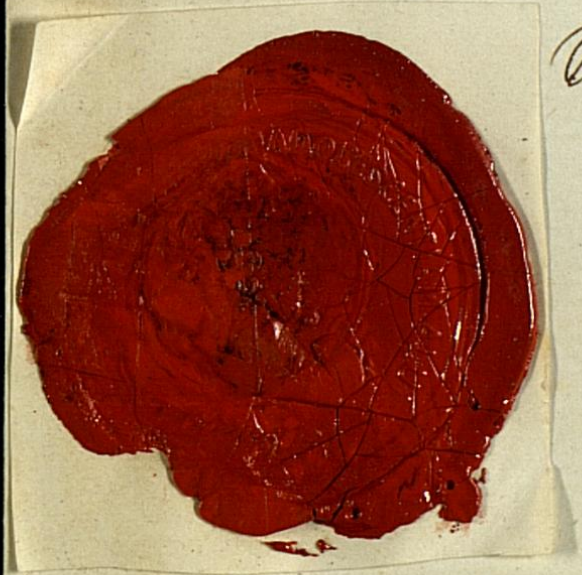
[1855?]

Dear Sir -

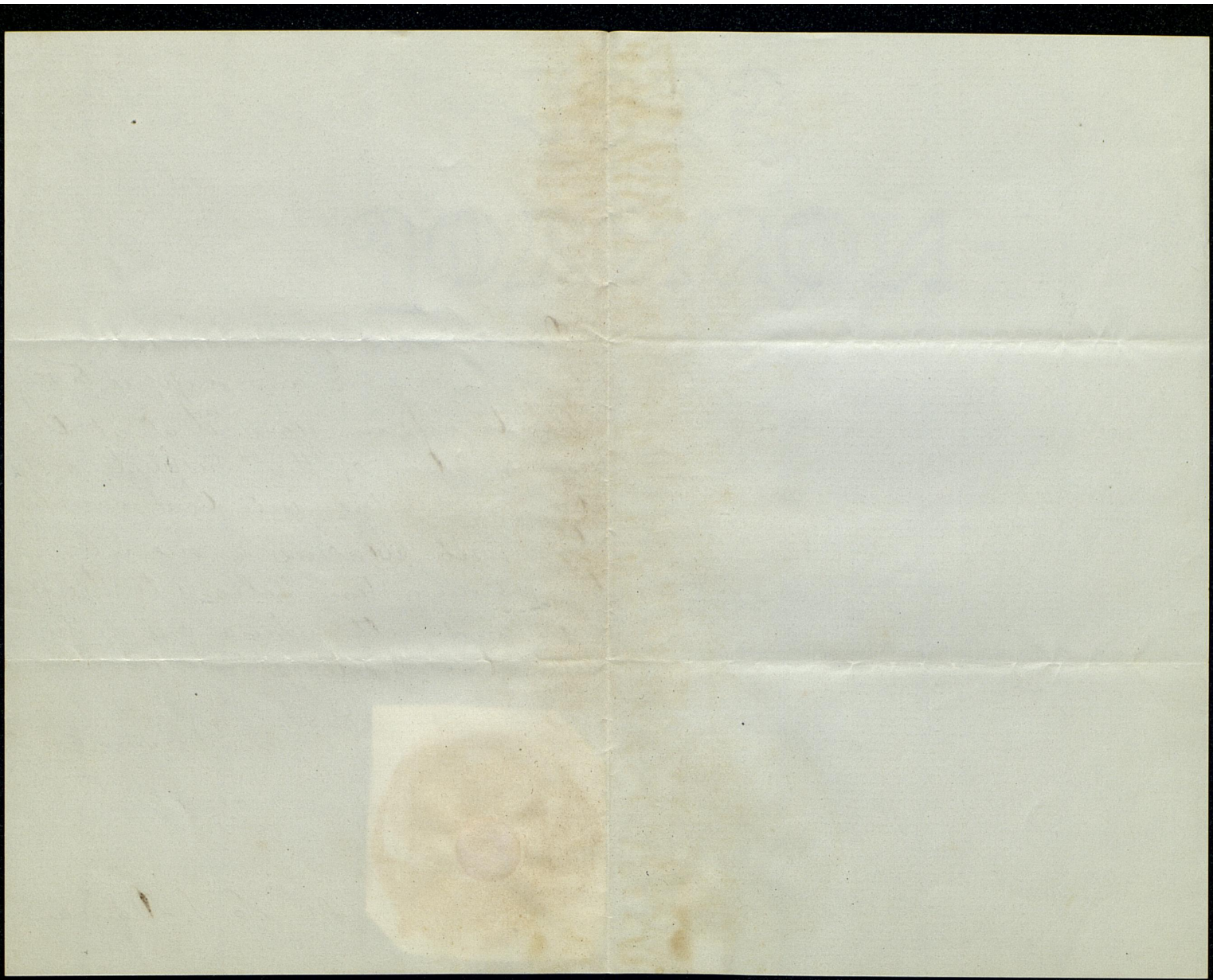
I am happy to be able to inform you that at the last meeting of the "Institute of 1770" you were elected into that Society. You will become a member by paying two dollars to the Treasurer and attending one of the next two meetings.



Pelham W. Ames

Secretary.

Mr. H. T. Duncan



[1855?]

My dear Duncan.

I send the promised prospectus. undoubtedly. if a group of girls. Southern & Western proposed coming here. an establishment. under some lady would open for them. with regulations so essential.

I looked at your 'lowstrip' the first evening of its arrival, and thought I returned it the next day. a few days since I found it again. and return with all its dirs upon its head. It appears to be a case of Mamie fallen into coarse hands. always your friend

Mary E. Sparks.

11 April,

1855 or 1857

Reed's Room

My Darling Brother

How surprised I am to receive a note from you, ~~to~~ & you in Pittsfield! I wish you had been up here to night, we have had such a nice time. I cannot go in the morning; but I can go the next morning, if you say so. I know I cannot go in the morning; do come up early in the morning. I received your letter to night, & one from Mother. I am so glad you have come. my hand trembles so I can scarcely write. I am in Reed's room.

Good Night. Your affect

Sister M. D.

Reed sends her private regards.

Duncannon Jan 1855

My very dear Son

I have received 2 letters from you since I wrote to you, I think of you often in your loneliness, writing seems to be your pleasure & amusement, & hope you will find it advantageous to yourself. You have rather a gloomy prospect from your domicil, for meditation, although it may appear cheerless & solemn, to view the silence & solitude that reign over the heads of the slumbering dead, still we may reflect upon it in such a manner as to render it very profitable to ourselves, that we should live circumspect in this sin mined world, that death is the wages of sin, that we strive to regain that heaven that was lost in Eden & though our heads will lie down in the silent grave, but our spirits will join the redeemed in the abode of the blessed — I am glad to find Dr Albro takes such interest in you, may the study of the Holy Scriptures lead you to seek the one thing necessary, the great good, the chief end of man, you have long ago learned the arts but I trust you will learn it experimentally. not only is the location of your room objectional, but also your having to go out in the cold hall to get to the bedroom I would prefer to have my bed in the same room, unless I could have a door opening into the one I sit in, during the severity of that cold region, it is too trying to the constitution, such a sudden change from your warm room, into the frigid, I love you ten times more my dear Son for your cheerful acquiescence to the wishes of your parents, in regard to your German inclination, but you are quite mistaken that I had forgotten that it is the theater of the great & good in the christian world, but that only shews, that the times had become very corrupt & in the providence of God those good men were

raised up to enlighten, the ignorant & dispel the mist of superstition that enveloped the Minds of men in regard to the doctins of the Holy Bible, I do not know but that they are at this time in a worse case than in the time of the great Reformer, they have got so spiritual & transcendental, & mix it up in all their sciences, that renders a location among them very dangerous, to religion, I hope you will be successful in persuading Mr Chase to accompany you to Kentucky, it would make us very happy to have you with us provided you can do as well at home & can't see why not if you have the right Teacher, you are not given to extravagant opinions, & if your observation of Mary is correct, I feel that the change from home is doing her good, I wish they would keep a better table at the Institute, she does not receive nourishment sufficient to sustain a sound body, unless the body be healthy and vigerous the mind can not be, one is dependant on the other, I never receive a letter from her, that she complains of feeling weak & hungry, & headach, if such a state of things continue for a length of time, her constitution would be seriously affected, I am getting quite a provision store ready to send her by Mr Buler he has kindly offered to take any thing we desired to send, he is going on to Boston next month Feb— Perfection is not to be found in this state of existance, every condition has its advantages & disadvantages, it is therefore our duty to fortify ourselves for the performance of our duty in all contingencys & expect often to be disappointed, yet not discouraged, Dr Jenkins was mistaken in telling you I thought he was the medium of communication, I did not think any thing of that sort atal, if you wish to correspond with any one, the direct course is the right one, I think your Father said to the Dr

"did you have something to do with such a matter? The Dr looked surprised & said he was at the first of it, Miss Craig is the Dr's Lady acquaintance now, & that is more owing to his boarding there, than of his seeking, it is said she is to be married to Mr Atkinson, of Louisville, Mr Pope's son in Law, the Dr has been to several parties within a fortnight, he met with Miss Lucy Webb & saw her safe home a few evenings ago, so you see he is incresing the number a little, our neighbor Alexander Morgan is to be married next week to Miss Russel, I have not seen Mr Shane, he has left Mr Humphy's we heard he had gone to Cincinnati, Miss Maria was quite displeased that her name should be associated with his & would not believe your Father & said he was making it up, please don't mention them together again, it hurts her feelings, so, she loves my son & would do any thing for you, & you should not wantonly hurt the feelings of any one, Maria says she will certainly leave us next week, I shall miss her very much, your Father is more than half his time at Bedford, when at home he is in Lexr— My dear Hal I have so much desired that you loved music it would be a source of pleasure & comfort to you in the intervals of study & drawing is another mode of occupying a leisure hour, be sure to take active exercise out of door in the open air, you are fond of mechanicks, the shops might afford you some entertainment, in examining their operations, Your studies are not to be neglected, only for recreation, to attain the object of your pursuit, a thorough education, great diligence & close application, is indispensible, indeed success in any undertaking requires, energy & perseverance, the deficiences in your education, you are aware of,

My dear Son this is Saturday night to-morrow is the
sabbath of rest, & I trust it is regarded by you as
a holy day, not doing those things that are forbiden
your Bible class lessons, committing to memory por-
tions of scripture, I hope you do not think your
catechism is too childish for you, you will
find study for a life contained in that brief
sumary, all the duties of a mortal being, both to
God our creator & bountiful benefactor, & who
will be our Judge, & to our neighbor, the desecra-
tion of the Sabbath is a sin most displeasing to
the Sovreign Lord of all, do not think this is
idle cant or enthusiasm, be not deceived it is
sober truth, Gods own truth, by a careful read-
ing of the old & new testaments, the threatnings
& the punisment for those that transgress, One
reason I do not write more often to you, is that you take
more particular notice of what I wish you to
consider, the two ways one to peace & joy, the other
to endless woe, read & consider, do not cast it away
as an idle tale, Your Father writes so often
it seems not so necesary for me, Your Father
has written to Mr Lazy Anderson to let Mr come
& make us a visit, the cars leave Lex at 6 o'clock
A. M, for cincinnati, & returns at 6 o'clock P. M
which brings us close neighbors, we have not
seen the marriage of Josephine announced, or
heard from her or the Capt any thing about it.
it is quite late & my pen is bad, I will
bid you good night, God bless you, & his
angels guard you, Much love from your
Mother
Father, Ellen, Lily, cousin Maria all desire
much love to you,

Young Ladies Institute
Pittsfield. January 2nd 1855

Dearest Brother

This is the New Year and I have a great many things to tell you about the way we spent yesterday. We rose a quarter before six and had breakfast a half past six, then we went to prayer meeting at Dr Todds church. It is customary to in New England to have prayer meeting before sunrise or at sunrising the first morning of the New Year. I suppose they had it in Boston & Cambridge. The Congregational & Baptyst churches (there is another Congregational church besides Dr Todds) met in Dr Todds church with his congregation at the prayer meeting. The first prayer ~~that~~ was made by (Harrison) a negro, that same Harrison that preached in the Baptyst church last sabbath night he made a very good prayer. The people here may like to have negroes sitting beside them & talking to them with familiarity, but I do not fancy it.

We had a very nice dinner yesterday. Turkey, celery. Ham. (but it was the meanest ham I ever tasted) potatoes. Turnips. pickles. & cranberry sauce. we had plum pudding for desert.

We were allowed to visit rooms without permission yesterday, & I was either making calls or some of the girls were in my room all day long. We made good use of the privilege. Last night we went in the parlor. & all the new year presents were on a table. & Mr Richard gave them to their owners. or he called out the name of the person for whom the present was intended & who=

ever was the owner came forward & took their present.
Then games were played. but the evening was
very dull. I received a letter yesterday from Father
& he said I might send it to you when I had read it
I am very glad Aunt Betsy has found her child
we often read of such things in novels. I expect she
is with her Daughter at the present time. Will you
please send me the letter back. after you have read
it. I received a letter from Mother and Father on
Saturday afternoon all were well.

I hope you are quite well of your cold, I did
not write a very long letter on Saturday. & I wrote in a great
hurry. You must take care of your ~~eyes~~ & not
study so hard as to injure them. I read Eva w^t
what you said, & I told Mary Reed what you said. I
gave her the boy you intended to give her & she said
she was afraid you did not like her putting those things
in your hat. I told her you did not care. She
& Eva are both sick in bed to day. Mary Reed has been in bed
for ~~four~~ or five days. she is much better to day.

~~I must close my letter write soon~~

It is quite cold here yet. but the sun has been
shining to day. I saw some Ice they were putting
in the icehouse. it ~~was~~ is the thickest I ever saw.
Mary ~~desires~~ to & Eva desire to be remembered
to you. Eva has a message to send you but I
will put it in my next letter.

Write soon. Good bye

I am your affectionate & devoted
Sister
M. D.

Lex Jan 9th 1853

My Dear Son

Your letter of the first of Jan, is this moment received Also the letters from Mr Chase which I just answered - by inviting him to Ky - for the improvement of his health - which he thinks requires recreating - I hope if he will ~~not~~ accept this invitation - that you come out as early as you can home - If he prefers a N England village I wish you to go with him - I am sure he will find great benefit to his health here - Should he go to Europe it will be a great disappointment to me I sent you a check yesterday for $124

I wrote you a long letter this morning

Affectionately
H Clay

Ley Jan 5th 1855

My Dear Son

A yours of the 1st inst is this moment received – in which you speak of having mailed on that day in Boston – letters from both yourself & Mr Chase – which have not come to hand – proposing an early trip to Germany & proposing to spend some seven months abroad for the purpose of completing your preparation for entering Cambridge in Sept – all of which you enforce with such reasons as have had an influence upon your mind favoring the plan – Now my Dear Son I confess at once I am not impressed as you seem to be with the present advantages of such a movement in travel & the time lost in viewing those various objects of interest you necessarily meet with in a country so full of objects of historical recollections and diversified interest – But hear after when you have completed your education – attained an age of more maturity & experience – and dispensed in scholarship such a trip – giving you ample time to perfect yourself in your education – and visiting such portions of the country as you wish without hurry – Then you will be comparatively well prepared to improve all the advantages of travel & education there

and not tell them - will such a trip be of
advantage to you

I dissire much that you should have the
aid & instruction of Mr Chase in preparing
you to enter College in either July (if you
can get ready) or Sept - when I think without
fail you can prepare yourself - the latter
period gives you employment during the
summer vacation - which I wish you to
spend in study - with Mr Chase - whether you
enter in july or not - as still perfecting your
preparation and making your future labors
comparatively easy - I infer from your
letter that Mr Chase contemplates withdrawing
from his connection with the University as
you speak of a contingency - such as removing to some of the interior towns of Mass
and name Pittsfield as very agreeable to
you - for such a retreat - I fear the attrac-
tions to both yourself & Mr Chase - of those
beautiful girls - may interfere with your
successful prosecution of your studies at
that place, Any other Mass village will
do better on that account

Now I have a suggestion upon this
contingency - That instead of settling down
in New England - for the proposed pur-
pose - You & Mr Chase come to Ky and

spend the next 6 or 8 months — until either July or Sept — this will cost you only your traveling expences home — and it will give us great plasure to furnish Mr Chase during this period a key home, where he will have no board to pay — and thus be enabled to realize his whole Sallary of 50$ a month — This is of Coure the cheapest of all the plans & his leisure can be spent here in study as advantageously as any other point here he has access to good libraries & good Society — If this suggestion meets with favor Invite him to my house — where we will be happy to furnish him a home — until he is ready to go to Europe and you to Cam=bridge

Should this be done you can pack up your furniture & store it until your re=turn & inform me at the earliest moment If you need funds & how much to close out Do not understand me as enforcing this upon you — If it is not your pleasure to return home & bring Mr Chase — But prefer some other point do so — though I am satisfied my plan is best for both of you and decidedly cheapest — your brother and sisters need letters to day from yourself & sister — all will write you

In haste

Yr devoted Father
H T Duncan

Duncannon Jan 6th '55

My very dear Son

We rec'd yesterday quite a package of letters from you & Mary, I am so glad you passed so pleasant a Christmas, Mary says it was one long to be remembered by all there & that it would take a good writer to describe she could only give us a faint idea of what it was, it was no doubt a very brilliant & imposing scene, one I should think that would have excited Mary to write a glowing description of, she is very deficient in that respect for one of her age, I don't know how she gets on in her composition, did you see any of them? Could you perceive any improvement in her, mind, manners, or appearance? I am sure there could not be an astonishing change, a mushroom growth, but a little, it is by patient, persevering industry daily adding a little that we arrive at eminence in any pursuit, a well settled plan, a steady inclustry, & untiring perseverance, some thing well done every day success is gained.

I do not fancy much your going so far from home, but if it is necessary for your advancement there is no selfish motive or feeling that would lead me to object, those German schools are not very christianising, I have always felt a shrinking & distrust of them. What is your religious character? It looks as if you would be going away from all enlightened christian influence, now whilst in the vigor of youth & health you should seek at once that good hope in Christ, which shall be as an anchor to the soul, let not the pursuits, of time satisfy your immortal soul, but begin at once to lay up treasure where neither moth nor rust corrupt, nor thieves break through & steal." This is no fable or idle tale, to be disregarded & slighted with impunity, I hope you will be wise, & secure that great salvation that cost a God to die. How are you getting on in the study of the scriptures? as you are under

the guidance of a D. D. It is presumed you will learn the immense value of the book,
I have sent you three papers, in the Louisville Journal is a copy of verses, on, "my childhoods home, after you read the paper, I wish you to cut out those lines & send them to Mary, I know they will please her, I will also send you the Jan No of Halls Journal of health, & desire you will pay particular attention to the first article, "To live long" you might do others good by handing it around to your companians or associates, I am glad you have so valuable a one in the person of young Anderson, & hope that you will be profitable to each other, & sustain each other in the good habits & morals that each of you possess, & rejoice that you have kept aloof from that rabid democrat Martin Van Buren, I have not had any conversation with Miss McBee since you left your Father has frequent confabs with the old

ladies & Mattie, the last he has quite a disgust for, & very justly, she merits it richly. I regret to learn that the small pox is so prevalent, in your vacinity, & pray you will escape the contagion, Mary says you had a very bad cold, get rid of it quick as possible, by taking care of yourself, bathe your feet, take calcined magnesia, & drink a pint of warm lemonade, lying in bed, I am afraid you do not exercise enough in the open air, we have real spring weather scarsely a frost, no ice, the birds carol in the morning, I hope we shall have ice before Feb is over, do your socks keep warm? keep your feet dry & warm, perhaps you can get warmer ones more suitable for that cold region in the shops, are any of your associates musical? it would be a source of pleasure to you, to cultivate a taste for musick, there is something refining & elevating in it, is there a choir in the church you attend? I miss your sisters music, wishing you life, health, joy, & progress I say good by

your affe Mother

Jan. 6 '55

My dear Son I feel truly sorry that your Father wrote to you in such a pet I thought he had cooled off, he had been to Bidford, I thought he was fretted at how things had been managed there by Rankin who by the by was not as honest as he might be, he has sunk hundreds where he ought to have saved on his own family & on the farm, I told your Father he had better let his own family have it than overseers, he said he would order you home if you were to go on at that rate, but did not for a moment think he would write to you so, I told him I had no doubt that all was correct, & wanted him to calculate himself what he knew, but he seemed to think you must do it & send it to him, he feels that he has been too hasty & regrets having said what he did, it will shew you how seemingly small sums will amount to a large one, before you begin to think of it, I did not think you would need any dry goods for some time to come, or stationary that you had supplyed yourself. The letters & papers were all stampt, here at home, it is not right for the office to make you pay, the papers do not leave the office where they are mailed unless prepaid, do not let trifles discourage you, take courage & strive to do right this is chequred life pleasures & trials, patience & fortitude, is very necessary qualities to cultivate the more we have the less anoyance we shall

feel, so fortify yourself by patiently enduring wrong in the conscious integrity of conduct, But I hope there will be no more cause of disagreable occurances, I endeavoured to quiet as much as possible, & thought that I had succeeded, but was mistaken which I expect to often be, if I live, This is Saturday eve & these lines will not reach you for some days I wish they could fly on the wings of the wind if they will give you any comfort I can truly sympathise with you for I have often experienced similar sorrow but joy cometh in the morning, clouds will not continue always, I am sure your Father feels that he was too hasty & is disposed to do a liberal part by you, he asked Ell & Lily if they would be glad to see you in two weeks, thinking that you could study at home as well as any where, now you must consider it well before determining what to do, if you get on as well at home it will be very delightful to me, I hope you will be directed for the best, Your Father is perfectly charmed with your decription of Christmas at the Institute, he at first seemed as if he would keep it a secret, but he was so full of it he could hold no longer, this is the close of the first week of the new year, & I fear not a very joyous one to you, wishing you good night & a happy sabbath day, I am the love of Your Mother

Amherst – Jan 4th 1855.

