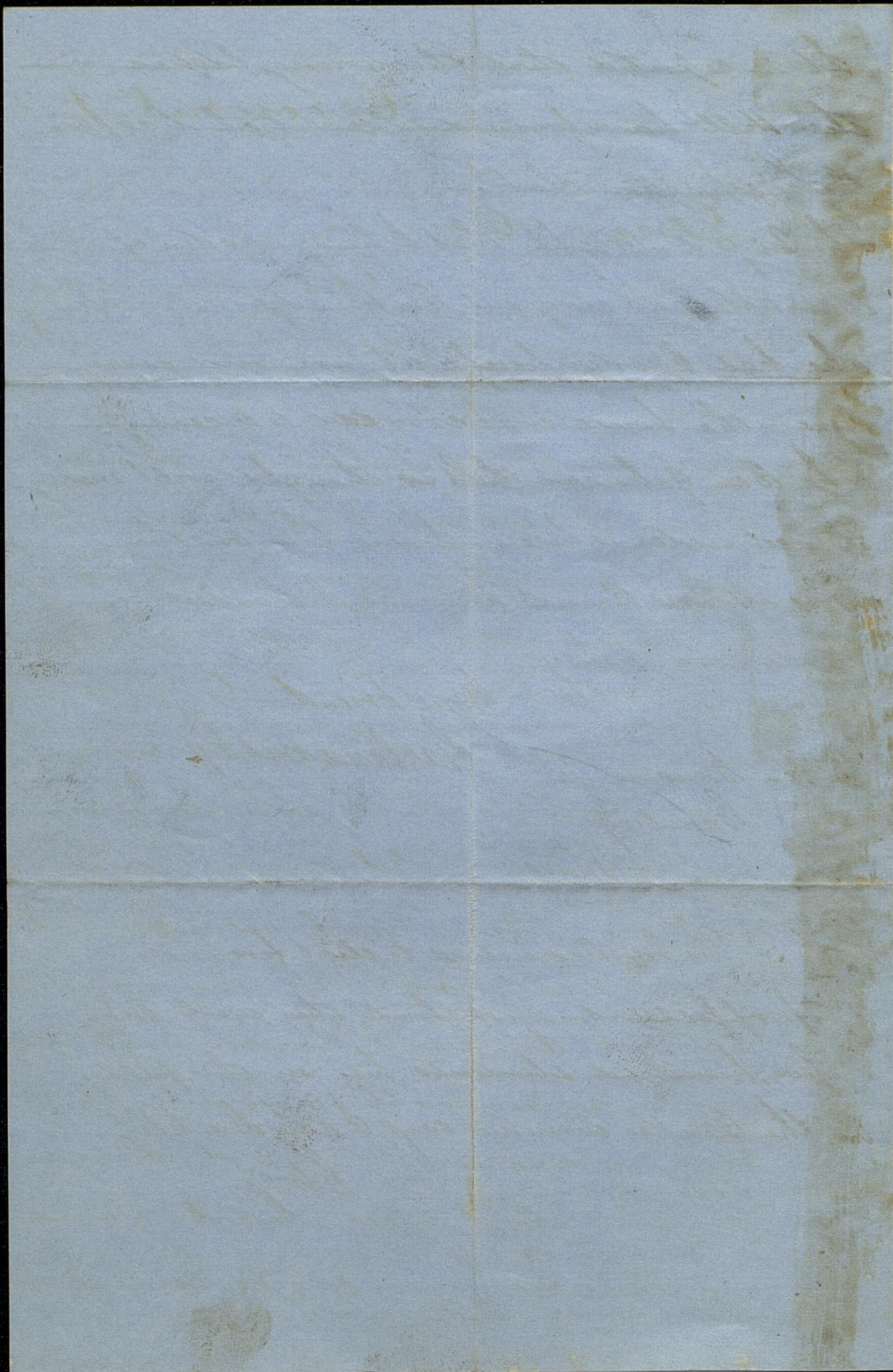
J. H. Duncan jr

Cambridge

Mass.

Harland Webb jr

P. S. The trustees intend to elect five more
professors; — and think they will bring
five hundred students here, in the fall.
As the Yankee woman says, I say 'Du tell'. —
Chr. jr



Boston Dec 18 1854

Dear Sir,

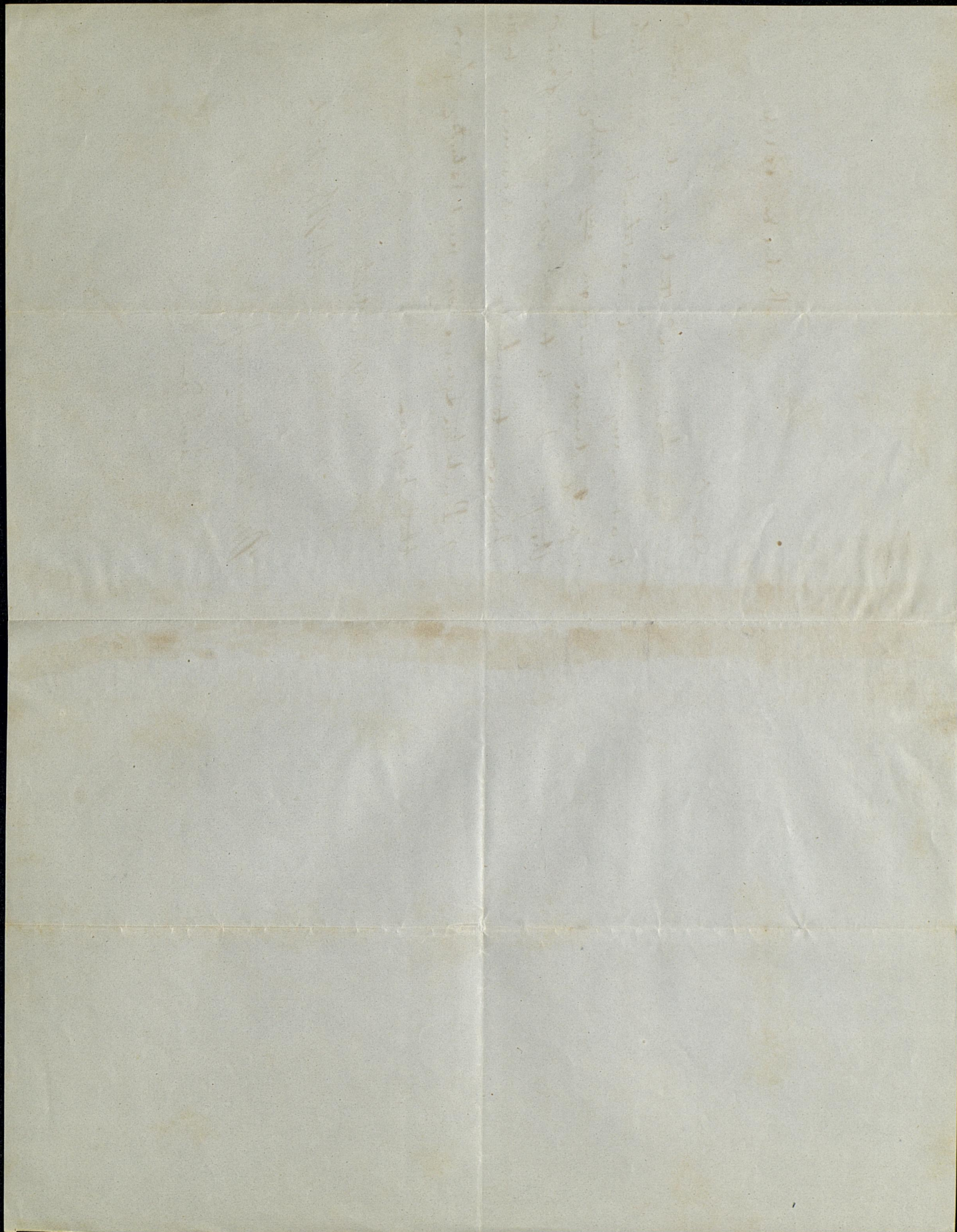
I am afraid that you do not intend
to act on my general invitation to come & take
a family dinner with me any Saturday, and
therefore, I write to ask you & your friend
Anderson to make your appearance at No
9 Pemberton Square on next Saturday for
that purpose -