Dear Friend,

I received yours a few days ago, and am much obliged to you for it. I am very sorry that I could not have gone to Pittsfield with you to participate in that pleasant time you enjoyed so much, but owing to circumstances, I could not come. I hope they did not get you in the same situation, that you were placed in on the night of the levee. If they did, I pity you. But still I hope we shall have the pleasure of meeting there again. I shall be going up that way in about a month, and shall let you know before I go.

I was down to Boston last week. I only stayed two days, should have been glad to have come over to

see you but did not have time, and probably should not have found you even if I had gone.

I have not heard from my sister since Christmas. I suppose she is vexed at me for not coming to see her, and will not write to me. I hope she will get over that mood soon. I hope to hear from you again before a great while. in the meantime

I sign myself your friend

John Lafon

To

Henry T Duncan Jr.

Jan 7th 1853

My Dear Son

Do not understand me as enforcing my views of your return home – If Chas should be willing to come – If you should in view of the whole subject – be satisfied that a retreat to a N England village is preferable – And promises better opportunities for study – Exercise your own judgment and wishes – Though I think Pittsfield is not the place, ~~Theie~~ are too many attractions there Home is far preferable – And I hope that you & Mr Chas (who has seen nothing of the West) may upon conference agree with me – that in view of all things – Its great economy to both of you – with equal advantages of study – That you will determine to come on at once – In which event you had better have your furniture stored, until your return in either July or Sept – and make your bargain for storing it

Should you come home you can be put as retired here as you choose – without any thing to interfere with or interrupt your studies – All well & join in love to you

Yr devoted & affectionate
Father H J Duncan

Jan 6th 1855

Lexington Jan 1st 1853

My Dear Son

Yours of the 29th ult. is this moment received. Covering your accounts which is entirely satisfactory. My only object my dear Henry was to draw from you an explanation which I doubted not you would be able to give most satisfactorily I wrote you in haste. And I fear you may have been a little wounded by my manner. But this should not be. For I assure you as a Father feels a more tender regard for the feelings of his son than I do or stronger personal confidence in his truth honor & discretion. I am induced to this little explanation from making out a small portion of your letter, which is erased, from which I infer that your feelings were hurt. This my dear Son should not be. Nothing was further from my intention. than the infliction of one moments pain. I only desired that you have given a satisfactory explanation in your account. And seeing from the footing of your account that your Ballance on hand is a small one. I enclose you a check upon the Bank of America. N.Y. for One Hundred and Twenty five Dollars which I hope will come safely to hand. and be promptly acknowledged

I answered to day your letter from Cambridge upon the subject of the trip to Germany with Mr Chase – In which I give you my reasons against the trip – After you have finished your education – with increased age and experience – If you should desire to then it will be most agreeable to me – that you should travel and spend as much time in a German University as you may desire

I was pleased to see however that Mr Chase was willing to remain in this country – until he prepared you for College – and suggested for economy a residence in a New England village – Now if Mr Chase is unconnected with the University and desires to change his residence – until next July when you propose to enter – Why not both of you come out to Ky at once and spend that time here – I shall be happy to furnish a home for him – without any charge of board – which will enable him to realize his $50 per month & we shall have the gratification of having you with us until July or Sept – when you will be prepared to enter College – This is my judgement and wish on the subject – Though if you are opposed to the plan I will not urge it – Though I am persuaded it is best for both

you & Mr Chase — Certainly in the scene of economy & I should hope personal gratification — For we will endeavour to make your time pass pleasantly & happy — write me early your determination — Have your furniture stored up in the mean time as you will need it upon your return in Sept or August If you should so soon determine to join your Class

I have not received as yet — either your letters or Mr Chase's mailed at Boston — which your letter has anticipated I believe there is now vacation at Cambridge — So that you & Mr Chase might come out at once — Bringing your Baggage & Book or such as you may need — This arrangement is further desireable as I am absent so much at Bedford & your Mother is rather unpro=tected — by Summer I hope we shall have made such disposition of our matters as will enable us to go to town — If I can make a satisfactory disposition of this place

All are well and desire to be most affectionately remembered to you

I remain

My Dear Son Your
Devoted Father
H J Duncan

PS – Mr Jenkins showed me your letter to Mr Nicklyff on Yesterday – with the enclosed communication for his paper – I assure you my dear Son I have never felt sensations of more pleasure & gratification at the improvement – indicated by this communication – The good taste and style the freshness & felicity with which you treat your subject would do credit to a much older head – Nicklyff spoke to me on the subject to day in flattering terms & says It will appear in his Issue of next Wednesday – The Numbers you order will be sent to Cambridge immediately upon its publication – to you this success should encourage you to cultivate assiduously a classical & pure style of writing – It is a department in which you must succeed well & you have reason of great encouragement from this early effort – Train well your mind and store it well with useful knowledge & you will be able to impart it in a style (if attended to) of force & beauty It is highly pleased and will probably accompany it with some editorial notice

Lynn Mass January 9th 1855

My dear Henry

Yours of the 28th ult. came safely to hand on the 5th inst. Enclosed in one I found your exceedingly well written and graphic account of the Christmas celebration at the Pittsfield Institute. It is very creditable to you. After making a very few and very trifling alterations and corrections I handed it to Mr Wickliffe with your note. He read it with evident satisfaction and pleasure and readily agreed to publish it in the issue of Wednesday the 16th. He will no doubt make some very flattering comments and probably invite you to favor him with other communications from time to time as you may find matter of interest to write about. An occasional letter about Boston or Cambridge affairs, of a character that do not find their way in the papers ordinarily will be read with interest out here and will be of positive service to you in cultivating the art of composition. The 20 numbers of the paper containing your piece you desire I presume for distribution among your surround cousins at the Institute. You speak of the young ladies there in such terms of extravagant compliment that if they discover the authorship you will become quite a lion among them. It would be very dangerous for you thus heralded to go in the midst

of so many innocent and beautiful lambs, as I see you propose in a letter to your father, conditionally to do. Latin Greek and Mathematics I fear would not fill the space in your thoughts essential to rapid progress in these branches. Your mind be more occupied with glowing fancies about sylphs, nymphs and fairies with "soft ~~black~~ blue "flushing black" and "watching hazel eyes" &c than with the musty rules of Latin and Greek composition, versification &c and the intricacies of conic sections fluxions &c. Your versification would incline strongly to "sonnets upon ladies eyebrows" and your mathematics would resolve themselves into lines and curves of beauty of the "human form divine" By all means then avoid Pittsfield at least until the lion and the lamb are ready to lie down together. Excuse my strong penchant here displayed Pittsfield might prove to you an inextricable pit of love. Do not fall into it yet awhile. In your sleigh ride to the mountain top did you receive any toll. You were too modest to exact it I presume if you passed over any bridges and mother of your cousins did ~~not~~ I "guess" ~~did not~~ exclaim "Oh! don't take toll!" Having exhausted this topic I now come to your confidential letter sealed "Katy Darling" Being myself so much a matter of fact body I am very much disposed to take everything "at the foot of the letter" literally But I confess that my fears rather than any disclosures you say now you

gestingly made to me prompted my remarks in the letter of Dec 21st. I am very glad to learn that my apprehensions were groundless. You ask what effect your confession made upon me. I will

Lexington
Jany 8th-55

My Dear Henry

Yours of the 29th ult. has just been taken from the Office. As I have not mailed my letter of yesterday I will open it and enclose this also. You ask me to destroy all your letters containing reference to a certain affair your request evinces a distrust in my prudence and confidence I regret to see. No one has learned from me a syllable that can in the least compromise you in the quarter referred to and your letters shall be placed beyond the possibility of danger of their contents being known. The last paragraph of your letter I do not understand you say that you hope before

...ed that you are free ... in action that I ...iously effected by the ...me. Apropos to ...told me the other ...ing a correspondence ...not Katy mind, but ...learned it and re... ...ld your father so ...t know it. I of ...ledge on the sub... ...had expected that ...d on mediatorially ...y entire innocence ...appertaining there... ...no importance ...ll right and proper ...there is no danger ...tive by the many ...Miss Mary. The ...n she imagines ...Miss Mary's premonitions are entirely of a mental character and these I am told are very great In an epistolary intercourse these are the only sort that can bring their influence to bear

Lexington
Jan 7 8th 55

My Dear Henry

Yours of the 29th ult: has just been taken from the Office. As I have not mailed my letter of yesterday I will open it and enclose this also. You ask me to destroy all your letters containing reference to a certain affair your request evinces a distrust in my prudence and confidence I regret to see. No one has learned from me a syllable that can in the least compromise you in the quarter referred to and your letters shall be placed beyond the possibility of danger of their contents being known. The last paragraph of your letter I do not understand you say that you hope before

this time your last letter has been given to the world for the benefit of mankind generally. This piece of irony does me great injustice if it is meant to carry the idea that I am in the habit of showing your letters in such a way as to vitiate confidence I have not and shall not do so. You have greatly mistaken the rendering of one of my recent letters, where you make the use of the term "Ectoles" apply to pecuniary worth. Of scaly and slippery I made no special application; it was entirely general and it was farthest from my thoughts to intimate that a "certain individual" was either. I esteem this lady most highly and am utterly incapable of injuring her in word thought or deed

A great many things I say under the seal of friendship are playful and jesting and are not to be seriously taken. There is a hope I am told of having you at home again soon. I learn from your father that he advises you to invite your tutor to come to Ky and prepare you here for entering college. I am pleased with the idea. It has many advantages to urge its adoption I hope you will take with it. Excuse my hasty note. I am very busy to day

Yours affectionately

H D Jenkins

jestingly made to me prompted my remarks in the letter of Dec 21st. I am very glad to learn that my apprehensions were groundless. You ask what effect your confession made upon me. I will tell you. I felt so much rejoiced that you are free in thought, in affection and in action that I was "amused" rather than "seriously" effected by the hoax you practiced upon me. Apropos to the subject: your mother told me the other day that you were conducting a correspondence with Miss Mary Morrison; not Katy mind, but Mary. I enquired how she learned it and received for reply that Katy told your father so she asked me if I did not know it. I of course disclaimed all knowledge on the subject. She then told me she had expected that the correspondence was carried on mediatorially through me. I protested my entire innocence and ignorance of all things appertaining thereunto. Your mother attached no importance to the matter — thought it all right and proper I presume that she thinks there is no danger of your being led away captive by the many charms and facinations of Miss Mary. The danger is much greater than she imagines. Miss Mary's facinations are entirely of a mental character and these I am told are very great In an epistolary intercourse these are the only sort that can bring their influence to bear

and "The mind itself etherial most esteems a ~~substance~~ beauty most allied to its own nature", says some poet. At a distance you will view her person through the medium of her mind and that will invest it with imaginary charms: so beware. But seriously I have my own opinion about your writing to Mary, and that is "it's all in my eye and Betty Martin". Katy is your correspondent and wanting to tell your father she had heard from you she made her sister figure in it to save her modesty

I have now pumped out of my recollection every thing that can interest you and must therefore close for the present with this sheet. For a week past the weather has been very mild. Yesterday it was so warm that fire was not necessary for comfort. To day it is colder and the snow is falling very fast. There promises to be a heavy shower. The municipal election was held yesterday and resulted in the triumphant success of the "K. N." ticket. The no license question also carried by a large vote. It is a know nothing and temperance victory. I took from the office this morning the Boston paper you kindly sent me. Accept my thanks for it. All are well at home. the health of the community still "distressingly" good

Yours affectionately

H O Jenkins

Lexington Jan 9th 1852

My Dear Son

I very much regret the determination of Mr Chase to leave for Germany, whether you accompany him or not - as communicated in your letter of the 4th inst - which I received yesterday with one of the 30th inst

I was led to infer from your previous letter - that he had said to you - or given you to understand that he would not accompany him to Europe - that he would not leave until he had prepared you for College & suggested a New England village as a temporary residence for that purpose - You in your letter suggested Pittsfield - Upon the receipt of this letter I was much gratified & prepared to your both to come out to dry and reside here until July - That I should be most happy to have him as a guest during that period - of course free from any charge of Board - In relation to the proposition of your going to Europe at present - I was opposed to it for reasons which I gave - In addition - Your undertaking a trip of the sort at this inclement season - In which the risk of accident was much increased - would make us perfectly miserable - It would be to your

Mother

a period of the most intense & agonizing anx
=iety – This is not to be thought of

I do hope that Mr Chase will reconsider this determination If he has made it – and adopt the other plan of remaining until he shall have prepared you to enter your class A postponement on his part, of a year or two – in his proposed visit cannot be a very material matter – And it will be to me a cause of profound regret & pain – If he should after his engagement with me – fail on his part to carry it out – If it had been intimated to me at first – that it was to be a temporary arrangement for a few weeks – I certainly should have looked for & made some other arrangement – That I regarded it as permanent is evidenced by my having furnished your room & done such things as contemplated your per
=manent location at Cambridge – And that I might under the instructions of so competent an instructor I hope you would have been prepared in due season, to enter College respectably The high personal character given me of Mr Chase – with his acknowledged Scholar
=ship – made the arrangement to me – one peculiarly desireable

Should he leave and go abroad under the circumstances – we have no alternative

left

but to look out and make a different ar=
rangement - either at Cambridge or some =
where in the country - of this however we
can determine - when the contingency occurs which
I hope will not take place

I wish you would consult with Dr Sparks
on the subject - who is aware of the arrangement
with Chase & Consult with him as to the em=
ployment of another should it become ne=
cessary - by Mr Chase going to Germany -

You must have much misunderstood him
when you supposed - that in the event of your
not accompanying him in his trip - that
he would not leave until he had prepared
you to enter College & that he was willing
for a time to retire to some quiet New England
village - For the greater cheapness - and there
continue his instruction to you

I shall feel anxiety - until I hear from
you this final decision - Your letter with
one from Mr C - mailed at Boston has
never come to hand

In my letter mailed on yisterday I
enclosed you a check for $125 - on Bank
of America - endorsed by me payable to
your order - Your Mother Ellen & Lily de=
sire to be remembered to you - both all
a Mothers & Sisters love

Your devoted Father
H J Duncan

In the direction of your letters to me I see you are falling into the habit of directing to the Hon instead of H T Dimon Esq or Mr as you please there is a pretention about it not in very good taste - as I am a quiet private gentleman only

Jan 9th - 1853 -

My first is a li, my second is a li, my whole an emblem of Purity.

Duncannon Jan 12th 1855

My dear precious Buddie

Your sweet letter & the little book of pictures I have just received, & thank you most kindly, but what pleased me most was that I could read it for myself every word, I gave Mother her kiss for you, & if I could see you I would give you a thousand kiss.

Oh! Bud it is such a lovely day the sun shines so warm that when we run to play we get so warm, & perspiration runs down our faces, I run up & down the big walk with my wheel barrow, Father went to Bedford yesturday, so Cozzie spent last night with us, hears Ellie's geography lesson, & sometimes a gramme lesson it is very hard for Mother to keep us at our books particularly when it does not rain & we can get out of doors,

I wish we could learn without so much trouble, Miss Mary A Castleman stayed with us Monday night, she wanted Mother to let Ellie & me go home with her, but Mother could not let us go, she says we must come & stay two or three days with her & she will send us home whenever we want to, Mrs C- is in St Louis, so Miss Mary & her Brother are keeping house for her, "Auntie" says she gets up at 4 o'clock in the morning, & has breakfast at 6 o'clk Father told her she would do for a farmer's wife, she says she is so anxious to go to Pittsfield to school, that when her mother returns she will, be very importunate with her to get her consent, she made a great many enquiries about you & sister & desired to be remembered to both of you, we gave her a sweet bouquet, the Luxembourg's were so large & beautiful, the jes-

If you should go & any accident happen you, Your Father would be almost beside himself, as your stay will be so transient, if you can get along at home, or on this side the water, it would make all easy. You must think of the matter and consider it well, whether the advantage will counterballance for the anxiety & risk, involved in such a trip, I would not encourage you to do any thing contrary to your Father's wishes, he has a dread of water, & his distance from the scene where such things are constantly transpiring, & not though of for a moment, by those near it, increases to those at a distance, I hope you will be satisfied, & content, in the decision you make, wishing you all the happiness compatible with human existence, accept the unbounded love of Your Mother

My dear Son As your Father has been writing to you so frequently for a week past, I did not think it necessary for me to write, but Lily has teased me so to write for her, & several hours will elapse before the letter will go, I will say a few words to you, for myself, as it regards your desired & transient visit to the University of Gottengen, I would have no serious objection, if it were important for you to go, the distance in these times of steam & railroad almost annihilates, the risk of life on the Ocean, is quite as great as on land, we should put our trust in an Almighty arm, that is strong to save all that commit themselves to his protection, the thought of your going is a very painful one to your Father

-arrine, is in full bloom, the cactus
are blooming, in their bright,
gay colours, A box of Mr Longworth's
Isabella wine, arrived here yesterday,
a present to Father from Mr Lavz
Anderson, "Mrs Anderson hopes that
Father will not forget the health of
their Eighth boy when he trys the"
Sparkling Isabella", if all his boys
should be as good as the one you
know, he will be blest, they can
supply the college with pupils for
some time,

Rover & Carlo are in
very good order, they have caught a
number of Opossom's & Rabbits this
winter, poor Pony he was very sick
for several weeks before he died, we
thought some one had ridden him
hard, we were very sorry he was such
a cunning little fellow, Dr Marshal
has not been to see us since he left nor

have we heard from him,
how he is, or where he is. He
promised to come & see us but I
suppose he thinks it rather lonesome
here, you & sister gone & Father is
away so much. Cousin Maria is not
gone, but expects to go next week,
she desires to be affect remembered to
you, she is highly delighted with
your description of Christmas, at the
Institute, I read some of it in the
Observer myself, I would like to
have been there, I never have seen a
Christmas tree, Mrs Johnston had one
for her children, but did not
think of Ell. & me, there were a
good many invited, it was said to
been very fine, Mother Ell, & Lily
send you an Ocean of love, good
bye dear Buddie Your affect Sister Lily

You make two Ls in my name
I must write you the conundrum on it

Lexington Ky.

Jan 15th 1833.

My Friend.