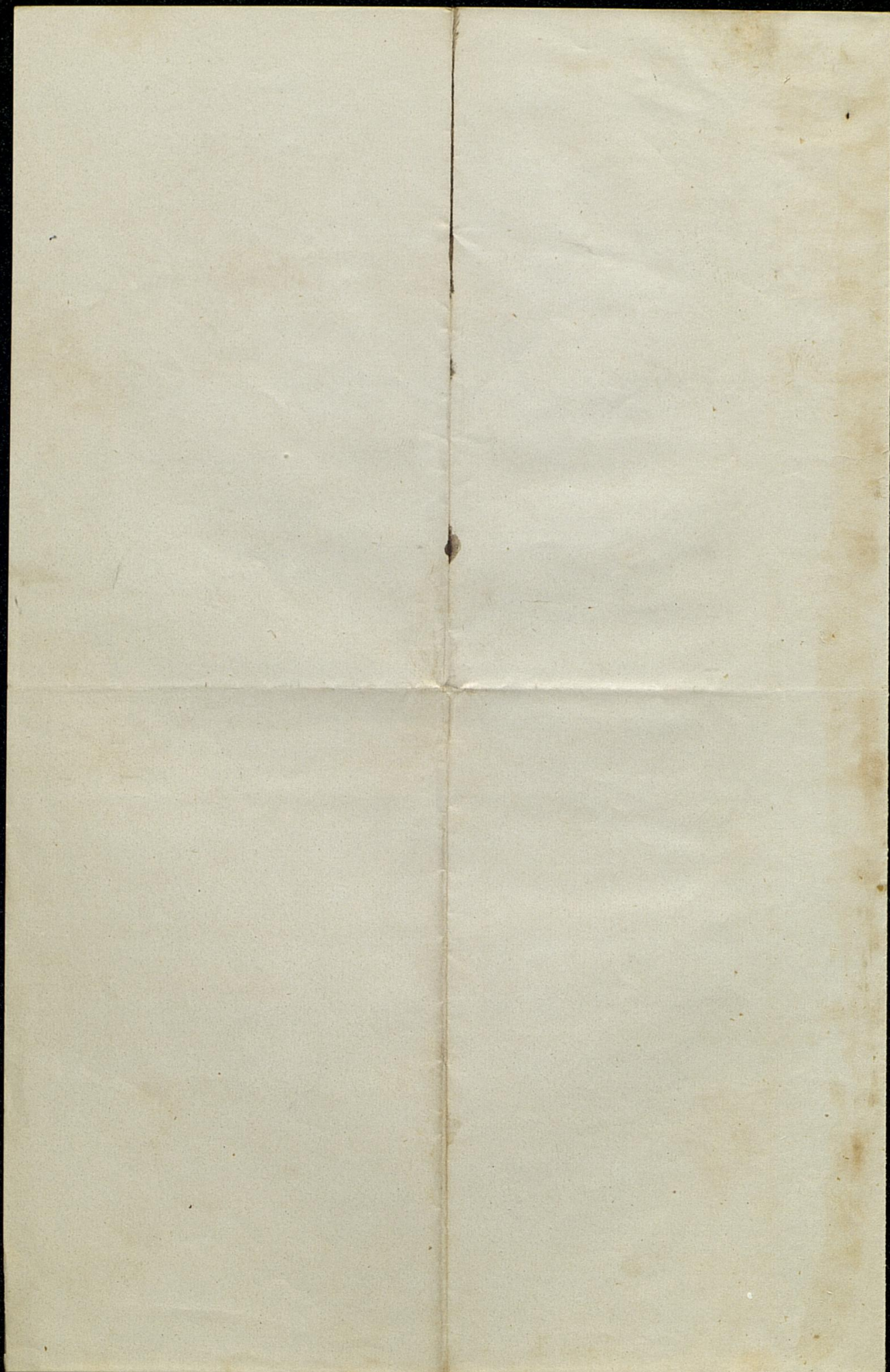
Yours truly

A. W. Wooditch

Mr H I Oursenp.

Cambridge





Tuesday 1st 1854

My Dear Brother

I received your
welcome letter last Friday and it
made us very happy to hear
from you I am very sorry to
hear that sister Mary has not
written to you yet ^{but she is quite punctual} punctual
in writing to us Father and Lily
received a letter from sister Mary
the same evening that I received
yours she said that she had
just received one from you of
twenty pages. If I were you
when she did not answer them
I would not write such
long ~~or~~ letters. I have just got
up from the dinner table we had
Turkey and relay apples and potatoes
hormoni and peas. I do not know of

early news except that cousin Maria
says the spirit has moved her and
she is a going to until February and
prospere her ~~for~~ trip until time.
Father received a letter from Mrs Ford
and she wants father to come down
and bring mother to eat christm
s dinner with her. Crake lectured
to the young men's Christian
association as this is there Anniversary.
We had a grand moving on Friday
John An and Aunt Betsey all to
move so that they were all day about
it. Mrs Morgan's sister ^{Mrs} Richardson is
dedd she died very suddenly.
Father went to Bedford today and
he is a going to stay until Friday
he goes down in the cars at ten
O'clock Bob takes the horse down to
the station and waits until the
cars come. The cars do quite good business
now. Mother is writing to sister Mary

for Lily and her self.

Father dined with Mrs McEaster
yesterday they had turkey and oyster
sauce and she requested him
he wrote to ~~give~~ remember her to you
and said No Say.
Mother Lily and cousin Maria all
join in love to you. All the survan
ts send their love to Bob says that
he crys for you every day.

good bye I remain your
affectionate sister

Ellen Duncan

I wish you a Merry Christmas
and a happy new year,

[illegible]

Pittsfield Dec. 19th 1854
Young Ladies Institute
Chapel

Dearest Brother

I commenced
a letter on Friday afternoon, but
did not get to finish it. I am in
the chapel at my desk writing to
you. It is fifteen minutes of twelve
at half past twelve school will
be out, dinner will be ready
at one; at two school will begin
& keep in until half past four.

Mary & myself with a crowd of girls
are going down town after school
to buy Christmas presents, I
intend only to buy a few for those
I love. You must Br bring a
Christmas gift to Clara:

I told her you were coming; & she
said she was so glad, she told me
to give her love to you. We will
not have a fancy party as we
expected. but will go in the
Parlor, & have a supper afterwards,
you must be here ~~Saturday~~ ^{Friday}. I
will look for you; you must not
dissappoint me: Annie Offutt
has a desk next mine. & she told
me to tell you howdy for her,
she is from Kentucky, perhaps
you remember of seeing her when
you were here. You must
have your Daguerrotype taken
& bring it to me. We have ^{had} gas
in the Chappel for three or four
days, ^{(in a few days) more} & will have it all through
the Institute, I think it is
time: they have been saying, we
would have gas. every week since
I have been here, & before too, we have

Camps now that give very little light & sometimes do not give any, for they go out. I have not had a letter from home for more than a week, I did not get one last week, & have not had one this week. I received one from Dr Penkins on Saturday afternoon, he said all at home were well. He did not tell me much news, almost the whole letter was about one subject, & just like he ^{beginning to} talks sometimes ~~about~~ & does not know when to stop.

We had the Musical review last Friday night, (we have them every six weeks) Mr Agnew calls upon any he wishes to play, & they have to do it; he did not call upon Mary or myself, which we were very glad of.

Mary Reed is sick she mocked Mr

Richard in the month yesterday
Morning with ~~the~~^{my} balls at the gymnasium
(Which we play at bowling) & ~~knocked~~
off ball broke half of one of his front
teeth off; she was very ^{sorry}; I do not know
that gave her a headache & made her
sick or not; she is much better now.

Dinner will be ready in
a few minutes & I must close my
letter. There; the Bell has just
commenced ringing. Adieu

Dear Brother

Your devoted & affectionate
Lister
M.D.

P.S. As I have not sealed up
letter; I will put in a few
words more. Mary & I did
not go down town at last, we
will go tomorrow. Oh me I want
some candy & something good
so bad.



Amherst. Dec 19th.
1854

Dear Friend,

I had intended to write
to you before now, but have neglected
it. You must excuse me.

I shall be in Springfield on
Christmas day. at twelve O'clock.
You can find me at the Massa-
sott-House, where I shall take dinner.
I had until now given up the
idea of going to Pittsfield, I was
there two weeks ago, and told
the girls that I should come
again on Christmas with a friend
but he has been prevented from
going and so I had given it
out. and I do not know certain
now whether I can go or not,
but I will see you in Springfield.
To Henry B Duncan
Cambridge Mass

Yours truly
John Lafon



[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

I wish you "a merry Christmas
& Happy New Year" Dec 19th 1854

My dear Son

I have written a long letter to Mary To day ~~To day~~, & must write to you this evening, Dr Jenkins has brought out 2 letters from you, & one from Dr Agnew, I regret that your Father did ^{not} get them before he left home this morning for Bedford, he felt some uneasiness about the check as he had not heard from you, & knowing that you needed it, the mails are very tardy, I do not know what to do about the books your Father ^{will not} return till Friday or Saturday & next week being Christmas he will be very busy, the first of January is the convention about the monument, Dr Jenk is a bad hand to attend to such matters, I gave him the papers to send you every week, & stamps, for them, I can't see how they were old, & double postage, The weeklie Observer has been ordered to be sent you rd so you must report if delinquent & we will

see to it, — Dr Agnew suggests in his letter
that your Sister & Miss Lafon have a change
in room mates, that Mrs Lafon desires a
northern girl to associate with her daughter
to teach her neatness order, industry, etc,
Mary Lafon's being sick so much is a dis-
-advantage to your sister, it will as a mat-
-ter of course disturb her rest, & could not
assist her in any way, I wish you would
have a talk with your sister on the
subject, & let us know her mind in
the case, it is one I could not well write
to her about, tell her the traits of character
to look for in a room mate, one that is
perfectly healthy, neat, orderly, industrious,
intelligent, good deportment, & disposition,
tell her to look around think of the
change, as it is anticipated, (inter nos)
I hope you will have a pleasant visit to
Mary, it is very pleasing that she seems
to be so happy & contented & hope she may

continue so, she desired your Father to send
her a cheese a cooked Ham some corn
cakes but he thinks it will cost too much
to carry them & told her to write to you
to get a nice Pine apple cheese & take
her when you go to see her, Mary is for
making Christmas presents, you must talk
about the matter & advise her, her acquai-
-intance is so recent & new, that I think
there is very little ^{reasons} for her doing so, how
ever you will see & hear her reasons &
advise accordingly, Your Father is making
great ado about the tightness of the money
matters, you ask about our going to Lex-
-ington I do not think we will ever live there
unless he sells this place, would you
advise such a course? How do you think
Mary would like it? ask her when
you see her, Ell & Lily are still at home
doing very little at their books, I scarcely
know what to do with them, & their