It has been just one week now, since I received your kind letter; you are too complimentary, when speaking of your "enthusiasm" on receiving my poor scrawl; let me hope it is not flattery, though excuse me I will not do you the injustice to accuse, or even suspect you of such a thing, I hope you will ever be too good a friend of mine

to flatter

I cannot tell you how much pleasure it gave, and will always give me to hear from you. I join with you in hoping that "harmony & good feeling" may always exist between us, and I think I wont be too rash in saying it shall. I like your package "all" of it, Longfellow I love, his "Hyperion" I think beautiful it is a book with which one would never become tired. I will not be my sister Mary's amanuensis longer, she is well enough now to write for herself, & I promise, you shall hear from her soon; then you will find her a so much more interesting

I hope you enjoyed the concert given by Grisi & Mario enough for both you and me. You should give us all the encouragement possible in our poor attempts to create or rather cultivate a taste for music, especially as your friend Lilly Brand contributed largely to our enjoyment. I hope you will credit no reports you may hear in regard to any engagements, persons may have formed for me, for I have formed none for myself, and I assure you they have no foundation. Some of my friends are getting tired of me and think perhaps they will hasten me off by circulating such reports. I think I told you, that I

would not engage myself for four
or five years, provided I have a chance
then. I would most willingly confide
in you if there was any thing to confide
Please tell me who your correspondent
was. I hope you will pardon me
for having written so much, I tried
to condense all in one sheet but
could not accomplish it. I am just
going to Lucy Webb's, good night.
Ever believe me

Your true friend

Kate D. Monson

improving
lasting correspondent, that you will be
willing (I may say anxious) to dispense
with my letters. The continuance of my
correspondence shall not depend on
the ill health of my sister if you
wish it should not, I did not think
it would be a pleasure for you to
hear from me. I suppose you are as
I was (excuse me for the comparison)
when away from home, glad to hear
from anyone. I would that you were
not only half, but wholly inclined to
leave the north with its frozen hearts,
and come again to our beautiful southern
lands, and its noble warm hearted
people. Surely you dont think of re-
maining 3 years there, why I fear
you will become so estranged from

us, that you wont come at all, unless the strong attraction on "Hill street" will be an inducement. Our club met here on Monday evening, I thought of and wished for you many times, during the evening. We will be much honored by such an addition to our list as yourself & I hope you will find them as pleasant as I have pictured them to you.
I have read your contribution to our paper, it is the only thing of interest we have had for a long time; let me thank you for every one, as I am sure every one who read it could not help being pleased with it. From your description Pittsfield must be a most delightful place, and now acknowledge it didn't you leave a share of your heart there.

Lexington Ky. Jan. 18. 1833.

Dear Henry:

Your letter of the 12th inst. was received yesterday. In reply to the inquiry, whether your Preceptor would have the facilities here, for the prosecution of his studies in Theology, I can say, that I have several of the text books in our Course of Theology, which would certainly be at the service of that gentleman, should he come into my vicinity; and for the rest of the necessary books, he might procure them from some other quarter.

You doubtless hear from home so often, that I could

tell you nothing new, even if there were news to tell.

God bless you.

Sam, very truly,
Your friend &c
Ed. F. Berkley

M. H. T. Duncan, Jr.
Cambridge, Mass.

Jan 19, 1855

My Dear Henry

Your favor of the 13th inst. is before me. The explanation you give of your last preceding this is entirely satisfactory for the reason that you disdain attaching to some of the remarks therein contained the construction placed upon them by myself. We are therefore good friends again and I am restored to confidence. I shall do nothing to forfeit it. I have some little fear that you will not get this billet, as I learn from your father that he has given to you the advice, if agreable to both yourself and tutor, to return home and remain here in the prosecution of your studies preparatory to your admission into College, till that object is effected. From the tenor of several of your recent letters to myself and others I am inclined to the opinion that nothing will be wanting save the willingness of Mr Chase to make you readily and cheerfully adopt your father's suggestions, and I hope that the former will not stand in the way of the execution of such a plan. Pray tell me what has given you so great a distaste to Cambridge and everything that appertains to that renowned seat of learning? Is it the character of the people, the

coldness of the climate, hard study, homesickness, loneliness, or is it a the combined influence of all these causes that has produced the state of mind you manifest in regard to Cambridge? Perhaps were your cousins at Pittsfield a little more sympathetic could you see them often all your feelings of aversion would either be entirely obliterated or greatly ameliorated. That warm and capacious heart of yours that has already been the domicil of so many loves, but transient tenants — and anticipated to be the recipient of many others, would, did circumstances favor, take in the whole of Dr Agnews institution, cousins and all and still not be cramped or oppressed in its legitimate functions. That love manufactory of yours would doubtless transform them all into transmutable globules peopling the qualities of electricity and send them tingling throughout the round of the circulation keeping your whole body in a gloriously exalted and intensely pleasurable state electric excitation and giving off brilliant coruscations, perhaps send yourself off in a blaze of glory. Take care that it does not burst or blow up wounding no one but yourself you see from the style of my letter that I have nothing to write about and that I am doing this vigorously

I met with one of your good female friends Miss Webb at a small social party last evening

and played the agreeable to the best of my ability for several hours. She informed me that her brother Garland had received a letter from you. She is an exceedingly agreeable and intelligent lady. I like her very much. She is greatly superior to your quondam friend Mattie in every respect

The weather has been delightfully mild and spring-like for several weeks past. One or two days were so warm that fire was not essential to comfort. It was very fortunate that the temperature was so moderate for the reason that there was no coal for sale in town at any price and many persons were out. I was in that category myself for a week and had to distribute myself among my friends who were more fortunate. The difficulty is now removed. It is beginning to arrive in quantity and can be had for 25c. It is said that your friend Miss Mary Bell is to be married shortly to a Dr Maitland: rumor does not designate the time. Dr Wilkins Dudley has married the widow of Erwin, formerly Miss Johnson. It is said that Ben Johnson the late offianced of Miss Harriet Brand has been captivated by Miss Kate Morrison and that the latter is far from being indifferent to him. I do not hear of Miss Mattie's having any beaux now since you and Mr Burr are off. Miss M. E. C's Louisville lover is still on hand. Report is rife that they

are certainly to be marred. It needs confirmation to compel my credence
I presume that you have received the copies of the Observer containing your letter. There are several typographical errors. Ghastly for ghostly; pressure for presence ("of a nipping and eager air") and autumn is misspelled. All the other changes are alterations of my own. You are suspected for the authorship Mrs Sugre declares that is satisfied you wrote it because there are in it several of your father's common expressions. I should like to see her point them out. The Clubs are still in full blast. Lexington is unusually gay. My budget is exhausted
Judge Thomas and Mr Burr desire to be remembered. All are well at home

Yours affectionately
H D Jenkins

To H L Duncan Jr
Cambridge Mass.
Jany 19th 1855

Will Mr. Duncan
favor Miss Stoddard with
his company on Tuesday
evening ~~January~~ 23d at
an ~~tableaux~~ party.
The curtain rises at eight
precisely. —

59 Hancock Street.
January. — [1855]

Lexington Monday Morning
Jan 22nd 1855

Dear Henry.

Your letter from Cambridge affords me many very sensible pleasures first that you are in a proper place for Study and improvement. In the next place that you seem pleased with the appearance of the College and with the Professors to whose Care and instruction you are committed. I hope to hear from you often.

Lexington has been unusually dull this winter, although there have been many parties. There are two Clubs formed by the ladies first is the Anti marrying of which Miss An E Craig is President, the second is the Independents of which Miss Bell is Chief Manager. Thirteen young ladies form the Club, they meet every thursday evening one in opposition to the other they are said to be very pleasant.

Our friend Morgan is to be married the 25th of this month to Miss Ryfel of this County—

Preperations are making for a larger wedding. I wish him and his fair bride all the happiness imagineable.

I have very little time to devote to pleasure, now and then I go to a party with my sisters. I am kept busy preparing for court which will set next week. There is considerable litigation owing to the scarcity of money. Several of our merchants have failed — and a constant cry of hard times is heard daily. I suppose on this you have heard of the victory gained by the Know Nothings over the democrats for Mayor and other officers of the city, they are not through crowing yet. Your fathers family has left & see him in town every day or two. I shall be highly pleased to hear from you and to know what authors give you most pleasure write to me.

Your friend

John Rhodes

John Bodes

Jan 22d 1845

Lexington Jan 22d 1852

My dear Son

When in town to day I met Mr Berkley, he informed me that he had received from you a letter recently, which he had promptly replied to - That you had been making some enquiries relative to the opportunities offered here for a young gentleman who wished to take orders in the Episcopal Church - to pursue advantageously his studies for that object I presume the individual referred to, by you was our young friend Mr Chase - It was gratifying to me - as it led me to hope he would yet come out with you to Ky - I was assured by Mr Berkley that every facility to promote his views - and aid him in his studies - with the use of his Library - and his own personal - instructions so far as it might be needed - would be afforded him with pleasure - And I doubt not it would be particularly gratifying to Mr Berkley to have an opportunity - to aid in promoting the views of one so promising - I trust my dear Son - that he will come out and spend until next fall with us - which will give us your company at home for some months - I hope our next intelligence from

from you — will announce this deter-
mination — of course If he does not come
I expect you to continue with him — either
at Cambridge or some New England village

Times are very hard here — failures are
taking place — several prominent Louisville
houses — in which our people are deeply in-
terested — Have gone by the board — also large
N Orleans Houses — having key connections have
failed — Within a few days — King of this place
& the Jewiler imported by Goodloe — has failed
Who goes next — It is hard to tell — Their is
great lack of Confidence — The best men
are failing to meet their engagements — I
have failed to collect Debts I relied upon
for payment — I shall have to negotiate
a loan to meet my March engagements
long enough to carry me to the time
when I shall sell my Cattle — In the Spring
I shall have a Sale of my Negroes and
Surplus Stock — This I should have had last
fall — You must not infer that I am to
fail from the above — If I am disappointed
in makeing collections — I have credit to
command — What means I need — I can pay
off & keep you & Many a going — All well
& send you much love — Yr Devoted Father
Wolf Ballard & Co of Philadelphia { H. T. Duncan
have failed — Here goes $600 for me
loaned Ballard

Lexington Jan 25th 1855

My Dear Son

Your affectionate letter to your Mother of the 21st inst - was recd this evening - affording us all great pleasure to hear from you - And as it seems to put the quietus to our hope of seeing you soon in Ky - I conclude that you have determined to continue at Cambridge, or its neighbourhood All things considered - I do not know that it is to be regretted - As I think - when we consider the influences & surroundings here - It is quite as well that you be separated from it - And un=til you have won a position in your class I should not, if I were - you, desire, to reappear among these people - let the familiarity of boyhood wear off & the associations be for=gotten - Indeed this influence (a malin one) shows itself in the conversations about your late published letter - They seem scarcely able to realise the fact that "little Henry Duncan," a boy they were familiar with could have written it - It must as some say have been reviewed by his Father and some ~~an~~ other equally charitable suggestions this shows you - that the very familiar & natural sort of prejudice that I allude - revealing a principal of our nature so well understood & described by Our Savior - When he said

"That a prophet is not without honour save in his own country" - I have ever regarded it as a great piece of good fortune in a youth of your age - to be in a situation to be separated from the unchastable & malignant influence - by going abroad & being educated elsewhere - & then to return home with the respectable character for scholarship won among strangers - All are equaly wise for it was exactly what they expected from their early knowledge of him - They awlways knew that he was a promising boy & he knew my dear Son. every motive which can stimulate an honorable ambition - for distinction - comes home to you - with great force - and should awaken a fixed purpose in your mind to win academick & literary honors - make yourself a scholar and a man - Do not permit fleeting & transient pleasure - to divert you from your purpose Remember that you can alone accomplish your object by patient & diligent application & study - work late & early - so far as is consistent with your health - keeping up of course your occasional intercourse with those you have made the acquaintance of in & around Boston - Never loose sight of the great object before you

permit no discouragement to interfear - But
press on through every obstacle, real or im
aginary - And the result is sure & within
your grasp - Remember the deprecating and
ungenerous introductory letter - unpudently
handed you - Your triumphant success - will
be the most glorious revenge - For this hyp
ocritical & malignant attack upon both
yourself & family - an act unsurpassed in
audasity - treat such puny assailants as they
merit - And force yourself to a position
far out of reach of their covert & insidious
malignancy - Strike for high aims & persevere
unceasingly until you have attained the
object of your ambition - high college honores
are yours, for you labor to attain them, Let
me then urge you by every consideration
of pride of family of honorable ambition
to labor - to toil - to work - until you have
accheived all - Then your return home will
a proud & joyful one

This change of purpose - postponing so
long your return - will bring us to make
you a visit - also your sister in the latter
part of the Summer or fall - write me how
your progress is satisfactory to yourself
How is Chas satisfied with it - do you
not find your capacity to work increased
with

your increased attainments & improved habits of Study - write me freely just as you think & feel about these things and of your confidence of uniting with with your Class in due season with credit to yourself - write freely & tell us every thing have you ever called upon Mr Searer - If not do so - with other friends

I recd a letter from Mr Silsbee a day or two since informing me - that a splendid saddle of mutton - I sent him by Express - had failed to come to hand I sent him - the receipt of the agent here for Its delivery - and If It is not at hand request Mr Silsbee - to call upon the (Adams Express agent) to settle for the loss - I paid $3 for Its delivery - & the Mutton was worth $4 making $7 which they must pay - and I will try my luck again and see If I cannot be more fortunate next time

Your Mother & Myself attended a large party last night at Mr Grats - which was splendid & most delightful

Your Mother Sisters & Cousin Maria all join me in devoted love to you

Yr Affectional Father
H T Duncan

Transylvania University,
January 26th, 1855

My Dear Friend,

Your letter of a recent date was duly received, and should have been sooner answered, but, as often happens with me, perplexities of various kinds have caused the postponement of duty.— You inquire about the probability of your friend and tutor's being able to obtain a situation in some College in Kentucky. I feel constrained to say that I do not know of any vacancy of the kind— things, in fact, I know but little about the Colleges. I should not feel free to encourage the gentleman of whom you speak to come to this part of the State, in expectation of finding, at once, a suitable situation.

No very special news from Lexington

Yours truly

James B. Dodd

H. Duncan Esq.

Lexington Ky Feb 1855

My Friend

When your letter arrived, which was 10 days ago I was almost well; and, it was my intention to answer it immediately, but various misfortunes, (of which I suppose you have heard) kept me from doing it, It is in my nature, when any misfortune of any kind happens to me, to be silent, and unable to do any thing interesting to any body while — for a while afterwards — Perhaps it is a weak point — but when I am alone, with no Companion save my own thoughts, I think of that, until it ceases to be painful, and I often find the illumed path-way — in the darkest wood. —

Henry, to day is Sunday and the church bell is calling to the house of God, the worshipers — its swelling peal seems to praise our Father And the Music of that old bell, is, (to me) an utterance of love, — and worship, pure, and holy — The snow covers the ground; and makes every thing look sweetly clean The wind has ceased its mournful wailings, and, instead, calmly passes by, invigorating — and drives away all dull inert feelings — this holy day, is beautiful not, as, when the Sun warms us with his daggling rays; and, the odors from flowers of Spring, pass on the cooling breeze; — but as, Winter is decked in her most becoming garments — the house top is white, the fences, and every bush — the leafless boughs are clothed in nuptial garbs

which fall over them, with beauty and grace. —
Heaven, too, is spotted with maiden snow — Every
thing animate and inanimate, worships — to day
but, I — Here I sit, recording thoughts, that, as shadows
flit before, of forms too interesting — and too much yearned
for, to last — Yet no anthem, have I sent up, but
such as a soul voluntarily raises to the Creator
of these Sublime and lovely scenes. —

On last Sunday I went to the Presbyterian church;
where I heard one of the finest sermons, that I have had
the pleasure of hearing, for a long — long time
The Subject was — the Miracles — never have I heard
a divine, so eloquently — and powerfully speak — He seem
to have a thread of most touching and ~~stirring~~ — and
beautiful texture — interwoven. He seemed himself to be
in a nobler and higher sphere where he could see — prove by sight
the workings of Our Saviour — There was arguement — the best
ever given to prove ~~that~~ the truth of our Saviors
I never could describe or give the least justice to any thing
Henry read, Pulpit Eloquence — by Amelia — there you
may find my sensations, while he was speaking. —
The Town is dull — not so dull either — Circuit Court
is going one — at this place — Mrs Fragers trial comes
off Monday — I saw Miss Kate to day — she is
as pretty and sweet as ever —
Write soon Henry — and I will answer immediatly — as Jonette
says — if not sooner — I rem, your sincere friend
Garland Webb Jr

[Feb. 1855?]

Quincy & Kirkland Sts.
Friday.

My dear Duncan.

Can you tell me if our young friend of Pittsfield is favorably inclined to our little plan of disposing of her vacation in our favor?

We will claim every hour she can dispense with from those from New Haven.

Always your friend.

Mary E. Sparks.

Duncannon Feb 1st 1853

My very dear Son

You shall not be left in suspence as to the date of this letter, when the almanac is not near to refer to I am at a loss to know the day of the month, it makes me feel sad to hear you say we have forgotten you, there is some of us, writing almost every day or two, your Father several letters during the week, which makes me very tardy about writing, & then you have so many interesting ones in Lexington it seems to me you will be kept quite busy reading & answering of them, it also affords you an opportunity to judge of each one's capacity & education, You know that Miss Harriet Brand was said to have been engaged to Mr Johnston of Arkansas, after leaving Lex he was a correspondent of Harriets, and made a small i for the personal pronoun I & perhaps many others but this is the only one made public, the engagement is at an end, owing I suppose to his being so illiterate, Webb & Rodes told your Father they had heard from you, also Mr Berkly, & I let you know of his Mr some time ago,

I hope the change of room is more comfortable in every respect, a door from the one you sit in to your bed room is indispensible for that cold region, be careful of your health take sufficient exercise out of door it is absolutely necessary; daily, not so violent as to make you take cold after it, but regular & moderately, not as I did the other day we all went down upon the ice & pushed each other about in chairs for several hours, & not being accustomed to such exercise, the next day was as stiff as a rheumatick, The weather for ten days past has been real winter, the large pond is quite frozen

another

over, 4 or 5 inches in thickness, it is beautiful ice but unfortunately we have been filling our house at different times whenever the ice would bear them to cut it, so we have but a few loads of the present to put in, I hope you will be able to read this the pens are such miserable things, it is a labor to write, & one reason I write so little, & probably what I do say you will give more heed,

I like to hear of your cultivating your taste for music & for you to hear the best musicians & vocalist, best the opera (save occasionally) is not the most approved & unquestionable place to acquire the taste

We have not heard from your friend Anderson but think he will when the weather moderates be over, the river opposite Cincinnati was closed that the ferry boats could not pass,

As to your return home I wish you to pursue the course most conducive to the prosecution of the object in view, that of completing a good education a perfect scholar, if our lives are spared we shall have a happy meeting in the summer, since your sister heard of the idea of your return, she has written to her Father please not to call Brother home as she would feel so badly so far from any of us, You are near enough to see her in a short time if necessary, We received a long letter last week from her, she is well, but looking anxiously for a box of provision, she says Mary Lafon has not brought any thing, she has to get for both, cakes, crackers, apples, etc etc, Now I think it is too mean she did not give your sister a christmas gift, or New Year, not the smallest token of regard & affection & tells Mary she prefers her as a room mate to any one in the Institute, well she may! I am done with any one, that acts in that way, I do not

feel as much esteem for Miss L as you & your Father, after such conduct towards your sister. Mary A. Castleman is going in the Spring, she is afraid of the winter, owing to an affection of the throat, I think if she goes, my Mary & she would do admirably together, I hope Miss Castleman will go, We do not see much of Dr Jenkins, save when your Father is from home, & the weather is so bad he will not expose himself to go to Bedford. but goes to Lex every morning & returns in the eve he concluded to walk one day but he was so fatigued & got cold by being heated with walking, he says he won't try it again, he walks very little not enough, Our neighbor Alexander Morgan was married to Miss Margaret Russell, Jan 25th if she is no more social than the present one we shall see very little of her, Your sister told us of it in her last letter, she heard of it through the Miss's Offutt's, cousins to Miss Russell, Miss Maria says you promised to write to her, & she would answ't, so one or the other must break the ice, every week she has been going to start, but is still stationary, We have sad news of Ballard he has been out collecting as usual started to Lex as to collect there, went as far as New Orleans, was taken in by sharpers drugged & lost $4 000, Mr Dolan was at N. O. at the same time came up the river with him & left him at Orval Anderson's in Miss where his wife is, he was crazy with mania Potia, all the way up the river & he left him the same, I am afraid he has been given to vice heretofore, one does not take such a step all at once, poor fellow! he is ruined, no one

will have confidence in him after this, had
he kept aloof from cards & drink, all would
have been well, The Firm he was with has
badly failed not able to pay 40 Cts to the dollar
The dry hard times is still the theme, some say
the worst has not come yet, it is very severe on the
poor, I wish you would send me Ruth, Hall,
if you have done with it, it is difficult to be
had here, I have only heard of on copy & it
was got in Louisville, & another thing I am unwilling
to pay the price for it, as you have a copy. just
send it out, by mail, I send you a peice written
by young Harrison, the second son, I do not
know his christian name, I expect you do, I do
not think his signature is very poetical,
be comforted my dear son in the thought that you
are not for one moment forgotten, although
you may not heare as often as you desire, all
Father, Mother, & Sisters speak of you daily, Ell. &
Lily, both, say good morning & good night, for
Brother & Sister, to Father & Mother, so as you sit
alone you can think what our salutations are
morn & eve, from each little sister,
dear Hal when you left home you seemed in
-clined to stoop a little, your study table ought
to be higer than usual, so as to keep you in
an erect position, & when committing any thing
to walk your room, would be, a change, & ena
-ble, you to straighten up, expand the chest,
to change from one task to another, rests one as
much or more than to be entirely, idle. doc.
I can't think an idle person can be a happy one
employment will be enjoyment, be of cheer &
drive the blues away, Father, Ellen, Lily desire much
love to You & accept of the unbounded love of your Mother

Lexington Feby 2nd 1855

Dear Henry

Yours of the 26th ult. has been received and its contents carefully noted. Accept my thanks. In reply to it I have nothing particularly to say and of course shall employ but few words in saying it. You make some reference to beams and eyes, the applicability of which to my case my obtuse mental vision does not enable me to perceive. Beaming eyes I assure you have not recently troubled me or caused any irregularity in the pulsations of my heart whereas you by your own words stand convicted. At a very recent date you speak of having been ushered into the presence of an hundred pair of bright eyes owned and managed by an hundred of the prettiest girls &c. If the beams from some of that hundred pair did not get into and dazzle your own a miracle was enacted — but I will not press the subject farther. I know you feel guilty. Your caution in reference to Miss Webb coming as it does from one so well qualified by a strong resisting power of the charms and fascinations of rustling calico possesses great weight and recommends itself powerfully to my judgment and awakens a sense of imminent danger. I shall beware. The coincidence of receiving letters by the same mail from Miss M and the Rev E. F. B. is rather striking and, if the latter was purely a letter of friendship, prompted by

no business object it is calculated to call into play the imagination faculties. As I am without data in the premises I shall forbear to express an opinion as to the prompting spirit of the letter. I saw Miss Kate some 10 days ago mentioned to her that I heard her sister had received a letter from you. She replied that she had but that on account of being unwell had not replied. She withheld the fact that she had acted as the amanuensis of her sister remarked that you wrote a very interesting letter: there the subject dropped. It is now said, with what truth I know not, that a full and entire reconciliation has been effected between Benj: Johnson and Miss Harriet Brand and that they will be married. It is gossipped that Tom Redd Esqr is to be married in a few weeks to the widow of Sam Bullock - sister of John Breckinridge The clubs are still in full blast - cupid is officiating at the bellows and I reckon will soon have the materials in his furnace at the welding point A portion of the male metal it is said is already sufficiently softened to be ready at the hands of the holy man of God to undergo this interesting process: but the female material is a little resisting. I suppose there is no fear that the former cannot be kept glowing hot for an indefinite time or as long as there are any hopes that the latter will yield to the powerful efforts of the blind boy at the bellows. Nous verrons

The last club party of the desperates was given by

Miss Harriet Brand. A new play and as redicu-
lous ~~play~~ as new was introduced there. The ladies all
retired into a separate room and selected each
the gentleman she most admired. This done the
doors were thrown open exposing the ladies all
arranged in a row. One by one the gentlemen
were then required to enter and kneel to the
lady of his choice. If their admiration was mutual
a burst of applause saluted him; but if otherwise
a storm of hisses and other marks of disapprobation
make known to him the want of reciprocity. But one
gentleman hit the nail upon the head. Tell this not
in Boston - breathe it not in Cambridge
For 10 days past the weather has been steadily cold - the
thermometer ranging about 16°. Ice of the finest
quality has been furnished. A light snow gave
sleighing for two or three days. Your father informs
me that you have definitively abandoned all purpose
of returning home before the expiration of two years
I regret that I shall be denied the pleasure of seeing
you for so long a time. Dr Mathews has brought
Ellen & Lizzie up from Shelbyville and placed
them at school with Mr Nevins in town.
I enquired of Wickliffe if he had sent to you the
papers as directed and received an affirmative reply
Have you asked at the Boston Office; it may be
that he directed them there - I forgot to ask
All your friends are well. Excuse the shortness of my
letter. Yours affectionately H O Jenkins

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retired into a separate room and selected each
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Mr H. J. Duncan Jr
Cambridge
Mass

Lexington Feb 3th 1855

My Dear Son

I have not failed regularly to write you every week at least once — and oftener — you have certainly failed to recieve from me letters of which you make no mention — with the exception of one letter to your Mother — we have not heard from you for some days — I have heard nothing from Chase since my letter inviting him to Ky — I presume all that has fallen through — and that he continues his connection with Cambridge — and you remain there with him I hope you are diligently employed in pressing forward your studies to enter your Class — at the commencement of the next Academick year — Does your feelings of Confidence increase, as you progress — Are you satisfied that you will enter easily & with Credit? Are you now during vacation pursuing your studies? Is Chase with you giving his attention? He ought during this vacation give you extra attention — You have no time to lose — until you have entered your Class

In your letter to your Mother in speaking of your correspondents — you speak of 2 Miss M — s Does this mean 2 letters or both sisters — we have been a little puzzled to decide — My interpretation is that it means both sisters — You had better be cautious in writing letters to young Ladies — you might get into some scrape — Do not let the girls draw you from your

Studies – my word for it, to will not pay – while you are trying to enter your class

You recieved from your Sister on yesterday 12 pages of letters – This is decidedly improveing – I learn from her letters that – There is a good deal of discomfort in the accomodations at Pittsfield – She writes home for her Latin Dictionary & some Latin Books does She mean to review her Latin – This looks a little like it – I hope She will

It is strange that you failed to get the Copies of the Observer you ordered – I handed Jenkins the money to pay for them at the time, and shall to day – make some enquiry into it my self I suppose you got your Copy of the paper did it contain the Boston letter

We have had for the last ten days the coldest weather this season – Ice 6 inches thick Best unfortunately we had all filled our Ice houses – before – I have not in consequence of the Cold been to Bed for for 2 weeks

Do you remember whether you paid Long last fall for the Turnips Seed you purchased – He has just handed a bill for it – Between 40 & 50 ℔ – what is your recollection on the Subject – I have never been so swindled in my life as in the accounts of the past season – Be not Startled when I tell you they reach near $4000 that I have paid

All joins in love to you
Yr Affectionate Father
H. T. Dunean

Pittsfield Feb 3rd 1855.

Mr Duncan

"Cousin"

The "C. A. C. C. P." is again flourishing in good style - and ready for any fun you may propose - if you will promise punctual attendance, both now - and henceforth forever! You shall hear further next Saturday, if an answer is received before - We constitute you honorary member - and "Corresponding Secretary"

Compliments of the
C. A. C. C. P.

E. "Secretary"
of Society.

Cincinnati Feb 4th 1855

My dear friend

A thousand pardons for not having writ=
=ten to you before according to my promise. I have
been very remiss indeed, and am heartily ashamed
of myself. Often have I thought of you, and often have
I determined to write to you, but some little circum=
=stance has always prevented me from putting my design
into execution. What do you think I did on my trip
home? Why I forgot all about my baggage and left
it at the depot in Boston. I telegraphed to the Amer=
=ican Express company and fortunately received it in
good condition a few days since. Delight is not a
sufficiently strong word to express the pleasure I feel
at being once more surrounded by those I love; I am
in ecstasies. There has been (mirabile dictu) very
fine sleighing here for the past few days with a pros=
=pect of a little more. Father received a letter a
week since from your honored and respected governor
thanking him for some "Sparkling Isabella" and insis=
=ting that I should make them a visit; a pleasure
which I would gladly do if possible. How are matters

progressing in the Athens of America? When you write tell me all the news: I anticipate a great deal of pleasure from your letter. When you visit Mrs Jared Sparks Esqr tell her of my health and happiness; also inform her of my continued esteem and regard for herself and family; also inform her that her sister Mrs Appleton is fast convalescing (private — she never was sick, all affectation): also inform her that I wrote to you and told you to tell her all the above interesting and edifying sentiments. Where are you going to rest your wearied body next term? In the same bunk that you now occupy? Nearly one half of the vacation has slipped away, oh! cruel thought. I can only reconcile myself to return to Cambridge by the thought that there I will behold your smiling and expressive face. —

The river is full of floating ice and all navigation for the present is suspended. Miss Mag Brady of your burgh and the Misses Nicholas, Thompsons, Johnson, Grosz, Pope Lebe of Louisville have been sojourning in Cincinnati for the last few weeks. The city was never gayer than at the present. Three cheers for the beautiful ladies of Ohio and Kentucky, the belles of

the whole world. If the Boston gentlemen would only come out West and see our lovely and bewitching maidens how astonished and surprised the would be. They never would waste their love and attentions on those whom they before thought beauties. It is getting late and I must now close. Don't forgot to write a long letter and tells me every little item you can think of. Give my respects to all my acquaintances and believe me ever your

affectionate friend "Mick"

W. F. Duncan
Cambridge

Young Ladies Institute Pittsfield
February 3.d. 1855

P. S. This is Evy's & Mary Agnew's doings. Evy told me not to open this note, will you send it to me & let me read it. I will take good care of it. Please do, & I will send it back again. Evy sends the piece cut out of the News Paper. Evy is a great girl. Evy says you must not tell anyone. Evy is a great girl.

Dearest Brother

I have just finished writing to Emma. I have written & sent two letters one to Ellen Matthews & one to Dr Penkins. & after I finish writing this one. I will write home. I received a letter from Ellen last night. all were well. She said there had been a large party at Mr Gratz's. Father & Mother went they had a fine supper Ell said & enough for the "outer & inner man" She said she had had a party. & Scott played for her. Ell said "act first." Lizzie sold "act second." Letty. & so on the letter was four pages. I intended to write to you on the paper, but I was in such a hurry that. I begun on this before I knew what I was doing. Poe Corson the young lady who was expelled has just left the institute. I suppose she will never come here again.

The study bell has jst this minute rung; I have a great mind not to go. I have not gone. the girl has just come with molasses candy & I have bought some. It is quite cold to day, but I have been near the fire & did not feel it much. Evy is going to write you a letter & I am going to put it in my letter. we have organized the O H C C P. society again and we have more girls this time, but Evy will tell you all about it. the meaning of these letters. is. "Old harry concocting curious plans". This paper is so hard to write on. I have a great mind to commence on another sheet after I finish this letter. Mary & I have been munching candy, until we are tired. we, (~~that~~ is) myself & about 26 or 30 of the girls went out walking & skateing ~~&~~ sliding yesterday after=noon. we had a very nice time. we pulled each=other on the little boys sleds. & I & some of the other girls tried on the little boys skates, I stood alone, but the slipped off. I beleive

I could skate if I had a pair of ladies skates.

I do not know what to tell you & I have to write to Mother after I finish this letter. I feel completely worne out. I have been writing ever since tea last night except when I was asleep & at my meals. & this letter is not fit to send to you, it is a perfect scrall & scribble. I do not believe I ever will learn to write a good hand. I am so provoked at myself.

We had a musical reviene yesterday afternoon. Mr. Agnew called on me to play. & I was so frightened I could not scarcely play. but the girls said I did very well. I will be so glad when vacation comes. Mary Reed directed my letter, she told me not to tell you, I believe she said that to get me to tell you.

Oh! Dear! what shall I tell you. I am completely at a loss. I want to make my letter interesting. but I am such a fool. I cannot write like any one else.

My next subject for composition, is, Poverty & Riches. I think it will be capital to write about the — "Rich & Poor man" The rich man reclining on his mahogany couch, inlaid, hewn & carved from the lofty cedars of Lebanon.

I wrote to Dr Perkins, to copy it & send it to me will you copy it & send it to me, for fear he will not write & send it in time.

Mary & I eat up our orrange this morning & it was delicious & sweet, but not as sweet as the giver. I could eat a dozen without stopping. This letter will not leave Pittsfield until Monday morning & that accounts for your not receiving my letter sooner last week, the one I wrote last Saturday. Cousin Maria has not gone to Vincennes yet. I forgot to tell you Ellen said she was the "Star of the evening" at her party. but it will soon be time to take up the mail.

with the love Farewell Brother Dear,
& your devoted & loving sister M. D.

P.S. Mary desires to be remembered to you.

"Headquarters"

Sept 8th

[1855]

My Dear Friend.

Your anxiously expected letter has come, and was to me a source of very deep pleasure, and though it hardly needs this assurance for your own conviction - still - I believe it will be a ~~xxxx~~ gratification to you - and ~~xxxx~~ in itself so innocent - that I will not willingly withhold it from you; and in the same breath let me apologize for any apparent ne-

gleet of you. Your letter to me has been lying at my Father's store for more than a week, and I determined that another hour should not pass without my having written to you. I scolded them well for it and I think it wont be repeated but should it occur again I will employ some more attentive postman than my brothers & father. In regard to the indulgence; I will grant them oftener if possible than the Pope does to his subjects, not for your enthusiasm alone but for anything you may wish in my power. I would make a lenient Pope dont you think so? If my begging will influence you at all, let me entreat you will send us another of your charming contributions; it

will be most gratefully received
by every one - I assure you, but most so
by me. I shall look at the papers most
anxiously 'till I see it. I have always
thought I would be a good confidant,
see if I will not prove a good one?
you alone shall be my Judge. Your
message to Mr Berkley I will go &
deliver him this evening. It was
just three months yesterday since
you left - and could any one realize
it to have been so short a time.
How much has happened since then.
Time drags so heavily with me,
can't you impart to me the secret
for making it fly? Accept my
warmest thanks for your Operas, La
Favorite I had long wished to read,
were you ridiculing me when you

spoke of my fondness for the Italian?
I do not understand the language at all.
It is only the softness of the language in
Brussels & indeed in conversation that I
love it. I wonder if Grisi & Mario could
not be persuaded to come here. I wish
it were possible. Ah! Mr Duncan
I fear you have lost all love for your
people already. Why did you not continue
to think as you did "two weeks ago" of
coming home. I did not think you would
be so easily weaned from your home. You
say "Aug 1st 1856," think - reflect of the length of
time; oh dont let it be so long, cant you say
Aug 1856 instead of 56. Your parents & little
sisters are well or were on Sunday night
when I saw your Father. I had not intended
to bore you with another long letter, but may
I hope you will excuse it in [Morrison]

Your true friend Kate

Young Ladies Institute Pittsfield
Chapel Febuary 8th. 1885

Beloved Brother

I am in Chapel & Mrs Bassett thinks I am writing my lesson, but I am not. I am writing to my Dear Brother. & to think I cannot send my letter until Saturday. It is too bad! it provokes me whenever I think of it. but I suppose I will have to make myself contencented. I received your most welcome letter last evening, just before tea. Evy was delighted with hers. she carries it in her pocket all the time, & she said it was no harm to write to her cousin.

Last the O. H. C. C. P. Society met in my room. there are nine in number, but one was absent on account of sickness. this morning we met again. & some of them said it would be elegant if the members of the second chapter of the O. H. C. C. P. would send to each member of this one. Valentines. & all be in an envelop directed to me. that is in one directed to whichever

of no: it was intended for. & then enclosed in one to me. Evy is going to write to you all about it. You must thank Minor Milican & Nie Anderson in yours. but I suppose you will.

I sat next Mr Agnew yesterday at table, & last night he asked me if I was acquainted with Miss Castleton, I corrected his mistake, & told him I was. & he said, Father had written to him, & said she was coming next term. I will be delighted. & I will room with her, Mary Lafon wants to room with me, so I will get a room for three. I will have to stop now it is half past twelve, & school is out. Good Bye until I get time to write again. It is Saturday Morning & I have just come from prayers. I will finish this letter this afternoon & send this part this morning. The girls said it would be so nice if The U. St. C.E.P. society would send this one Valentines. but I must close this page & send it down to Mr Agnew. Good bye your Sister Mary sends her love to you. & so does Mary Reed. &

Your loving Sister
Mary D.

Feb 10th. /55

Mr Duncan

I enclose a copy of our "Constitution" and will expect a return of the favor as early as possible.

Any communication, to be made to any of the Society, will be enclosed by you, to your sister.

No initials, or signs outside of your letters.

Will you let us know what you think an appropriate badge, something you know that can be worn as a charm? We thought of a little silver "Padlock" about as large as a ten cent peice; with our "By word & O. H. C. C. P." on one side, and our "motto" and initials on the other. We leave it however for "Chapter 2nd" to decide.

" Chapter 1st's" compliments to
Chapter 2nd

C— C. Secretary of O.H.C.C.P.

Young Ladies Institute Pittsfield
Febuary. 10.th. 1855

Dearest Brother

Here I am, alone in my little room. just as I had written the month, Mary Agnew came in & told me the day of the month. she told me to send her kind regards to you. this is such a mean pen I can scarcely write. now I have taken another but it is not much better. It is half past four, & study hour is just over. (we study every Saturday afternoon from 4 til half past.) I did not go over to the Chapel to study hour. because I had the headache, & then as soon as I get my books I open & get to studying. I have to stop. But I must tell you about the O. H. C. L. C. While I have time. Julia Morgan & Mary Agnew came in in again, & so I had to stop writing. Evy has written what is nearly all that is necessary; but there are some things she did not like to every thing. Evy wants you to have the padlocks made & sent with the bills. how do

you like the idea of the padlocks? If our society say if your society can think of any thing better than the padlocks either to write & let us know or else have them made; all the notes to the society or any member of it, are to be enclosed in an envelop & directed to me. When the society met they said it would be nice if your society would send ~~it~~ a box of provisions it would be very nice. the treasure has not much to keep; they said it would be nice for me to hint to you, but for you not to let them know it that we hinted it to you. they also said it would be nice if your society would each select one of the names & direct the valentines withe the & then you to enclose it in another & send direct them to me. they said all this among themselves but they do not know I have told you. But I am afraid I will not ~~even~~ get to write to Ellen to night & I wanted to write a note to Mrs Lafon. Mary A Castleman is coming in the spring she did not come this winter on account of her throat. but I must stop I have forgotten half I wanted to say.

if your society send ours a box of provissions, they can send all kinds of fruits & crackers & dates & pumpkin & tobacco & pipes & a bible & a mince pie & write to me & tell me if your society have any more & if they will not be found enclosed to me then write a letter to be enclosed in an envelop & look for my letter to be enclosed in an envelop & I have to be round at Mrs Brittin's & I want to know if you have any thing else to say.

Do not let the society know about the box.

Lexington Feb 10th 1855

My Dear Son

We are without any of your letters for some days - Your short pencil note to your Mother from Pittsfield is the last - You should not omit writing us fully every week - All little particulars are very interesting to us - You have not informed us yet - whether you are satisfied with your progress & certain prospects of entering your class - There are matters of deep solicitude to me - In one of my late letters to you - I mentioned the failure of Adams Express to deliver Mr Silsbee a Saddle of fine mutton, I sent him - I enclosed to Mr Silsbee the bill of Lading - for its delivery and pre-paid the charge of $3 - This with the value of the Saddle $4 makes $7 the company owe, this I want you to collect through Mr Silsbee, I regret very much his failure to get it as it was a splendid article - We shall have to try it again I hope you dined with Mr Leavens as you mentioned in your last you expected to do - You must not my Son permit yourself to neglect your studies - by your participation in these social pleasures - Nor do I think you should visit Pittsfield as often - It is expensive - and I do desire that you keep this in mind all the time My engagements are heavy for 12 months or

more

when I hope to be easy — I have been more disappointed in collecting means than ever before in my life — My friend Mr A G Carlos debt of $4000 — I confidently calculated upon the 1st of the past January — But was disappointed & have had to indulge him — This I give you as a fair specimen of things here few pay — but owe their debts — This will not suit me I must meet my engagements at any sacrifice — I shall leave home next week to try and negotiate a loan in Cincinnati or Louisville for some 6000 $ — to meet my March engagements — I never will agree — buy property or any thing upon credit — If I have not the money to pay down — I will do without, I have never been annoyed so much — Their was never a time before — that I could not negotiate money at pleasure and for any amount — I shall sell out in the Spring my negroes and all surplus stock — I may be under the necessity of selling my stocks or a part of them If so I shall go to N Y & Phila for this purpose I will not be subjected to the annoyance I am — Since my last to you, your friend Mr Webb — of Webb & Drake — have failed — The failure a bad one — Their deficiency is ~~over~~ 65000 — Webb has given up every thing Jno G Childs of the Phoenix bank has also

made an assignment the failure a bad one — Also Hemingway — of the firm of Scott Hemingway & Co — and who next I can not guess — these things I mention to you some = what in detail to impress upon you — the necessity of economy in your expenditures, ex = pend nothing that is not necessary — that is nothing that you can do without — yet I wish you to live like a gentleman — I mean that you indulge in nothing extravagant or that can be done without — Be not alarmed I shall weather the storm — with perhaps sails a little tattered & throwing over a little ballast, But easily repaired when I get into port.