Father is away so much that he does not think about it, just as he used to do about you & the Old Dr, I do not think any one will Yankee you more than he, I have not heard any thing of the old fellow since he left us, where he is or how he is, he said he was going to his son Alexander's & stay until his leg was well, did you give him your Greek Testament? he took it away with him. Mrs Gratz desired to be remembered to you, I have not seen Miss Well since your letter, about the day you dined with her friend Miss Stoddard, you seemed fatigued at the long sitting at table, & said something about those that were able to get up I presume you were one that was able to do so, & assist any that might need it, is totipotism practised with any of your associates? Be temperate in all things, is a wholesome admonition, we are drawing to the close of another year, as is my letter good night my dear son, may holy angels guard thee ever, Your devoted & affectionate Mother

Polar regions Dec. 21st 1857

Dear Brother

I received a letter from Father yesterday afternoon. Oh; I was so glad. all were well. What do you think of Father & Mother moving to town; & building a summer residence at Bedford? I do not think Lexington would be as nice a place to stay in winter, as Louisville; & I do not think Mother would like it so well. What do you think about it? I think Mother had better come North & board. Father said he would send me a ham & a cheese, as soon as he had an opportunity, & in the meantime ^{to get one there &} if I could not, to get you to bring me a pineapple cheese,

from Boston; as there is no chance of my getting one here; I suppose you will have to bring me one; which I will be very much obliged to you for.

I also want you to get me a handsome gold Stud, that will cost about three dollars, & have these initials engraved on it. M. W. L.

will you get one about so large,

(M. W. L.) or ^{this size} (M. W. L.)

& will you get me a handsome Album, for one of the girls. I cannot get anything nice here. I went down town last evening, but did not see more than one or two things worth having. I forgot to tell you of one thing, if you have your Goldsmith with you & are not using it, will you bring it to me. & let me have it a while. I want to learn some of his poetry to rehearse; we rehearse every Friday. if you have not got it

with you, will you buy me a common
~~leather~~ bound one. No one here
has ~~any~~ copy. I expect you think
I have given you commissions enough;
I do not know what to give —

Mary Reed, I do not know wheather
I will give her any thing or not, but
I love her & if you see any thing that
you think ^{for me to give her} will do, if ^{you} have a mind
to you can get it; I will pay you when
you come to see me.

It has been
very cold here for several days. Yesterday
was the coldest day I ever felt. the
Thermometer was between 16 & 18
degrees below zero. it is not so cold
to day. it has been snowing this
morning. Mary & I are expecting to
have some nice sleigh rides.

I have talked with my
pen long enough. I will wait un-
till I see you, & then I will talk
with my ^{tongue} a plenty. Write a number

of the girls. Mary & myself among
the number, are going to a festival
to night, a Fair, they call them
Festivals here, it is given for
the baptist church. I believe, or
I do not understand exactly what
it is given for. I wish you were
here to go with us we would have
such a nice time. I expect we will
have a croud of teachers to watch
us. When the list of those who are going
was given to Mrs Starr (the principal lady teacher
she is our hall teacher) she said all the
teachers, or three or 4. would have
to go with such a wild set of girls.

But I expect we will have a very
nice time.

Good bye Dear Brother
Your devoted & affectionate
Sister

M.D.

Lexington Dec 21st 1854

My Dear Son

I wrote you a short note a day or two since in relation to your expenditures. This was occasioned by your informing ^{me} that I should bear \$100 1st Jan & had but \$25 - The sum I left you of 250⁰⁰ & 125⁰⁰ since ^{you} ~~received~~ ^{received} - making 375⁰⁰ and your time - from the period of my leaving up to 1st Jan less than One Month or a half - I hope you have not been guilty of the indiscretion of loaning your money - Now my Dear Son you must ^{not} infer from these enquiries that I am indisposed to furnish you with the means of getting along gently & in comfort - for from ^{it} But to guard you against extravagance and waste - I desire you to practice a proper economy - such as ^{every} individual should do - and avoid extravagant & profligate expenditures - Such expenditures as becomes a prudent gentleman. These suggestions are made with all affection to put you on your guard in time - Supposing as I do that you will be with Chas in ^{the} July this will cost \$400 - and your own personal expenses for One year, up to the time I left in Nov \$800 more - making 1200 the first year. This I esteem a liberal allowance - and to which you must endeavour to bring yourself.

I have written you regularly every week & oftener - I informed you of my purchase of Lewis & its particulars - Showing you that I was shaping my affairs to a new order of things - Instead of handling 2 or 300 Cattle a year - that I must handle from 6 to 800 - requiring much more means of carrying on my concerns - This with the land debt - which I desired to extinguish in 2 years - all of which requires close application & management on my part - together the practice of close economy in its details - & retrenchment of expenses - My negro property I shall reduce to the lowest point I can get along with - perfectly satisfied that it is the dearest labor I can use I shall both sell & hire out - If I effect a sale of my home place - I shall reduce it much by getting rid of hiring out - This crowd of loafers - Should this event occur - we shall spend our Summers at Bedford & our winters in town somewhere - perhaps not permanently until near the period of your return

On yesterday my dear Son - we sat down to a quiet family dinner - Your Mother, El & Lily & Maria - during dinner - your Sister & yourself was the principal topic of conversation - Your absence was regretted, and all look forward to a reunion - when we

shall spend most of our days together - that
you will both improve the opportunities you
have - and return to Ky - highly educated and
improved in every particular

I sent you by express (Adams) the books
you sent for - the receipt for which I enclose
you - paid as you will perceive - The box
is directed to your room at the "Episcopal way,"
is this correct - I put into the box your hunting
Coat - which you expressed to me a wish for

Miss Maria says - that your razor

Strap is packed in the top of your

Trunk - which I hope you found - How

do you & Char get along? Are you sat

isfied with your progress? Do ^{you} feel sat-

-isfied that you can join your Class in July
resolve upon it - Study late & early - diligent
application will bring you out - It would
be so mortifying to fail - I should feel it
deeply, painfully - have no time study through
the March vacation - while the Class are
taking weeks vacation - you must press
forward - miss not a day - Abandon pleasure
amusement all to accomplish - with honor
this purpose - Let it be your solemn stan-
dards before you, until you have accom-
plished it - Of course recreation enough
for health is not to be omitted - when

you have taken your position in your
Class in July - then your future course
will be comparatively easy - until that
time - do no more visiting than is abso-
lutely necessary - keep up your inter-
-course with your few acquaintances
But let it be occasional - so that they
may be glad to see - judge from their
manner - unless they seem to desire
draw off - never sacrifice your per-
sonal independence & pride of Char-
acter - your own personal dignity
never stoop - never condescend - If you
are hospitably & kindly treated - show
by your manner that you appreciate
it - visit such and such only - and then
but occasionally - never forgetting even
in your pleasures - your due duty to
join your class with credit - and then
build up a character for yourself
in Cambridge - Aim high & labor to
attain it - Do not forget to occasi-
onally call on Mr. Seimens - All yours in
love to you