How did Agnew receive you this last visit? Did you see any person but your Sister? Her letters show some improvement & I trust she will do well, How & from whom did you receive your impression of her high standing in school for talent &c &c Have you recd any of Wickliffs papers containing your letter — If not I must try and hunt some up for you — you might probably find some Boston paper willing to reprint It in their paper or copy It — As It is a notice of a favorite New England school — Devote yourself my son with patient & indefatigable attention to your studies — All well & join in much love to you

Yr devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Father

Lexington Feb 18th 1853

My Dear Son

Your letter of the 5th inst I received on yesterday - after I mailed for you a letter - written in the morning - From the tenor of your letter I am apprehensive that you may have misapprehended the scope and spirit of my letter to which yours is a reply - For this that you have given a personal application to a remark intended by me to be general, In my endeavours to impress upon you - that sort of injustice, which those familiarly acquainted with a youth as he grew up is not being able to perceive & acknowledge his claims to merit or talent - which I think I illustrated by the remark of our Saviour - "That a prophet is not without honor save in his own country" - And further that sort of familiarity - which commences in childhood, such as "Little Henry Duncan" - which calculated to preclude a just & correct estimate of the person - That for this if for no other reason It was better that youth be educated abroad - and he would thereby escape this universal sort of prejudice - I did not however intend to be understood as applying this remark to Mrs McK - though I dare say she may have made But give the "Devil his due" It was not my purpose to attribute it to her particularly - you may have other sources of information - which has done so - This explanation is due to myself as well as her

Altho I like the spirit of your letter - yet I think you probably go too far - in your deprecating remarks of the people of Lex - For I am sure you have many kind friends - who have a proper and friendly estimate of your character - These characteristicks alluded to in my letter - are not any thing peculiar to our people - but are universal every where - Now as to this lady of whom you speak - I think you go too far - Altho she is I dare say disingenuous & fond of managing - awfully prone to gossiping - yet I do not know that that there is much mischief in her gossips - She has a daughter too - about whom she feels anxieties to help forward & you may in some way have wounded their pride - in not showing a proper appreciations of her merits & charms - Now my son do not permit yourself to feel too much on this subject - take the world as it is - learn to subdue and govern your own feeling - Try and look upon the bright side of things & endeavour to profit by the short comings - of frail humanity I am persuaded that it is best - that you grow up a stranger & out of the reach of these silly narrow prejudices - we shall visit you occasionally during your absence - You in the mean time make the most of your opportunities make yourself a Scholar & a man - Rise superior to all difficulties and treat with forbearance

those miserable little nicks and impertinences we have been alluding to — Do not permit them to make any impression whatever upon upon

Should your Sister receive an invitation from Mrs Silsbee to spend a few short vacation which you say is in March — with her in Salem I should have no objection — But it is too early in the season for her to get her Summer Clothing — Her mother will attend to that and have them made ups in Phila most probably & in time — This vacation comes off too early It should not have been until the close of the ~~season~~ Sessions in April — I have got rather out of conception of Dr Agnew — what are your impressions — made at your last visit? Did you see any of the Agnews and how did they behave — Of this we will talk when we meet which I hope will be sometime in the Spring — Indeed I have been thinking of placing Mary with Mrs Edwards this is for ~~self~~ yourself alone — I should prefer Mary remaining at Pittsfield during the short vacation in March & make her visit to Mrs Silsbee during the summer — or warm season — when it will be more pleasant — And not be a tax upon your time — When you have entered your Class regularly — you will have frequent opportunities of making visits to the Sea Shore or watering places — Had not these things better be defered — until you are through your present, sort of probation — These are matters you are as capable of judging of as myself

together with your full knowledge of the
desire I have — that not more money be spent
in the next 8 or 10 months — than is absolutely
necessary — In my letter to you on yesterday I
wrote fully and freely — you are aware of my
disappointment in realising means that I con
=fidently expected — not that I wish to stint
you and your Sisters in proper pleasures — which
you know I should be delighted to indulge
you in under any other circumstances — &
which I confidently hope I shall be able to
do after this year — ~~but~~ I do hope you will
both cheerfully accommodate yourself to
these circumstances — I shall love by Ballard
near 700$ which had It have come to hand
would have helped you & Mary on very
much — I shall remit you soon another check
If you find you need it — let me know — Bear
in mind you are to make no debts — but pay
as you — and If you have no money — do without
until you recieve It — All this McKee matter
had better be forgotten — I have no doubt she
is suffering from her doubt as to our feelings
towards her — I treat them with reserved po
=liteness when I meet — this is the best plan
and never explain the cause — I have written
you this in much hurry — All join me in
love to you

Yr Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Duncannon Feb 13th 1855

My very dear Son

Your letter of the 7th has just come to hand I also acknowledge one from Pittsfield last week, & am so glad you went to see Mary, she is in a new kind of existance & stands in need of one interested in her to confide in & to counsel with, many things she can talk to you about that she could not write or would not, that relieves her mind & cheers her in the race to glory & fame, it is perfectly delightful to me to contemplate the attachment you each manifest for the other, may it ever be so in time & eternity.

Your Father seems to incline to Mary's going to Salem, to pass her recess, but I think she will be better pleased to go to New Haven, and see Emma McCaw & learn what Em is doing, it will be appreciated by the family, the visit to Salem can be made in the summer when we all meet, I trust the weather may be favorable. We have had the severest weather for three weeks that has occurred for a great while, the ice was 7 inches in thickness, it is quite moderate now & to day like April shower & sunshine,

I feel it my duty to disabuse your mind in relation to Mrs McKee. You have come down on her like a pile of brick as the phrase goes, it is not her expression, "little Henry Duncan", your Father only ment to to say (or ought to) that persons in speaking of you & associating the idea of you as a boy in contradistinction to him big Henry Duncan, that your absence for a few years will do away that, Mrs McKee has no reason to speak disparagingly of you, she is too politic to do so even if she felt so, she always enquires for you & Mary very kindly & no doubt feels so, Your Father can never get over the almighty dollar — it was an unfortunate

expression for the young Lady, but the sin of one should not be visited on others, do justly, is the onest course.
"To err, is human, to forgive divine."
I have not heard of your writing to Miss Lucy Webb. it is nothing more than politeness for you let her know how her friend observed her introduction, it is quite a compliment to Miss Webb, for them to regard you as they have, & as little as you could do to appise her of the appreciation of her friend, I regret exceedingly to say her Father has failed, $50,000 worse than nothing
How does the Bible class come on? now is the time to think of God & give heed to the precepts of his holy word, "that it may be a Lamp to your feet & a light to your path." in this dark world of sin & sorrow, You ought to have some religious, books for sunday reading. Let your sabbath time be sanctified, not spent in week day employments, let not your heart grow hard & unbelieving in your Creator, Preserver, & Redeemer, & bountiful benefactor, do not regard this as idle cant I beseech you but give heed now in the days of your youth for sinners that grow old in sin, are hardened in their crimes, a word to the wise is sufficient,
Since I wrote to you for Ruth Hall, I have got it & read it, it is an interesting readable book, such characters ought to be exposed but it does not seem fit to come from her, some of the papers say Fanny has been married since the death of her husband & seperated, is it true? does her father live in Boston? Can he be a respectable man & a christian? She is rich & independant of them now, Hyacinth does not occupy a very enviable position, such unnatural conduct, we can scarsely realise in refined circles. Fanny must have had sorrows or she could not write so natural & feelingly for those in want & need,

3.

Mrs Caroline Scott has been lying very ill for many weeks with disease of the heart, there is no hope of her recovery the last stage dropsy is her state now, her death may occur any moment. Mr Scott is also in wretched health scarsely able to go about, he has a most distressing cough. There is considerable probability that Mr Davis will be the Know Nothing candidate for president of these united states. What think you wont he be a good one?

Miss Maria went to Paris to day, to make her farewell visit, before she leaves for Vincennes, her aunt Hay has sent her a message that if she does not come to see her soon she will be under the sod,

Mr Bell reached home a few days ago, he gave your Father notice he had seen you in Boston. That you seemed to be wearing off the boy, was very manly &

Your friend Nic, A. has not been heard from or seen in this place yet, I wish he would come & see us, he will probably take your rifle for you, What game have you about Cambridge? can you do without a dog?

Dr Young sent us some of the best patridges this winter I ever ate, of his own hunting, Mr Carter's son's are very much pleased with centre college. Mr & Mrs C. spent a day with us about ten days ago.

My fire is out & it is growing quite late in the night so I bid you good night may angels guard you & keep you from harm by night & by day, Father, Ellen, Lily send much love to you, with the love of your affct

Mother

P.S, I dislike to send you a blank page but it can't be helpt now unless I should add something to-morrow - which is doubtful as I must send it in, in time to go in the noon train. you are well acquainted with our breakfast hour, & the buggy is ready to start when that is over, we have not improved any in our early rising. E. D

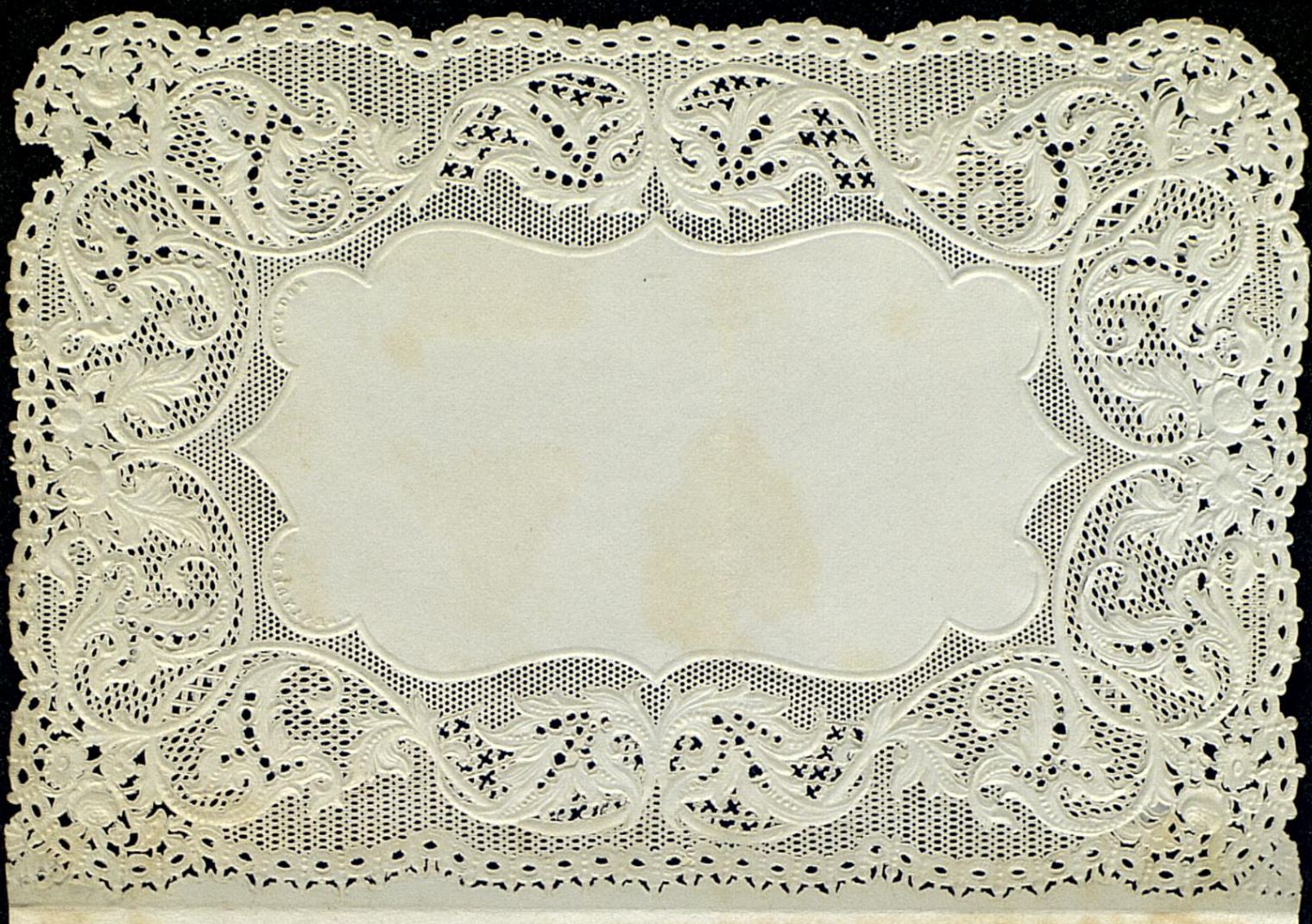
My Dear Son

I am surprised at the information you give about Chase being lazy and that you are receiving to Mr Ware - who you find to be an improvement on Chase - How has this change been brought about? How did you become thus transfered? - Did Chase advise you to recite to Ware? Had you not better advise with Mr Sparks on the subject or Dr Walker or both - This thing of making a change is a delicate matter - and should be most prudently done by you - to avoid making Chase your enemy - as he is to continue in the faculty Yet if it is clearly your advantage to make the change - Do it under proper advisement if Mr Chase's health - is delicate - that may be a ground of change without rupture - and retain him as your friend - I suggested a trip to Salem instead of one to N Haven - Yet if you & your Sister prefer the latter - I have no objections - and I wish you to keep and send me these accounts growing out of these excursions - that I may know how to charge your sepparate accounts - Since my last to you, I have sold 41 shares N B Stock at 105 pr share cash - This enables me to get through my March payments - without borrowing any thing - which I prefer - Whether I shall sell out my Bank stock or not I have not decided - I have still 119 shares - which with Bonds & personal debt & live stock for market within 12 months - I consider as worth 60,000$ - I hope to make my remaining payments out of my proffits on farm - They ~~at~~ are some 14000 - this does not include my floating liabilities which I shall meet from same source - But I shall have to cut close

Your affectionate Father
H L Dimmer

Feb. 1855

Your friendship is
reciprocated
O H C C P "Grace" St. Alpine
Chapter 1st



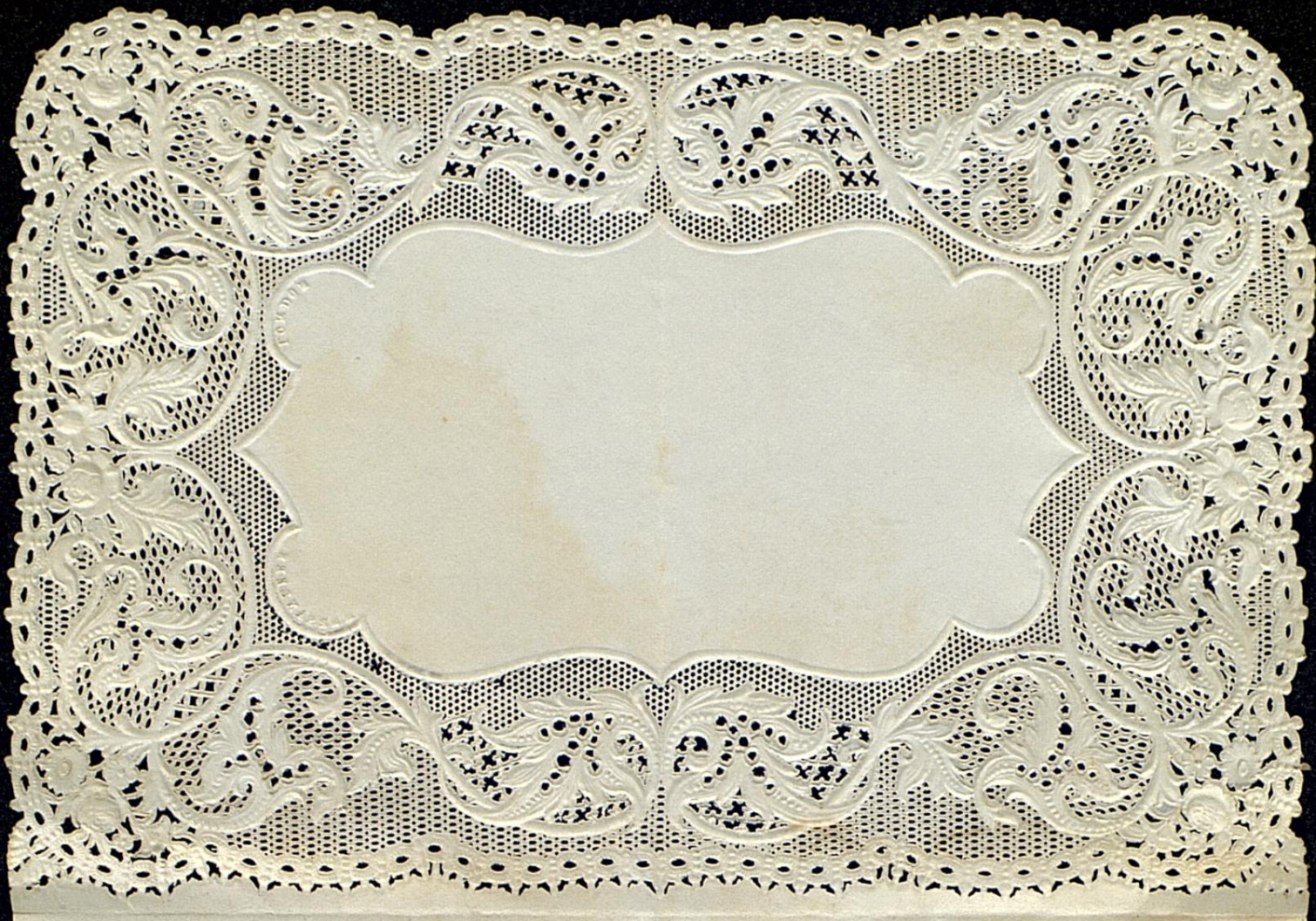
Fa No 6

Compliments and thanks,

F. F. L.

"C. H. C. C. F." Thursday

Feb. 1855

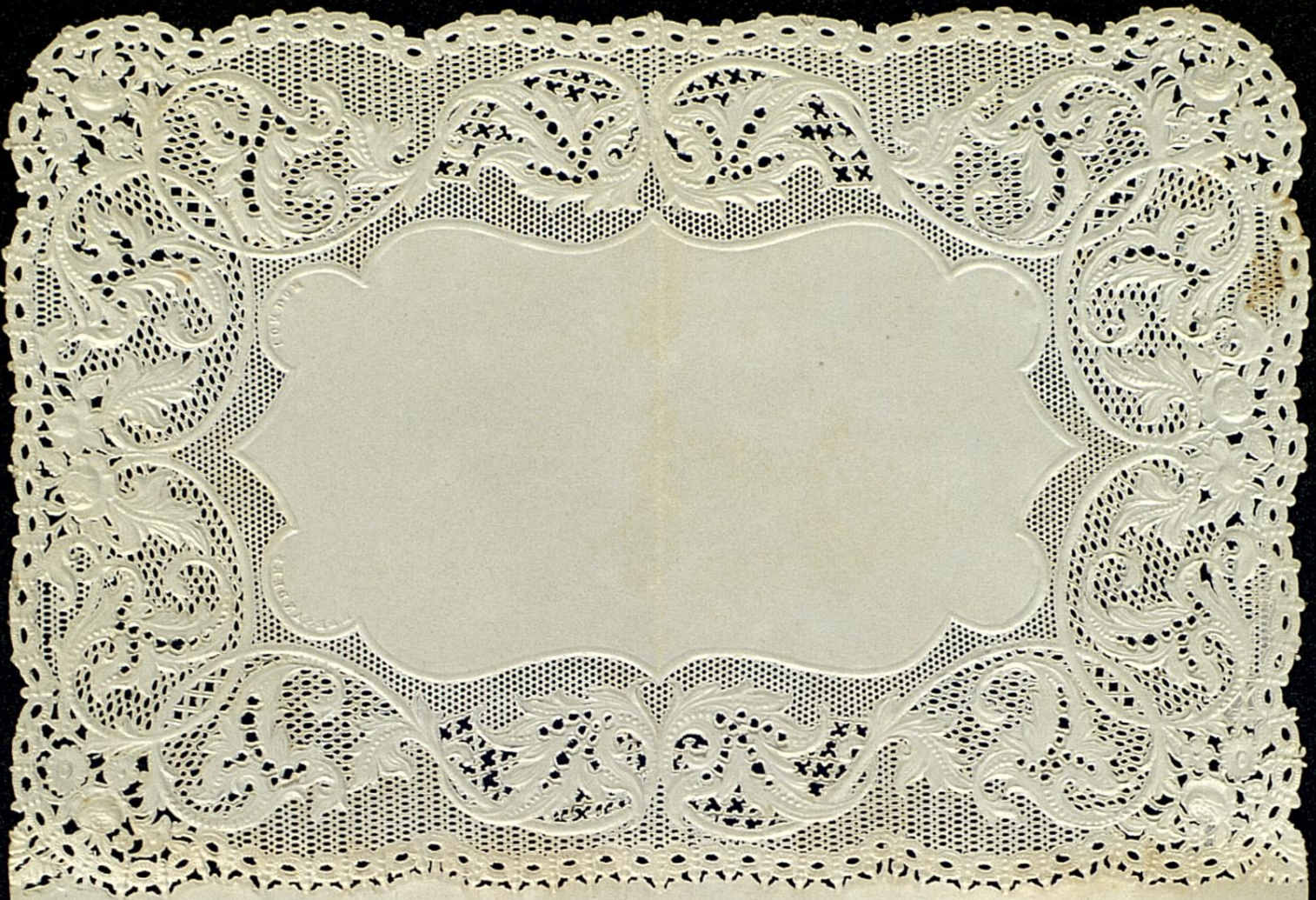


Fa No 16.

So O. H. C. C. P.s! tele us--
Why is the principle conceald for which
You make this mighty stir?
Florence St Maward

"O. H. C. C. P." "Chester 1st"

Feb. 1855



For No 1.





Feb. 1855

Good Morrow! to you Valentine!

"What is love? an idle passion,
Sage advisers call it so;
Can I treat it in their fashion?
Honest nature answers, No,

Wise ones, cease, in vain your preaching
Age has turn'd your hearts to snow,
Can I profit by your teaching?
Honest nature answers, No."

accept the love of your
Sister Lily

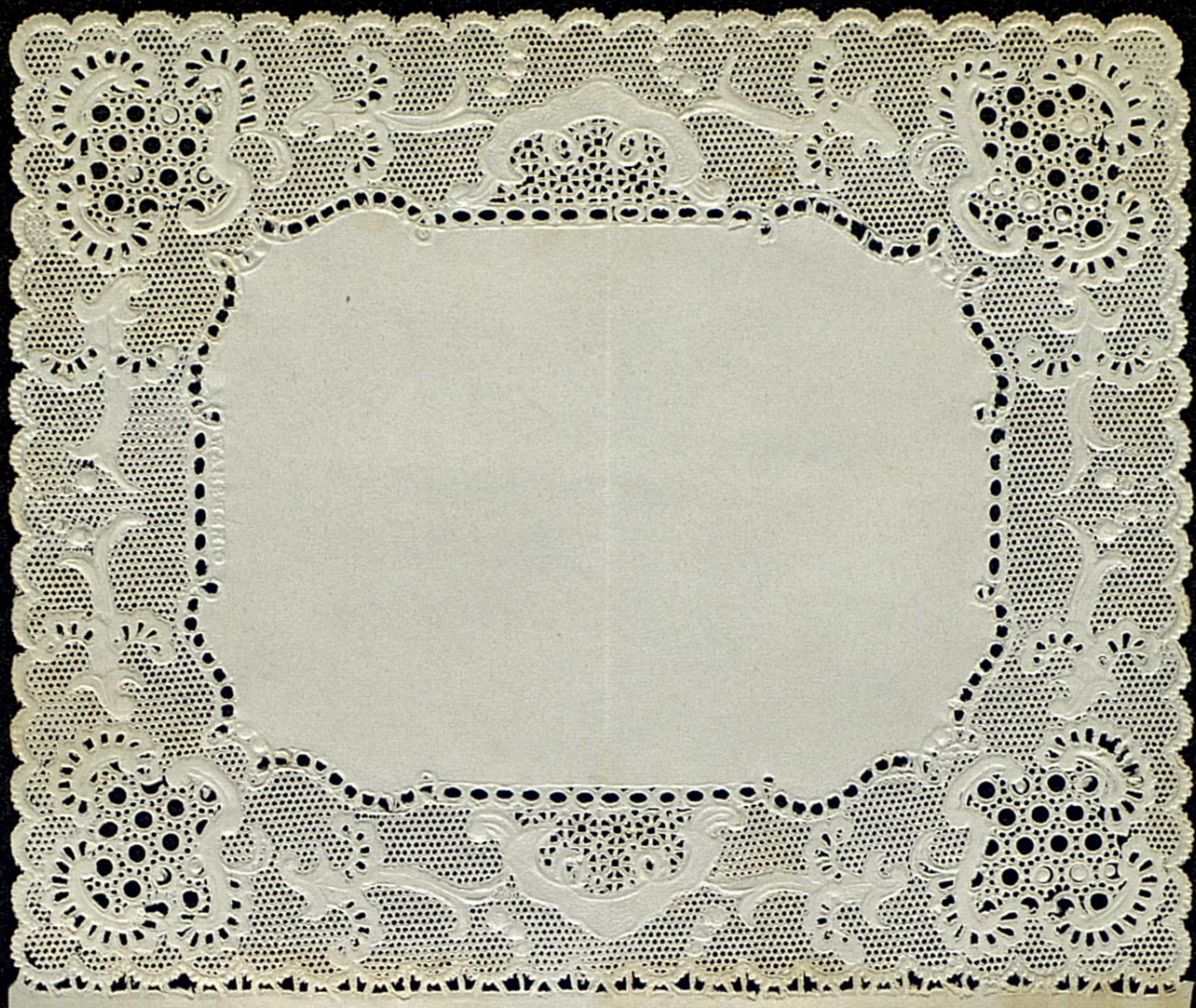
welcome
"Pleasure that comes unlooked for, is twice
And if it stir the heart, if aught be there,
That may hereafter in a thoughtful hour
Wake but a sigh, 'tis treasured up among
The things most precious; & the day it came
Is noted as a white day in our lives."

"He lives not who knows
not how to love."

"Edith St. Clair

"C. H. C. C."
Chap. 1st

Feb. 1855



Haihai

For. No. 2.

Feb. 1855

"Very private"

"Gresie & Hackett"!

"There comes o'er us stealing sweet memories of thee"

"Private"!

Henery Duncan Esq

Cambridge

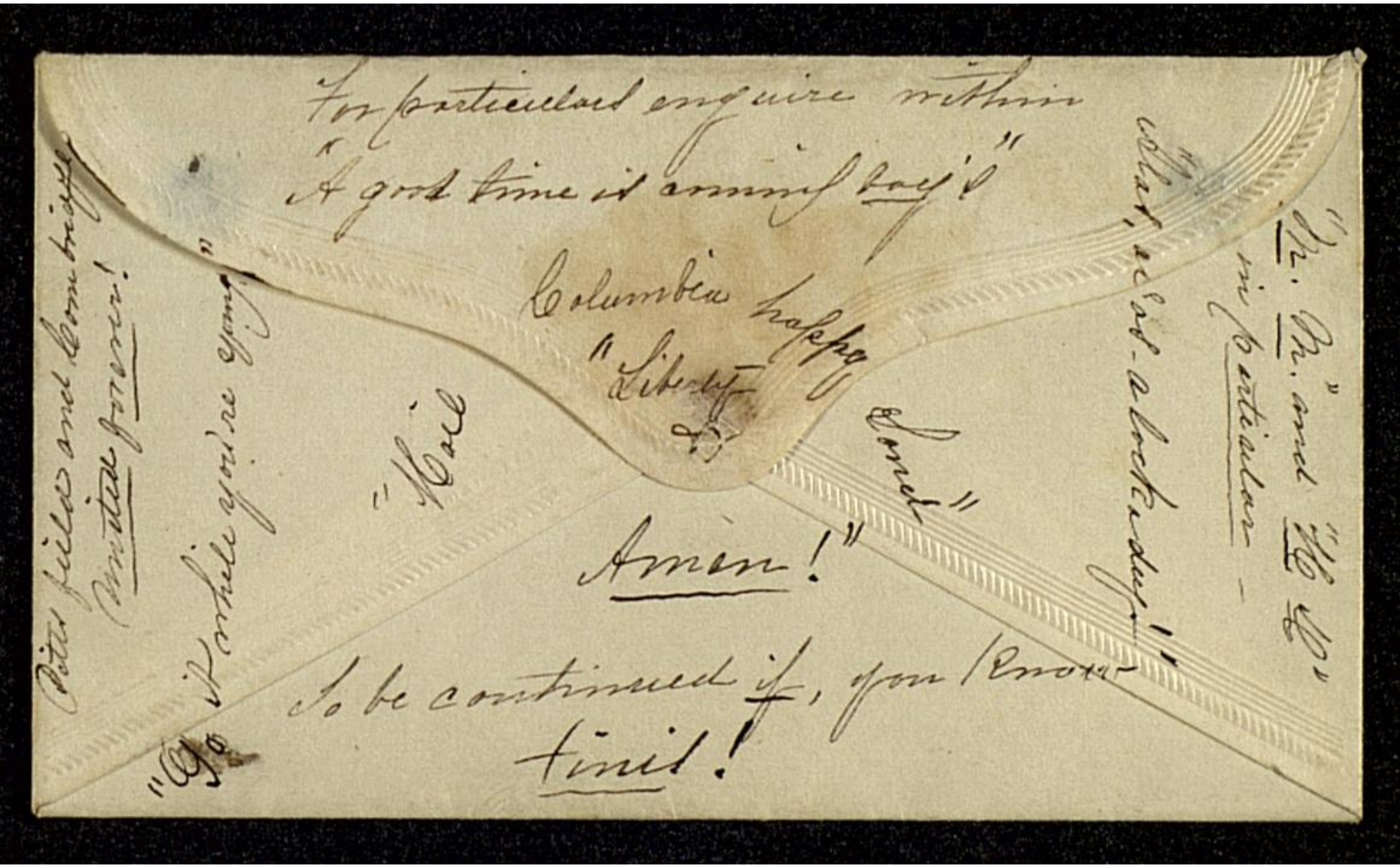
Mass.

"Suffer & be Strong"

"Love not" Please do

"A little more do"

"Particularly private"



For particulars enquire within
"A good time is coming boy's"

Columbia happy
"Liberty
Sand"

"Hail

Amen!"

So be continued if, you know
tinis!

"Go it while you're young"

Ditts fields and Combriggs
Untitled forever!

"Mr. Pr." and "H. C."
in particular -
"Alas, alas - a lock a day!"

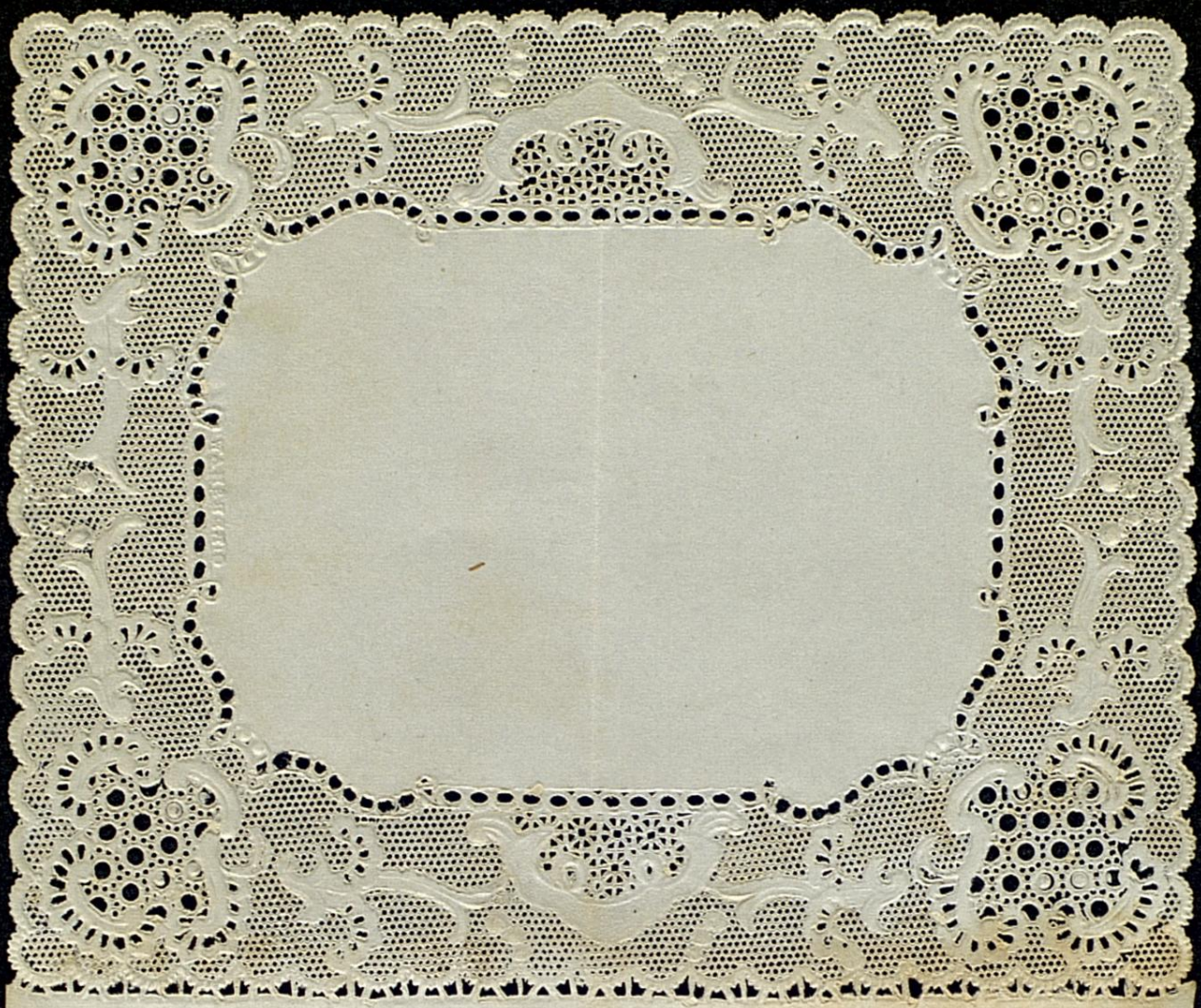
Feb. 1855

"My Forget-not — oh! forget-not me;
I ne'er shall cease to think of it"
Thee

Rowena St. Md.

O.H.C.C.P.

Chapter 1st



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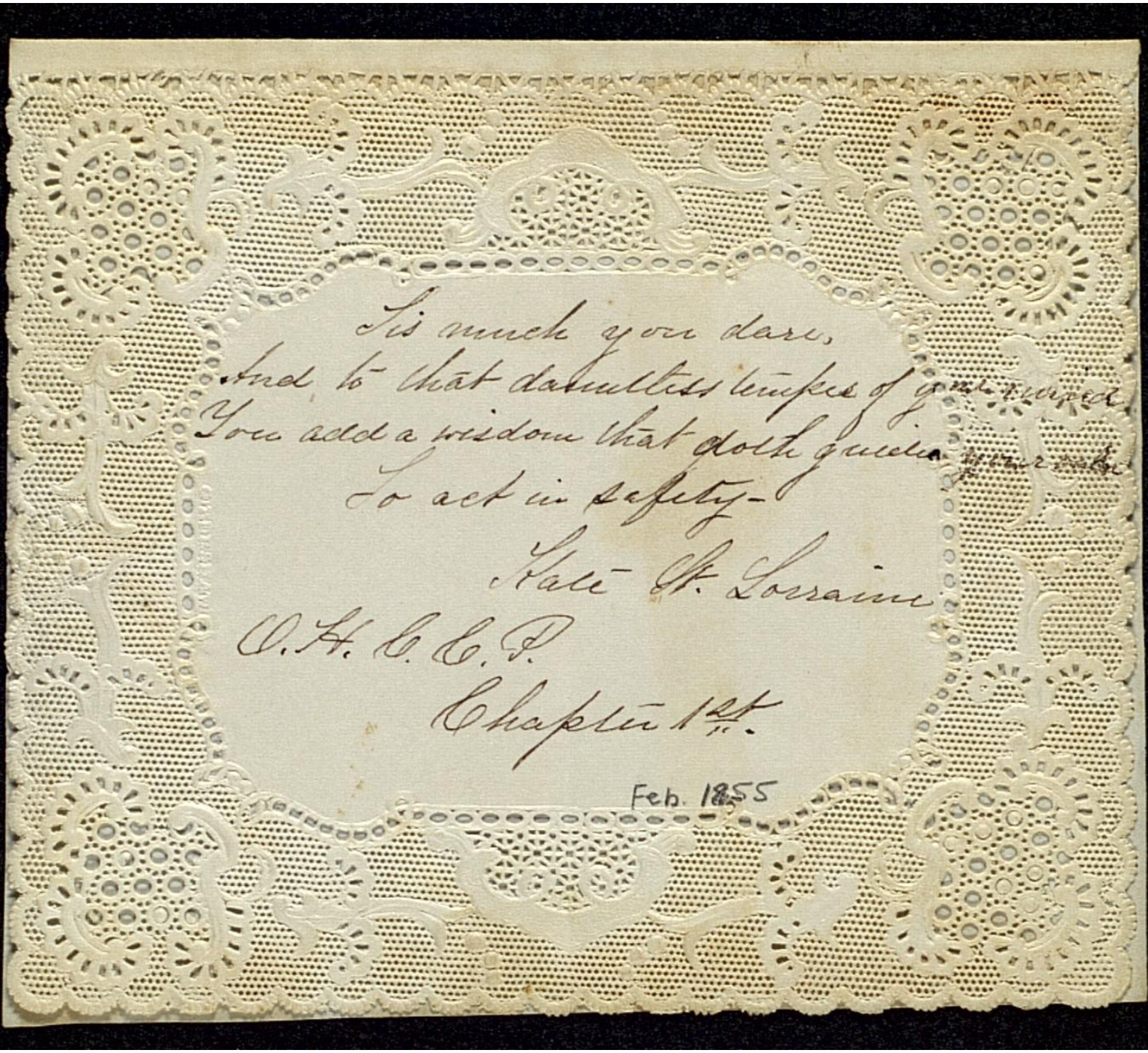


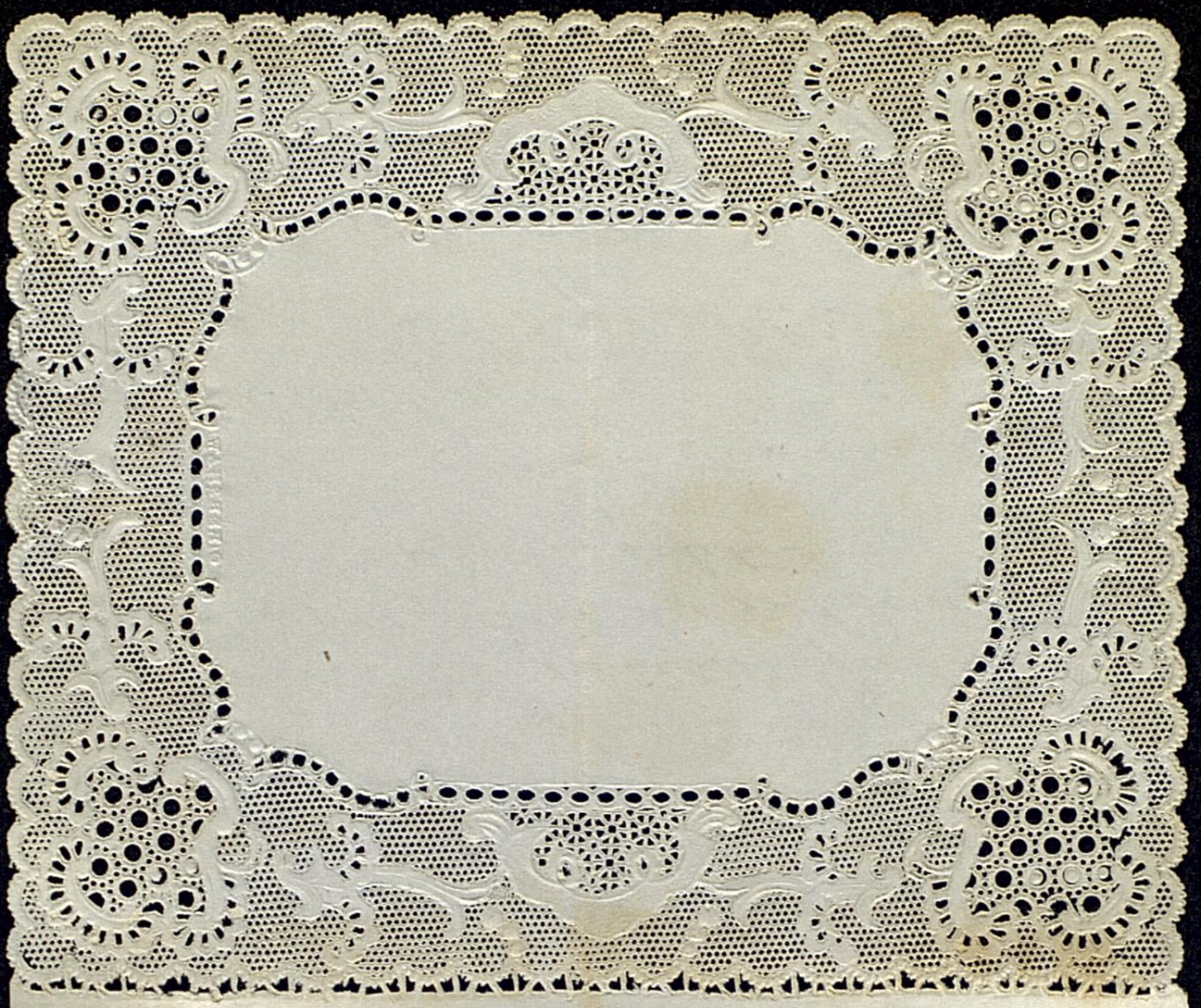
Tis much you dare,
And to that dauntless temper of your mind
You add a wisdom that doth guide your valor
To act in safety—

Kate St. Lorraine

O. H. C. C. P.

Chapter 1st.