Your devoted Father
H. T. Seimens

Lyngton Dec 27th 1854

My dear Henry

Your very welcome letter of the 15th inst. is before me and its contents carefully noted. Poring over that portion of your missive that relates to myself I shall confine my remarks based upon it to the portion concerning yourself. And I remark 1st that I am puzzled to determine whether in a spirit of jesting or sober seriousness you speak of a certain unnamed individual that occupies so great a space in your letter if not in your thoughts. For sometime past I have felt confident that she filled a conspicuous niche in the temple of remembrance dedicated to friendships; but the thought had never traversed my sensorium that she occupied a more exalted & sacred place in your regards than simple friendship claims till I perused the letter now before me. To deal frankly with you I must confess that I more than half believe that you are in love with her and could I dismiss from my mind all suspicion of jesting on your part, I should add the additional impression that she has been made cognizant of the fact and has not been displeased with the knowledge. Indeed your language will bear a still stronger construction but I hardly have the courage to declare what that is. Acting upon my suspicions I came very near writing fears - I will obtrude a little advice

upon ^{you} I feel assured that it will be properly received
and be attributed to the dictates of warmest friend-
ship. I therefore do not entertain any fears of giving
offence. I will first premise that ~~regard~~ the lady
in question is among the most if not the most attrac-
tive ladies in beauty and sweetness of face and ele-
gance of figure. It has ever been the fortune of my
visual orbs to rest upon: of the attributes of her
mind I cannot speak from personal knowledge
but those friends upon ^{whom} I can rely for correctness
of judgement, who have the pleasure of knowing her
intimately say of her that though not remarkable
for great sprightliness and brilliancy she possesses no
common mind and that in the moral qualities
which are the brightest and most precious pearls in
the casket of female charms she may be placed along
side the best without disparagement to them. All this I
am sure will receive your cordial endorsement. If I
could stop here I would have no warning to give. Un-
fortunately for her she has inherited physically some
of the most dreadful predispositions that can lurk
in the human body. To cancer, and insanity, the
very worst of ills that flesh is heir to, and though
she may escape them in her own person she
may transmit hereditarily the predisposition to those
to whom she may give being. Is not this a fearful
risk for any gentleman to run in the selection
of a wife? Indeed if his eyes are opened to all
the possible consequences of the case does he not

assume a fearful responsibility. You have now the
reasons of the advice and now for the advice.
If you are merely his friend exercise sufficient
control over your feelings to prevent the introduc-
tion of more tender emotions; if the latter already
exist and you are brought under no obligations
suppress and conquer them; and if the
third condition should be the state of your af-
fairs in the matter act honorably but with some
regard to your own happiness and peace of mind
in the future. As Rossetti said in a re-
cent speech upon the Eastern War "mine is the
advice yours is the choice. *urb. sap. sat.*"

I have no means of satisfying your curiosity exhibi-
ted by your inquiries. It is I presume an idle and
baseless rumor that she is to be married to Horace
Brand. I mentioned to Miss McBrine the fact
in connection with the rumor that I observed on
the ring finger of the left hand a plain and heavy
gold ring and I stated to her that I regarded
this as rather confirmatory of the report. She replied
that she knew the history of that ring and that
she could assure me positively that it had no sort
of connection with any relations towards Horace
and in addition she vouchsafed the declaration
that they were not to be married. It is said
with more appearance of probability that "Sister
dear" herself is to be married to Mr Richard At-
kinson of Louisville - son-in-law of Mr Pope, the

father of three children by his first wife. The witnesses
in the case to offset her positive declarations to the
contrary upon her word of honor are; two weeks
ago last Monday she received a Telegram from him
stating that he would be up on the coming train
and would spend the evening with her. She staid
at home and entertained him notwithstanding
she was making preparations to attend a party at the time
she received the despatch. It would be strange in
the first place if he be a mere friend that he
should notify her of his coming by telegraph and
quite as strange that she should deny herself the
pleasures of attending a party on his account. To
say the least his course shows a very favorable
state of feelings towards ^{him}. Last Saturday night he
came up again and remained in the house eating
and sleeping there till Monday morning. They were
together during most of the waking hours and on
Sunday at table, breakfast dinner and supper.
When they had finished he turned to her and
said "are you done eating; if so let's leave" This
shows a very good understanding between them. And
on Monday morning she got up at 5 o'clock to take
leave of him. These three points make out a strong
case against her. Time alone can convince me
that she is not guilty as charged in the indictment.
I have just received the sad intelligence of the death
of Miss Anna Bartlett. She died at one o'clock last
night at her sister's and will be buried tomorrow in
the cemetery here. Mr. Brown will preach her
funeral at church. It is now near night and as I have
to go out home on account of your ^{father's} absence at Bed-
ford I shall have to postpone concluding till to-morrow

Dec. 21, '54

Dec. 22nd I have just returned from Miss Bartlett's funeral. I will now conclude. In my last letter I believe that I mentioned to you that some of the ladies of the city had formed several societies or clubs for the purpose of promoting social intercourse and enjoyment during the winter. One of these facetiously denominated "the desperation club", of which Miss Mary Ellen is a member is a joint stock affair, composed of both ladies and gentlemen. The reason the ladies open for extending membership to gentlemen is that there is so little gallantry among the young gentlemen of the city that they could not rely upon general and ordinary invitations to bring a sufficient number to their entertainments to make them agreeable; but that being complimented by the distinguished honor of a donation into their association they would be impelled by gratitude and a due sense of the honor done them to come promptly and regularly; but to make assurance doubly sure, after the gentlemen had signed their willingness to unite with them the ladies passed a resolution imposing a penalty of a pound and a half of french candy in all cases of failure to attend unless a satisfactory excuse in the estimation of the society was given. Well in the course of rotation it came to Miss M.E.'s time to give a party and I was invited. To the parties preceding hers I had received invitations from one or other of the members, but to these informal bids I paid no attention. Miss Mary's invitation I also declined and explained to her as reasons for this course that the Club was anti-democratic and exclusive in its character - that its principles and plan of organization declared as strongly and pointedly as language could that there are certain young gentlemen in the city more agreeable and acceptable to us than any others - that we will be at some pains to secure their society - indeed we value it so highly we will