Feb. 1855



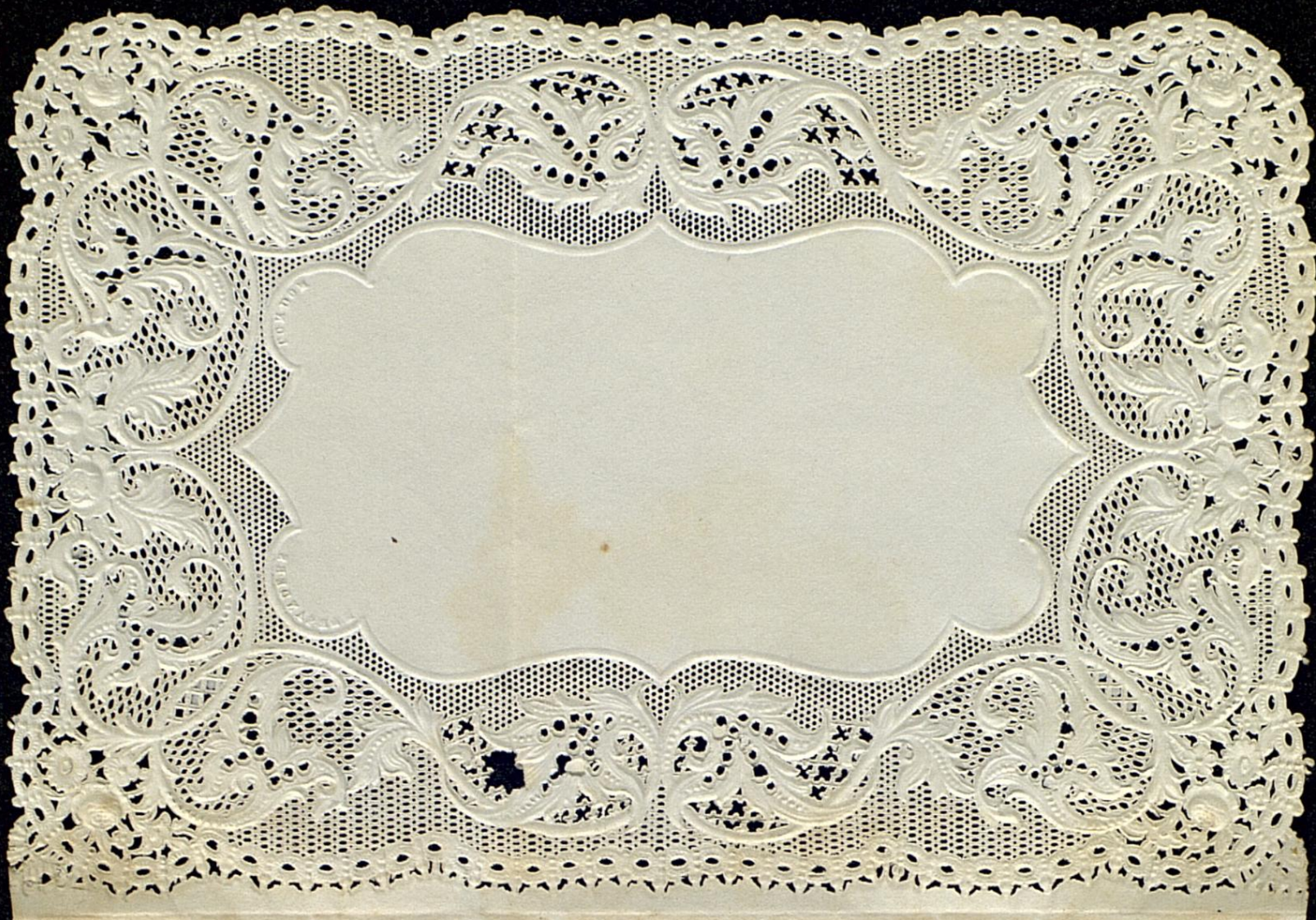
For. No. 8.

Feb. 1855

Remember! it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Cora St. Norval.

O. L. C. C. P.



Aug 22 1861

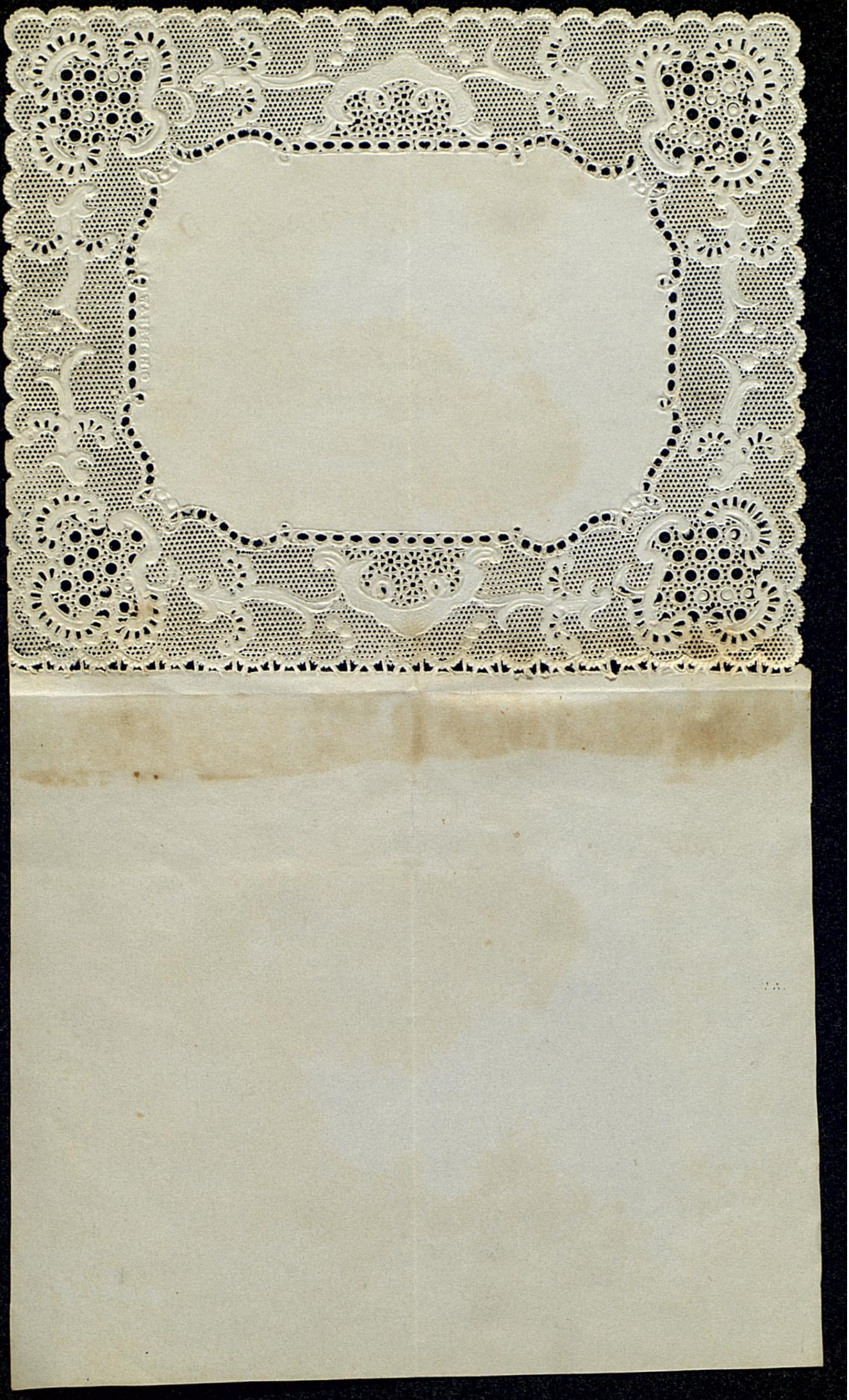
Feb. 1855

"I warrant thou art a merry fellow
And carest for nothing."

Ella St. Luce

"O. H. C. C. P"

Chapter 1st



For No 8



Think not, beloved, time can break
The spell around me cast,
Or absence from my bosom take
The memory of the past.



Feb. 1855

Paddle your own Canoe

"Voyager upon life's sea,
To yourself be true,
And whatever your lot may be,
Paddle your own canoe.
Never, though the winds may rave,
Falter or look back;
But, upon the darkest wave,
Leave a shining track.

Nobly dare the wildest storm,
Stem the wildest gale;
Brave of heart, & strong of arm,
Ever will never fail.
When the world is cold & dark,
Keep an aim in view;
And toward the beacon mark
Paddle your own canoe.

Nothing great is lightly won;
Nothing won is lost;
Every good deed nobly done,
Will repay the cost.
Leave to heaven, in humble trust,
All you will to do;
But if you succeed, you must
Paddle your own canoe."

Good morrow, to you Valentine!
My brother dear.
This is from your loving sister E. D

[Feb 15, 1855]

My dear brother Henry

This is Thursday the day after Valentine's day, it is cloudy, cold, & snowing I wish you had such a warm room as I have it is like summer here in Mother's room,

I have just been trying to make a, b, c's, so that I can write to my dear brother & sister so far away, I make such slow progress that you must exercise the invaluable virtue of patience towards the little a. b. c, d, arian Hope you were pleased to get my valentine, it was small like the one that sent it, do you like the lines in it?

Ellen & I had such a time hunting over the library for something to write, & could not get any thing to suit at last, we have had such sport on the ice, although it was covered with snow, Mother, Cousin Maria Ellen & I went down to the pond & cleared away the snow, quite a broad track from side to side that gave us a good run then we had chairs, to sit in, Lom put on his skates & pushed us from one side of the pond to the other, that sport is now over the past few days have been so mild, & carried our snow all away, Cousin Maria went to Paris on Tuesday, to her cousin Mr Davis' President's, she shouts at the

idea,

Poor Queen died about three weeks ago, she become quite helpless & suffered so much, that Dr Perkins gave her morphine, that quieted & put her to sleep from which she never awoke, the snow at that time was up to our knees, we had a prove day at the "Lovers retreat" where our pets all lie, Mother, Cousin Maria Ellen & I. Hense carried her in a wheel barrow John, Tom, & all the little Fry attended the burial, & saw the last of poor Queen Vic

Father has just come from Ley with a long letter from you & Sister she says it's so cold she is almost frozen, although she has fur cuffs on her fingers are so stiff she can scarsely write, Poor sister Mary

I am so sorry, I wish she was here by our good warm fire now brother what else do you think I have to tell? Father is named in a Louisville Paper for Governor of Ky, what do you think of that? don't you think they might as well name him for President, as any thing else? I would like to go to Washington city with all the great folks, wouldn't it be nice? Now brother you must be a good, wise man & you may be President some day We are making candy I wish you & sister could get some of it, & some of those nuts you helped to gather, Good bye dear Brother Father, Mother, & Lily send an unfathomable ocean of love

Your sister Lily

Lunenburg

February 17th 1855

Dear Henry

Your letter of the 12th inst. came in this morning's mail. As you may perceive from the place where my letter is dated I am out in the country. I am here in the absence of your father in Louisville. We went down this morning for the purpose of seeing Mrs Scott whom you know is dangerously ill and not expected to live a great while. Her disease is an affection of the heart. It is now 10 o'clock Saturday night. Your ma and sisters have retired to their room. Cousin Maria is in Paris. Thus I am left entirely alone. I can think of no more agreeable employment to pass the hours till drowsiness comes over me than in answering your very agreeable and welcome letter. Taking up the topics it contains in their order I remark 1st That the resolution in your unusual fastes and feelings wrought by attending the opera is very extraordinary and admits in my mind of no satisfactory solution. A general distaste or want of fondness for music it has always seemed to me to be less likely to be removed by operatic performance than in any other

way. I have always thought that the person who could find nothing to charm or delight him in the singing of the sweet and simple ballads of Moore & Burns and others by a young beautiful and cultured, soft and sweet voiced lady was past all hope of ever having his ear tuned to drink in the delights of melody by any system or process of training whatever. If I might be permitted to surmise the causes of the change that has come over your musical sentiments I would suggest with great diffidence that your initiation into the O.V.C.C.P. Club had something to do with preparing your mind to be captivated by the divine art. There are certain hundred sentiments of the mind that exert a reflex and reciprocal influence the one upon the other. You never knew a love-sick swain that did not go into ecstacies of delight over music particularly if it was made by the throat or the fingers of his syren After the above I need not make any comments upon your visit to Mansfield. You speak of encountering great difficulty in obtaining an introduction with one of your cousins Miss Mahon. Great difficulties can be overcome only by efforts correspondingly great. The very fact that they were removed implies the employment of such exertions. Is there not here a sufficient cause for the abandonment of Miss Agnew, and to give definite shape to her fears. I think there is and that your logical mind cannot hesitate to come to the

same conclusion
In company with a gentleman I called some time ago to see your old friend Miss K. but unfortunately did not find her at home. This I regretted. Before a great while I shall repeat the visit - may better luck attend me next time. I am obliged to you for your very kind advice & the equally kind offer of your invaluable assistance. If I should at any time conclude to take the first I shall duly notify you and remind you of your promised aid. I find that no trust whatever can be placed in the declarations of Madam rumor. I can now say positively and decidedly that Benj Johnson and Miss Brand are never to be married. This you may rely upon as a fixed fact. Your ci devant flame Miss Mattie McKee has caught a beau and ardent admirer in the person of Mr Jones the half brother of your cousin Mary Lafon and they say his attentions are received with great favor both by the mother and daughter. And you think that the mater is great old intriguer do you? Were you near falling into the snares she prepared to entrap you? A pretty character you give her that of beau catcher for the daughter. Tell me, wont you what are the arts she employs? Flattery I suppose must be one of them. That inference might be drawn from her calling you little Henry Duncan. But she could not come that game over you

Little Henry was rather too groß to go down
I might inform you that the father of Miss
Webber, whom I find to be a very estimable lady
is a bankrupt, involved many thousand dollars beyond
his means. She sustained the adverse revolution of for-
tune's wheel with great calmness and resignation
It seemed to have effected a very slight change in
her spirits. I have met her several times since
the assignment by her father. I have never seen
her more cheerful or apparently more happy
She is a lady of strong mind, solidly cultivated
She feels that she possesses within herself independent
of the meretricious smiles that fortune can send in its
train, a capacity to endure its frowns, and a capabil-
ity of finding contentment if not positive happiness
paraphrasing slightly the words of Moore she has a
heart for every fate. She would make a more valuable
and better wife for any sensible and good man
than the great majority of those I know who are
recommended by great wealth: and I think that
she will find some clear fellow of my way of
thinking will be in the world who will esteem
himself happy in securing her hand. The Clock
has struck the hour of midnight. so goodnight
Feb 18. I received some 10 days ago a letter from
your sister Mary. The 1st she has written me
I see most of her letters home. They bear
the evidences of marked improvement
All your funds are very well. Your Ma
perused your last letter yesterday

Yours affectionately
H S Jenkins

Will you please put a stamp on Mothers letter. & will you please send me some stamps.

Young Ladies Institute
February 21st 185-

Dear Brother

I have just received & read your letter. I am so glad to get it. As soon as I got through reading your letter, I went down to Mr Agnew immediately & asked him to let me write; he hesitated & asked a few or more questions, & at last said I might, if it was very important; but not to do it in study hour to night, or to neglect prayer meeting to do it, I suppose he thought perhaps he would help me from writing, but he will not. The girls said you would resign your secretaryship when You heard Evy had; & they

said I must not tell you. They said the only reason that made Eva sorry to resign, was that she could not correspond with you, (which is pretty nearly true.)

I thank Mrs Sparks very much for her kind invitation; I will accept it with much pleasure; thank her for me & tell her so,

I think I will enjoy myself very much at her house, I will have to get a few articles of clothing before I leave here, & the "Almighty Dollar" is wanting, if you have any to lend me, I will be very much obliged to you for it. I have told Mary Reed & Mary Lafon of your resignition. Mary Reed says she thinks you have proved yourself a "love sick swain"

She says you must send

back our constitution. We
Did you ~~did~~ really have a society
a C..... Did you? I did not
send you that valentine it
was Evy, she got Nellie Rockwell
(one of the day scholars) to get
it for & ~~sent~~ put it in the P.O. for
her: I do not remember of sending
so many little bits of paper, but
perhaps I did. I have so many
things to tell you when I see you.
I cannot write them in a letter,
as letters are not safe now; it
is not safe to write any thing
in letters now, so I will wait.
I received your letter yesterday
evening, & also one from Dear
Mother, all are well at home.
We went sleighriding yesterday
evening after school & just when
I got back I had two letters.

I wrote three pages to Mother last night & wanted to write more & ~~put~~ enclose it in yours & get you to send it. I intended ~~to do this &~~ get permission from Mr Agnew & do this. but I am afraid I will not have time to write all I want to, to Mother before tomorrow morning & send it in the mornings mail. Good Night Dear Brother.

Good Morning, I have just come up from breakfast & must finish this letter before school. I am afraid I cannot get my letter to Mother ready; however I will try, I have only half hour to befor school, it is a quarter of eight. School will be out four weeks from yesterday; wont I be glad; I hope you are entirely well of your headache. you must take care of yourself, & must not sit up so late.

Good bye Dear Brother.

Write as soon as you receive this letter. your devoted and loving Sister.

Mary D

Evysends her kind regards to you. There has been another got sypelled within two weeks.