will even make some sacrifice of our self respect by imposing penalties
and obligations to constrain them to come to our parties. But that this
do not altogether exhaust our kindness and generosity, and to those outside
who may have the good fortune to be the especial objects of our exuberant
good feeling, to you we say you are entirely welcome to come and
see how we enjoy our delightful weekly reunions - but do not we beg of you
put yourselves to any trouble or inconvenience on our account; we have
taken good care to secure the attendance of the very wisest and most agree-
able fellows in the whole town; we can therefore get along very well with-
out you. Do you not admire the total absence of all selfishness in
our generous conduct towards you and are you not overwhelmed with
gratitude for our amazing consideration? It is purely on your account
that we invite you - but the nice fellows there made sure are necessary
for our enjoyment, and we will furnish them if they don't come; we will
make them forget "What of the sweetest candy to be obtained" I am
surprised that a jar of pickles had not been forgotten instead;
but when I come to think of it I guess that the candy was selected
for two reasons: first because in sending it was emblematical of the
kind of estimation they placed upon the society of those foreign
gentlemen and ~~only~~ because they prefer candy to pickles. This club
has done one good thing: it has fixed a marketable value to the presence
of a young gentleman at a party. but I digress. I added to Miss
Mary that I appreciated her invitation very highly in its personal
light and that I considered that I was more highly honored by
her than any member of the club - for in reference to them she
was left without discretion, but that my presence required her voluntary
solicitation; but viewing the matter as I only legitimately could in the
light of an organization I was compelled to look upon invited guests
as outside barbarians and interlopers. Standing upon a footing different
from the others - having no voice in the affairs of the club - that at
parties in this republican government all should be free and equal
- free to participate in all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the most
favored and equal in the tender of their presence. That this club
in its principles practically denied this and that therefore I should
deny myself the pleasure of attending; that I regretted that as I
opposed her I should find no proper opportunity to pay without testi-
fying to her the high estimation in which I held her.
Was not this a pretty bold step in me? I fear I shall be retreaced
for it. But I must close - is this letter long enough
for you? All are well Yours truly in affection
I excuse all mistakes. I have not time to revise A. J. Fairbanks
and correct

Bedford Dec 21st 1854

My Dear Son

You will perceive by the dating of
this letter I am Bedford & have been here since
Tuesday & shall return home on tomorrow Friday
This is the case every week - I spend from 2 to 4 days
This attention has convinced me that it would have
always been better to have done so, even in Roshier
time - I have found the most extravagant abuses
& waste - without any regard to economy in the
management of the place - \$2000 for Annals in loss
from mismanagement & waste - I hope during
this season to put it upon a footing - in its ar-
rangements - that will reduce the annual expen-
diture at least - the above - Among other reforms
I pull down all the establishments on the place
& rent none - The Bedford house - The new Lewis
house & where Robinson lives - are the only
establishments I shall keep up - I have some
idea - as a beginning, to make an arrangement
with McDaniel - at the Lewis place to occupy
that house - and cultivate for me One Hun-
dred Acres of Corn - He furnishing his own
plows - Horses - hands board &c &c & pay me
for the grazing of any stock - that is his own
work horses & cows - I alone to furnish a house
& pay him 4th for acre for cultivating the Corn
what

what do you think of the plan - Indeed I
have some serious thoughts of introducing
this system upon the whole estate & prepare
to do without Slaves - Having most of the Estate
in grass & handle Cattle Only - Sell off all my
surplus Stock of every kind & keep only what
is absolutely needed - Keep Young Jaylor a
bachelor Overseer - The Only white em-
ployee upon the estate - My belief is that
I can carry out the plan successfully - The
increase of the landed property will not
increase trouble - As I shall put all in grass
raising only so much grain as is absolutely
needed - If it works as I anticipate it will
lessen trouble much - reduce greatly ex-
penses & add to the profit with infi-
nitely less trouble & of course more pleasure

Maria I had determined to be off
this week to Kinross - but has postponed
it to February - when I fear she will post-
pone it again & hang on - She is more dis-
agreeable the older she gets

The last day I was in Lex on Monday
I dined with Mrs Macalister - she sends
you her very particular regard

The week before your Mother & the
children & I spent the day with Mrs Galt
& had a delightful day

Since writing the above I had a note from
your Mother - Sending down my letters & paper
with 2 from yourself of the 9 & 11th inst - which are
most welcome - I am glad you recd your chkr
It was in time I hope - as you seem to have been
getting low - Upon the subject of funds you
must always give one timely notice - I will
again add, that you must use all due economy
in your expenditures - As this is a tight year with
me after the late purchase of Lewis, and
other matters - we must retrench our own
family & personal expenses - until I work
through - Some 18 months - Should I get my
debt of Mr Alfred Carter - when due it
will ease me very much - I do not want
to sell any of my Stocks & County bond at
the present reduced prices - I am endeavor-
ing to make my income & profits
pay off - my debt

Your Mother in her note to me
mentions that the young died last night
I suppose particularly a subject of grief
to Eld & Lilly - The family are all well
Nothing new at Lex - Since I recd your
letters I have determined to go up in the
Morning & shall send your Books by Express
Receive a Father's Love
N J Duncan

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher.]

letter and write when you can
all are well. Affectionately yours
Wm Perkins
Lexington Dec 25th - 54

Dear Henry

I intended to say to you in my letter
a few days since that as you were to some extent
exposed to the contagion of small pox it would be
prudent for you to be re-vaccinated; but it entirely
escaped my mind. If it has not occurred to you
it would be a thing upon the safe side to attend
to it. I would advise you to do it

Since the date of my letter nothing of interest has
occurred to relate to you. You will learn from the
date of ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ that this is Christmas day. It has
been extremely pleasant for some days past and to-day
it is very mild, and sprinkling rain. We have some
hope that it will continue sufficiently long to fill the
ponds and render the river navigable. The ponds for
ice and the river for coal. The latter is monnously
high and in the former there is not sufficient water to
furnish ice to supply the wants of the city.
your father received a letter from your sister Mary to-
day. She complains of the excessive cold. Thermometer 16°
and 18° below zero and says that the quakers do not know
how to cook anything. I presume that she does not fare
as sumptuously as you do upon oysters, turkeys and other
equally nice things every day. I hope your rich eating does
not interfere with your satisfactory intellectual progress

By the way Henry, I have nothing to say further
that would interest you. Pardon this short and stupid

Mr Burr said to me this evening that he had information of such a character induces him to believe that a certain lady whom it is unnecessary to name to you is to be married to your friend Horace. He says that connecting several remarks of Horace with his recent information he is strongly impressed with the belief that it is to be a be. I could not learn from him either the character or the source of his information. If he is correct make up your mind to hear it philosophically. Take for your consolation that whatever is to be is for the best and that where she is caught the sea is far from being exhausted or as good if not better fish than she. These fish may be divided into two grand classes viz the slippery (as the eel) and scaly tribes. If Mr Burr's information turns should disclose to be correct I am curious to know how you would classify the fish in question. Would you place her in the genus slippery or in the genus scaly or would you make her a hybrid, partaking of the character of both: slippery & scaly too? I was the recipient this evening of a very handsome present in the form of a crustacean from "sister dear". I am at a loss what to say or to do to thank her in a manner expressive of any sense of the compliment paid me and my obligations to her. It would hardly do to say that I know of but one other thing I had rather have about my neck though it might be true. Shall I tell her that after it has served its day I will carefully lay it aside as a memento of ^{her} kindness and that if I should ever be driven to extreme desperation and life become an insupportable burden I will use it to hang myself and that thus she would

Vermont Decem 13th 1857.

Dear Henry

As you expected I had
left Livingston before I received
your kind letter, and it followed
me to this place. I have just received
it and as it has been long enough
now on the way to lead you to expect
an answer I hasten to fulfill your
expectations and to give vent to the
anxieties of my own heart. I am
at a loss to tell where you left Living-
ston. You told me you were to leave
at two P.M. and as Aunt-Eliza &
party left at the same time I ex-
pected to kill two birds with one stone
and see both off at the same time.
But you were not there and I
concluded you had gone in the morn-
ing ^{up} Tuesday at 6 A.M. I did not have

kind me a catalogue when your name is entered

an opportunity of seeing Miss Kate
between the time you left and my
departure. I mean of course I did
not have the pleasure of a long in-
terview as you had. I called the
night before I left at 8 and staid
about-half an hour and of course
I had only time to say how do you
do & goodbye. You ask me what
form of worship or prayer I used.
Henry I will tell you confidentially
that I have been in love with Miss
Kate for several years but - I have,
for the first-time to intimate to
her that I admired her. I have
at a distance worshiped as you say
her lovely manners-her pure charac-
ter and her lovely person. She is
I believe the purest angel incarnate
I have ever crossed. There is not a
thought I believe which enters her
soul which would not be pure

and be admired by his contemporaries were it in the spirit of an Angel in Heaven. As much then as I admire Miss Kate I have yet to tell her so and that yet will never come. Suppose that I were to court Miss Kate and were to be come successful. I must tax your imagination a little here as I draw a ridiculous supposition for I do not believe I would ever have the least prospect of success. Suppose I were to succeed then. If I thought so I would never attempt it. Miss Kate is a delicate woman and to be happy in this world must lead a high life, and have every want supplied. Live in Missouri. The cold breezes of this climate would soon put an end to her blooming life. It must be a more gentle zephyr that fans her cheek

Still you see it looks too much like
murder to take any delicately raised
woman to stand the rigors of his life. I
have chosen this life because it suits
me. ^{and} the woman to suit the life I had
must be stout, for instance a brawny
Irish lady. I have resolved to live the
life of a bachelor and as Marvel
would say to live unloved & die un-
lamented. Were I in your position
How very my resolve would be different.
I have limited means. You will have
the command of sufficient to preserve
that delicate femur. I have alluded
to from want. You can shelter her from
the storms of adversity and if I were
in your position I would cast
my assistance on the die or perish in
the attempt. Ever since I left Louis-
ville I have been afflicted with a
most unyielding cold. Col. John Reid
and self came in Co. We had our

Dec 15, 1854

family servants taking them to
our new home. We had fifteen
and as there was considerable at
stake we felt the necessity of keep-
ing guard. We shipped on the Amer-
icans a Cincinnati boat and frigate
~~ed~~ with a goodly number of negro
stealers. It lay up one night and it
was then I took cold. The stealers
were so rabid that we had to
walk the deck with a revolver in
our hand and Bow knife in
the other. I for one was deter-
mined not to sit tamely and
see our negroes stolen from us.
At Cairo I saw the burning or
attempt at burning that negro
which I presume you have seen.
I have rarely seen a negro of
more spirit or a more cowardly
set of white men. I was glad it

occurred in a free state. Had it happened in a slave state it would have been referred to from one end of the north to the other as an instance of cruelty from the South to free negroes. When you write home remember me to your Father Mother and to your Sister Mary. My regards to Mr. Sparks. I brought a letter from H. Clay to Mr. Sparks who was then President of Harvard and I often think of the kind words of Mr Sparks & Everett and shall never forget them. I need not say how much interest I will take in every letter you write and in hearing how bravely you are getting on.

Sincerely Your Friend

Horace Brand.

if I class myself among the number of
your friends are all members.
I intended writing you a note of thanks,
but have been so busy thinking how much
I owe you for a most interesting and useful
letter which I received from you last night,
that I could not find time to do so. I am
glad to hear that you are well and hope
you will continue to improve. I am
very truly yours,
John W. Alden

Dec 27th
1854

you. I know I shall like it; when I have finished it I will let you know my opinion of it; though it would be presumption in me not to think it beautiful.

My sister Mary received your letter, I think about two weeks ago, she has been sick almost ever since she received it. It hasn't been for want of scolding that she has not answered it; for I have tried to force an answer from her to you, in spite of sickness, but you see my scolding does no good. During her sickness I will be your correspondent (if you will allow me?) and I expect you will rejoice when she recovers, for you will find her a much more interesting correspondent.

than me. I am so poor a letter writer
that I dislike boring persons, is the reason
I have so few correspondents. I regret
very much that I did not, when young
cultivate a habit, more than a taste
for letter-writing. Presuming that
the letters of your parents, are, as all
others, letters of advice only, and judging
you by myself, and all persons who are
absent from home, in being grateful
for the news, which you know is
always little here, I will give it you
I hope. Though you will not think
me a gossip, for as I have so often told
you I am the poorest retailer of news
in the world. Then to begin; we girls
have formed clubs and meet at the
houses of the different members once

a week to dance and talk. The girls on the hill have formed an opposition club, theirs being the "Anti-Matrimonial" of which your friend Mattie Mc'Lee is a member; ours is the "Desperation". The gentlemen of the city accuse us of being a set of old maids who have despaired of getting married, ^{and} in order to see the gentlemen who are so essential to our existence, have appointed certain evenings for meeting them. I hope you will be more lenient with us, as there are so large a number of your friends who are members of the "Desperation". Misses Webb, Brand, Mc'Law, Craig, Curd, and don't think me presuming

Young Ladies Institute
Pittsfield Dec. 30th 1854

Dearest Brother

I have been
fooling about to day, & have only
written one letter home. I thought
I would get to write you a long letter
to day but I am disappointed; I
will write to you next year; and no
more this year. The monitress is
going around now after the letters
& I cannot write you a long letter.

I received your letter last night,
& was very glad to hear from you, but
very sorry you have taken such a cold

I stay in

You must take care of yourself. I am
your room ~~but~~ if you are ~~entirely~~ ~~well~~
afraid you look cold when we went
sleigh riding. I had not heard the
death of our ~~dear~~ loved friend
Miss Bartlett. I had been expecting
to hear of it in every letter, but when
the news came, I could scarcely
realize it. She was much beloved
by her friends, but she is ~~better~~ happier
now than when on earth.

I received a letter from Mother &
Father this afternoon, all were
well, ~~they were~~ written on the twenty
fifth ~~of~~ Monday, Father & Mother
received my letter on Christmas day.

We are going to have some
kind of fixings or doings on New Years
night, I wish you could be here, I
know you would enjoy yourself, & it would
give me so much pleasure, but I
know you ~~will~~ not be here. Eva

that she gave you
found the boy herself in the parlor,
& brought it to me to send to you
when I had an opportunity; she said
she wanted the boy for her goggles,
she said she would give me another
boy. I will look for my boy ^{of provisions} you are
going to send me; & I will be very glad
when I get it, & so will Mary.

Mary Reed is sick. I have not
seen her to day. They would not let
me, that is Mrs Singleton the
housekeeper who tends waits on the
sick, ~~they~~ the girls are not allowed
to visit any who are sick. When
the Dr tends on them, he came to
see her & several others yesterday,
Eva among the number, but
~~the red~~ what is to be laughed at
at, ^{when} was, the Dr came to see Eva, she
was not in her room, & no where to be
found, they hunted all about the

House, & at last they found her
in Mary Reeds room; & she has
been down town to day so you may
judge from that, there is ~~not~~ much
the matter with her, she said she
wanted me to say something ^{to} ~~for~~ her
but she is not in her room & I will
tell you next time. I do not know
what it is. But I must draw

my letter to a close. as they will
have to be sent to the Post Office
to night. Mary sends her kind
regards to you. I wish you a happy
New Year. & many a happy return.

I send you all my
my love to you. Gertrude Cross
sends her love to her Brother
& wants to know why he does not
write.

Good Night My Dearest
Brother
I am your affectionate & devoted
Sister
Mary.

Lexington Dec 30th 1854

My dear Son

Your interesting & affectionate letter of the 17th inst duly came to hand and its contents gave me much pleasure - Though some of its details was not as full as desired you did not speak with the full confidence of you - being certainly able to enter the present Freshman class in July with ease This I desire exceedingly - my heart is set upon it - What does Chas say on the subject - Does he give you confident encouragement - Has he intimated any opinion as to your progress being satisfactory - Have you done any thing, with him in Mathematics - as yet - How does he think of you in this department - perseverance - perseverance - Resolve to accomplish this object - with this determination formed in your own mind - It is more than half accomplished - Seek no pleasures but devote - all your time, with the

Parents & such raising as he has had
His Father I have always regarded
as one of the purest of men the very
pride of truth & honor & I hope you
and Nicholas will grow up with a
mutual esteem & regard for each other
and that you be friends - Have you
ever called upon S Minor - If you
have not you ought to do so - There are
proper courtesies to be observed

In relation to your fears about
the small pox - They are I think not
well grounded - you have been vac-
cinated & I think are safe - you can
easily be vaccinated again if you
have any doubts or apprehensions, I
am glad you did not in your present
return home by way of N.Y. - and I
desire that you make no more ex-
cursions - until you enter your class
in July - and as soon after as your sister
has vacation - you continuing your

studied until that time - when you can
make ^{us} a visit during her vacation -
and we shall have a delightful family
reunion

I should have been gratified that
you could have accepted Mrs Silsbee's
invitation to dine on Christmas day
I hope you wrote a note of apology &
that you spell her name - Silsbee not
Silsby as you do in your letter - The
Cambridge Catalogue would have set
you right - Had you have referred to
it

Dr Agnew, would not let you see
his girls - perhaps this was all right
as it is one of their rules - and you
caned nothing about seeing more than
your sister - I hope you have had a
pleasant visit & found Mary doing
well - How are you impressed with
her progress & improvement - Has she got
to work fairly - is she a student - write
as fully - All send you this love
Your devoted father
H J Doremus

with the exception of enough - for pro-
-per and healthful recreation - let your
little visiting be merely enough to keep
up an agreeable acquaintance - But
hereafter when you take a position
in your class - will be time enough to
cultivate more social intercourse - I
hope you have too much pride of character
to do much of it - until you have won
College position & character

I fear from the tenor of your letter
that you do not think well enough of
your race & that men & women are not
as clever as they should be - Here you run
into the other extreme and will find your
error - The sentiments of my letter were
only cautionary - and to suggest prudence
and caution on your part, in the
intercourse you might here & not to
encourage such opinions as might be
indulged make you misanthropic.
I doubt not you have a proper ap-
preciation of young Anderson - He
could scarcely be otherwise in the such

between Sept 1800
1853

My Dear Son

I enclose you a letter for
Mr T Scott jr - which bound him on his return
from Ohio - also bound him 150\$ to pay the
taxes on all my lands in Illinois - and his
personal expenses, while engaged in selling
my lands in Mount Pleasant & Bond
Counties - Call and get the power of attorney
I left at Grimes office to be authenticated
- then pay Grimes fee for authentication
and hand it to Mr Scott

Keep every thing going on right
on the farm - the cattle to be sent to
Bedford so soon as the corn is eat up
also the Hogs - must go down to be put
on clover

I shall write to your Mother
from St Louis - I leave to day on the
Clifton & expect to arrive at St Louis
on Saturday - my warmest love to your
Mother & Sisters - keep them all for
me
Yr devoted Father
H J Duncan

W J Duncan - Pa

1853 or 1854?



Saturday

Dear Dr

I wish you to
let my folks know
that I wish the Car-
riage to come in to-
night to meet me
by the night train

I shall certainly
come up unless some
thing turns ~~up~~ occurs
to make my stay
necessary

The complemen-
tary Resolutions - and
the Charter have
passed

On Monday The
material Subject of

an appropriation will
come up & I think
Carry — for \$10,000
Some members are
timid fearing their
constituents —

Yr haste

H. J. Duncan