Lex Feb 21st 1853

My dear Son

I have this moment
rec'd your two affectionate letters
of the 15th & 18th inst — I am gratified
to hear that you ~~wish to spend~~ have
accepted Mrs Sparks invitation
for your Sister to spend her va
cation with her — Of course you
must go up for her — And when
you do so — I hope you will do noth
ing to excite the Argus to a
feeling of suspicion in regard to
any of their young Ladies — and as
for Miss Eva — I take it that she
is an imprudent & susceptable
young Lady — Do nothing my Son
in the least calculated to make
any impression on her mind
that you have any ~~thing~~ of them

feelings or intentions - than those of mere civility and ordinary politeness - Act awl=ways the part of the pure & upright gentleman - "a word to the wise is sufficient"

Unless my impressions of Agnese changes much - I shall not be disinclined to place your sister in some other school - he has I fear but little practical sense

I dispatched by Express another Saddly of Mutton to my friend Silsbee - which I hope will reach him - I wrote him and sent the bill of Lading and requested him - with the other reciept for the last Saddle - I directed him to collect the freight & value of the saddle together 7$ and out of It pay the freight of the present

saddle &c

I shall act upon your sug=gestion and send Dr Sparks a Box of "Old Bourbon," which will make him smack his lips - It will be of the oldest and finest quality

I shall make you a remittance in a few days - not only for your own purposes but - also your Sister 175 to pay Agnew for his next term & as to her pocket money I shall furnish her that - as she needs It - direct - & not place It with him as heretofore - She has spent too much - She has loaned It out I suppose, a bad business

Mary I hope will sustain herself, in her visit to Mrs Sparks & make her a firm & fast friend

I shall write in a day or two as to the Loring matter &c all well with love to you

Yr devoted Father
H. G. Duncan

The Loving movement is a disgraceful atrocity - and I apprehend will injure Cambridge & the Overseers who control Its - I deeply regret It For Cambridge heretofore - For Its high conservative & national opinions has maintained the very first rank - As I am much interrupted by visitors in the office I shall write you when quiet at home

In addition to the Copy of the paper you wish I will send you another O & R - in which you will be surprised to see that a movement has been made in Ky - first by the Louisville Courier & endorsed by the Observer presenting my name for governor of Ky - so soon as I have an opportunity - I will give It the quietus - their is not an office of honor or proffit

I would accept - Let them degenerate times the part of honor is the frigate Station & the consideration can or shall draw me from my retirement into the folly of rendering actively in politics ecclesiastic the humiliation of a Convoy of Offensive

Duncannon Feb 22nd 1855

My very dear Son

Your kind letter the 11th inst was
reed on saturday, it is very delightful to hear
from you, & know you are well, & I hope doing
well, how thankful I am that you are not so
besotted as those poor fellows you wrote me about
such children are a disgrace, a sad & disputing
spectacle, it is very commendable in you to have
them attended to, if you could dissuade them
from such practices, what a lasting & invaluable
good would result,
The bill you sent of the concert, to shew how
sunday was spent, there are a number of con
gregationalists, about Boston, who begin their
sabbath on saturday at sun set, & close at the
same time on sunday eve, & the music being
sacred, is was considered no sin, I would have
prefered the last concert to any, but not on that
evening, I wish Mary could have heard them, it
would have been a feast to her — I hope Mary is
overcoming her backwardness, or diffidence to play

before company. You will see Miss Sillsbee how does she campare, with your sister? I believe she is about Mary's age. The kindness of Mrs Sparks, is fully appreciated by us, I am so glad, it is much better than going to New Haven, I hope the weather will be pleasent during the recess, the weather here now is very pleasent. it is difficult to keep in doors, Your father has been to Louisville for some days, home yesturday, went to Bedford this morning in the 6. o'clock cars, he will be back tomorrow eve at 8. o'clk, as Mr Pope is to be here the next day saturday, & on Monday they both go to Cincinnati— your friend Kie has not been heard from I am fearful his father did not receive your fathers letter, Lily often asks when he is coming she feels almost as if she was going to see you,

It is most unaccountable that you did not receive the Observer's Wickliffe said they were put in the office for mailing Dr ought to have seen to it himself, & besides

Wicklife should have published it in the weeklie paper which is sent to you, you should give notice if it does not reach you, There has been quite a complimentary of your father in the Louisville Courier, & naming him for Governor, probably the Observer may publish it, so you will see what is said without my saying anything more about it.

I hope your friends that have been absent from Cambridge, for some time will soon be returning, to drive away the blues should you be so unfortunate as to be the subject of them, Robert J. Ford is talking of going to Cambridge & join the law class, so he is to be a professional man, he brought a great many valuable books home from England, he prefers London, to Paris, which I think a very rational choice, Paris is a gay frivolous place, a compact in principle, & religion never the less I should like to visit it.

I have written to Mary to day, & looking at the white paper & the bright sun has so blinded me I can scarsely see the lines and must soon stop - not only for want of sight, but, something to say, Guard against the changes in the season, & take care of yourself both physically, mentally & morally, increase in knowledge, & wisdom, virtue & grace, these will not only be shining ornaments, on earth, but such as will be approved of by the righteous Judge of all, think of these things, God bless & preserve you, Father, Mother Ellen, Lily all join in overflowing love to you -

Good bye my dear Son your affct

Mother

P. S I hope to hear from you & Mary often whilst you are together, Mary has a set time to write in term time, but that will be over -

learn Mary how to use wax she makes a bad out of it

Louisville Feb 25th/53

Dear Henry—

I want to learn something about how they manage things at the Harvard Law School and avail myself of your being in Cambridge to beg you will do me the favor to send a Catalogue or Circular or whatever they issue upon the subject to inquiring people like myself. I have some notion

of taking a course of law
at your Academy of
Learning - If I or any
of my friends are ever
jugged for burglary
or mulon stealing it
would be of immense
advantage to have gone
through at Harvard
For I believe with valiant
Gregory in Romeo & Juliet
that there's nothing like
having the law on our
side If you could give
me any items on the

subject which the circular would probably not contain I wish you would do so for Example how many are in the law class and if the late rejection of Judge Loring as Professor by the trustees will have the effect of diminishing the number of Southerners at Cambridge - and if the recent appointment of J R Lowell to succeed Longfellow as Prof of Modern Languages will

be received with satisfaction
by the same class of persons
Your father recently paid
in a visit - he seems bent
upon annexing the remain=
=der of Bourbon County to
his Bedford plantation
I congratulate you
upon your late essay
at Authorship - You ought
write to the Louisville Journal
your letters would have
a wider circulation
If Alfred Preston of S C is at
Cambridge present my regards
to him - accept the same for
yourself and believe me truly yours. R. T. Ford

Lexington Ky.
Feb 28th
[1855]

My dear Friend.

I have just received your very kind letter. It came to me like a gleam of sunlight would to one long confined in his cell like the Summer's Shower to give new life to parched and Sun-stricken nature. I can not convey to you an idea of the joy the pleasure it gives me to read your letters even if I attempted it. You ask me for my advice. I do not feel com-

-petent generally to advise persons but I think we should always follow the dictates of our own hearts We are almost sure to be right when we do. However it may not be becoming in me to have said even this much. My leniency as a Pope will not be given to all. I feel much complimented in having so worthy a subject. I regret exceeding by your inability to send us another letter for so long a time. When do you enter college? I can not - will not believe you intend staying away from your friends for such a long time. I am glad you have found beauty in Italian Music. You speak of two "cousins" in Pittsfield - those cousins are most dangerous

as well as very convenient relatives
Are these convenient or are they
cousins in reality. There were
many hearts to sympathize with
Mr Webb's family on account of
his failure. Lucy is a lovely girl
she does not seem to care for it
so far as she is concerned it is
only for her father that she feels
it I think. Hee I believe has assigned
all every thing to his Lawyers. They
think of living in Texas. The sym-
pathies of every one were enlisted
for Lucy. Our clubs are over it being
the season of Lent and we Episcopalians
observe the season to some extent
though we do not carry it to the
foolish extent that the Roman
Catholics do we have had enough

of gaiety this winter - and I think
it one of the beauties of our
Mother - the Church - to select a
season for all her children to
devote to fasting and prayer.
Surely out of twelve months we
ought to give six weeks to our
Maker. Your Presbyterians laugh at
us for the observance of Lent - and
to you it may seem ridiculous -
but with us it is held sacred.
It is true I went to your party la
Spring in Lent - but to no other
house could I be induced to g
Your friend Miss M. E. Craig rep
says is to be married - very soon
to Mr Atkinson - though she will
not confide in me - and for its
certainty I cannot answer.

The fourteenth was a jolly day with every member of our family known with us they all got Valentines except myself and nearly all comic ones I did not get one of any kind and considered myself particularly fortunate in not getting some. The younger members of the community select that day to let each know the extent of the love as well as the dislike they bear one another. It would give me great pleasure to go north this Summer but I very much fear I will not be able to go. Mr Duncan to be candid with you I feel very sensitively the advantages I have received though not profited by them over the remainder

of my Father's children - and I think that I the younger sisters should be allowed the same privileges that I have had - then my Father is a poor man - although he has strug-gled hard all his life - and he can not afford it - especially in the "Hard Times." However if I con-clude to come - I will let you know if you will promise to let me have a sight of you. I saw your little sister Lilla the other day I never before remarked her great beauty - she is a beautiful child. I hope you will not think this flat-tery - it does seem strange to tell you of it - but you who are aware of the fact - will the more readily agree with me - it was not dis

-ficult to imagine her some "radiant image of beauty" sent from Heaven to show the children of Earth what guise the Angels wear. Mary Ann Castleman I heard was going to Pittsfield to school - but I think she wont go - report has her engaged too - she is very large to go to school - then she has been so long in society and enjoyed it so much that I should think she had lost all love for her school-books. I shall hope to hear from you very soon. Will you have the prayers of

Yours

Pope.

Young Ladies Institute
February 24th. 1855

Dearest Brother

Here I am in Mrs Starr's room, writing to you; it is so cold in my room I cannot stay in it; it is colder to day than it has been for a week; the sun is shining clear, & Jack Frost is coming in at every hole & crack he can find. How delighted as well as surprised, was I yesterday when I came out from dinner & Joe becconed to me & said I had a large box; he said it had bursted open & so it had; one side was loose, so that

P.S. I have just received your two letters & am delighted. I do not need those articles now I can wait until you come.

I could get out Oranges before the box was opened. I opened it with my hands. I thank you so much for them. They are very nice; some of them were partly frozen. I assorted them wrapped up the good ones in paper & put them in a box to themselves. & those that were frozen. I tried to eat up those that had frozen places, & you know that was not hard to do. Mollie Reed & Mary Lafon helped me to ~~pick~~ assort them, & also to eat them: we have not eaten more than sixty apiece, since yesterday afternoon. Mollie Reed

Mary Lafon & Mary Agnew, say you are in love with Eggy. Mary

says you come partly to see Evy. at first I thought she was joking, but now I know she is in earnest. They did like your resigning your secretaryship; but Mary Reed says if you will give another in your place she will not mind it so much. Every time I have letters from you they want to know what you say about the O. H. C. L. T. they say you must send back our constitution. When does the Collage term commense, school is out in three weeks. O! I will be so glad; then you will be here. I wrote to you as soon as I received your letter, I had to stop writing & go

to my room, Mary Offutt came to see me: that is the yway, whenever I want to write some one comes in. & I am oblijed to stop: How I have enjoyed my orranges: besides the other girls: Have you had your Daguerreotype taken with a false moustache if you do you must send me one. you can send it by mail. I received a letter from Lily on Friday all are well: one of The Louisville papers has named Father for Governer of Ky — I suppose you know this. Dr Samuel Hall died in Philadelphia on the & Miss Lidia Sprakes in Lexington on the

I went to a temperence lecture on Friday afternoon. & quite a numbe

of the young ladies. Farewell Dearest & your loving Sister Mary D.

Lexington Feb 24th 1822

My dear Son

Yours of the 18th Inst - I duly rec'd for which I thank you - I am gratified to learn that you have made your visit to Salem & spent the day with Mr & Mrs Silsbee - I dispatched a second Saddle of Mutton to him last week which I hope will - this time reach its destination - To your friend Mr Spark's I shall send the "Old Bourbon," very soon

You speak of having other correspondents than myself from whom you derive information in relation to the familiar freedom with which Mr Lee speaks of you - Now my Son - with much more experience than you have - I must put you on your guard - against such correspondents - For I tell you the motive of those persons - who thus communicate disagreeable and unpleasant tidings & such information as is calculated to produce unpleasant feelings - should always be received with great caution & the motive scrutinized severely - I will sometimes the opinion - That in 19 out of 20 cases the motive is disingenuous & dishonorable - and the information as often untrue or so colored & exagerated as to amount to falsehood - Never in your intercourse with such - allow yourself to be

to be betrayed into any remark of mother of the matter — as It will as certainly be betrayed when a motive exists to do it — Let me most earnestly entreat you to beware of such — underminded Correspondents — And dismiss the Old Lady and her pert Daughter from your mind & forget not for one moment the great object of your residence in Cambridge — Let the only effect of such heartless malignity be — to excite your ambition to high & honorable purposes

The outrageous course of the Orthodox towards Judge Loring — is a foul disgrace to all concerned in it — And will do more to degrade and lower the heretofore high character of Massachusetts & Boston — than any thing that has ever happened in this history — It amounts to the worst of nullification — Let this thing be acted out — and our Union is practically dissolved — Where the Federal Constitution and acts of Congress are thus set at nought — and should fail to be enforced & the judiciary trodden under foot — or become the supple tools and slaves of a mob — Then has this Union become a nullity — Judge Loring for his fearless and able vindication of the Laws of the land & his faithful execution of the same so far as he could — deserves as he will receive the approbation of every honest man and patriot

in length & breadth of the land — and comes up to that beatiful & just description of a just judge — given by Mr Choate in the Constitutional convention of Mass in the able Speech he made in that body — upon the proposition to change the mode of appointment — by popular election instead of the old mode — I look upon the perfect independance of the judiciary as the only Safety in this country — to the rights of life liberty & property — If this outrage does not bring the people of Mass — to a lively sense of their degraded and fallen condition & react — in hurling from office — the profligate Demagogues — who now rule her destinty — then indeed — is our future dark and gloomy & every patriots must feel the gloomiest apprehensions for the impending ruin — of the noblest fabrick of human wisdom — yet devised for the happiness of mankind — I wish you to write me a full & particular account of the whole affair — write the names of the men connected with it for and against — that is the prominent men — and I shall probably — publish the extract of from your letter — of course concealing the name of the writer

I send you on yesterday your Pittsfield letter also another number of the paper — concerning a notice of myself from the Commer-

endorsed by The Observer - a foolish movement which surprised me not a little - as it was evidently a "Know Nothing" project - an association I have no connection with & never expect to have - Its secrecy & assault upon the freedom of religious opinion - which it seeks to control - is very objectionable. Time it for proper reforms in our naturalization laws - And Americanism in its aims & policy - open and above board - in all its actings & doings - It might accomplish some thing good - But I doubt not it is to be deeply prejudiced - by the late atrocious act of Gen Gardner &c - in the case of Judge Loring every where - I cannot comprehend a possible state of case which could induce me to seek or accept of political office - In these times of profligacy & corruption - It is a loathsome employment for a decent man

I shall remit you some funds this week & in due time enough for your sister to enter her next term - She has been rather extravagant in pocket money - We expect her to accept Mrs Sparks kind invitation - I fear She is not taking her counting lessons - her last letter is miserably written - I do not know that I can visit you until after you have become a Sophomore in Sept - which will make it a happy visit to me all join in love to you Yr devoted Father

H. L. Duncan

Feb 24th 1855

Dear Son

In reflecting further upon your sug-
tion of a movement that may lead you to Yale
e more I think of it, the more I am impressed
with the unsuitableness of you an outsider, not
connected with the school to take any publick part
with the Students — You should not forget that
your College faculty are as much opposed to
this attrocious outrage on the part of the
Overseers as the southern students themselves
They (as I understand it) nominated Judge Loring
for reappointment — You should rather feel
willing & prefer to stand by the faculty — who are
doing their duty — Who have done their duty
I have not a doubt — but that the Cambridge
faculty are the most Conservative and Law
abiding body of men connected with any
northern institution — Far far more so than
that at Yale — so that their is every disadvan-
tage — in making any change — Do not think
of it — and do not commit yourself to any par-
ticular course

In haste Yr Father

H. T. Duncan

Date Feb. 1855

Hey Dear Son

Since closing my letter (a sheet) your Mother has recd your letter of the 20th date - In which you speak of going to N Haven - with a view to look into Things There - Suggesting that the Loring matter may lead to serious difficulties & drive off all the Southern Students - If the College faculty do their duty and firmly refuse like men to make any other nomination - There ought not to be any difficulty or offence - At any rate I do not persieve that it is a matter in which any but the Law Students should take part - And since I a student of Law - And Loring is removed - I should urge the establishment of an independent Law School with Loring at the head of it - & located in Cambridge Such an institution would be immediately successfull & sustained by the South - Not only the South - But by the friends of Law & order in the North - The friends of Union & good government every where You see I propose to stand by Loring - to sustain him to build up for him a school - and make that school emphatically - A great National Union School Thousands will be contributed to build up such an institution & it must become the best patronised institution in the Country

Now my Son as you are not Either a

a member of the Law School or of the College I do not perceive the propriety of your participating in such a meeting - altho It might determine you to remove & enter some other institution - these are my first impressions, upon looking over your letters - I hope you will not act with haste consult with Dr Sparkes - a calm judicious man & a lover of the Union - with Mr Gilsbee or Mr Searers - either of whom will give candid & good advice - My wish is that you should not be led off by the hot Spurr advise of inexperienced young men

With my earnest hope that all will be for the best - and that the College faculty will sustain themselves before the Country and refuse to make any other nomination - I should not be surprised that It makes judge Loring a great National man & perhaps President of the U States - for inferior men have filled the place

Yr devoted Father
H T Duncan

Dear Henry, — Lexington Ky March 65-

I recd your welcomed letter 3 days ago, and put off the answering of it until now, in order that I might have something new to speak of, and of those whome you think exceedingly well of. —

Last Evening Mr Munos gave a concert at Mr Morrisons, and if you will have patience with my poor expression, I will try to give you a contour of it, which (if you will allow me to be a judge of the performance) will be exact; remembering that whenever the line projects or sinks in, that such irregularity is not because an unskillful artist made it — but because it is much like the like deformities of what is imitated. Remember also that Bill

"Nothing exaggerate or lay down aught in malice"

And there are some good almost perfect parts. ——————

About half past seven, I entered the room; and by speaking received a courteous smile from Miss K — Having made her promise to relieve me of a certain embarassment by her devotion, I walked apart to see whose merry laugh and melodious voice, it was that held as fixed as ever the Pole, the needle, the eyes of more than half of that beautiful assemblage — Who was it?! That sat there, with natural ease — mingled with becoming dignity, — receiving her worshipers. — Her raven tresses loosened just enough to add that exquisite charm which a certain careless always gives to Beauty. —

Her position was such that whenever she spoke to those around her - her lustrious eye must be uplifted to meet the eye of the addressed. Oh it; finest - glossy - penciled eye brows; and when those silken lashes were upturned a flood of light - enthralling - poured forth. — So lovely - yet seemingly unconscious of it. — A joyous thrill pass through me - I spoke - I know not whether with sense or not — that I might catch one glance — recieve one ray from those orbs - heavenly (if heaven is the seat of happiness and sweetness of inexpressible sweetness. — Well did I know - and felt the truth of Blair's idea of Beauty —

The charm of a beautiful woman cannot be quickly broken! The Image - is on the Soul; and it makes every distorted chord come right — and vibrate in perfect unison with every other by its happy influence, which nothing else can make but such an eloquent appeal from Beauty. —

In my enthusiasm, I had almost forgotten the rest!! — First came a Hymn from the whole class. — It was really musical. — Then Miss Dolly Morgan sang — Surely then I enjoyed seeing, as well as hearing. — She has a sweet expressive - but, not powerful voice; and its rise and fall was sweet; for, from excitement a tremor came, when — as a Nightingale - she warbled out low, melodious notes — At some times she seemed to pray - beg - as one to whose only hope — was there in placed - and often sing with softness - as if she some love ditty sang - and it gushed from a feeling heart. —

I am wonderfully effected by good music; it fills me — so full of delight, that, in the utterance of it - I choke - words seem insignificant. —

Then Jonette sang; he sings well, very well, and has a very fine base voice — sonorous — and deep. —

Miss Carry McLaw

~~Came next~~ did sing an Italian song — of course I did not know what she meant. — But I can say that she trills and thrills well, and has a clear, full — and truly musical voice, which she received by high cultivation. — Her singing was most admired. — Evidently Miss Carry has more art, and more of the modern style than Miss Dolly; but I liked Miss Dolly's song the best, because, it was natural — more soft — and had more of that heart-feeling sweetness. — Next, came Buck — very — nothing extra — in the common course — as were all that followed him except Peter — Glorious little Peter! The Poets though of him, and immortalized him, by verse — Byron — Don Juan

"In fact, he has no singing education
An —, note less, timeless, tuneless fellow." —

Another says;

"He is a little — tiny ladies man,
And well he holds the shade and fan!
He dances — but asked, he never dances
Until at time — not long — he fancies
The Ladies gives sly smiles, and glances
He hops about — Oh! how he prances &c"

The entertainment was closed by De Rody, with a grand — grand time on the Piano — x x x x x x x x

Mr Brank was "that eloquent one." —

There is nothing new here; and not likely to be, soon

Mrs Frazer & Gregg were bailed out, as the Jury could not agree.—

I suppose you think I ought to quit now, and let you rest— I will, as I have written all that has been done of any importance; but, if there was any more for me to say, I would write on— with the motto— "Damned is he who first cries enough"— when doing such a pleasant thing as writing to a friend.—

Good-night. Write soon

I remain your true Friend

Wm Lloyd Jr

To Henry Duncan jr

Cambridge

Mass.—

Young Ladies Institute
March 3d 1855

Dearest Brother

I cannot write you a long letter, as I have only twenty minutes to write it in, tea will be ready in a few minutes, & they report us if we do not go to the table. I have had 6 letters this week & six last. I had a letter from Father this week one from Mother & one from "M" M.... says she wants to see me "dreadfully" her vacation commences in April. I do not know exactly what day school will be out, I will tell you when I write again. I rode two hours this morning thirty of us were in the Omnibuss at once, I enjoyed it more than any ride I have had since I have been here. I have a very bad cold, & have had a very bad headache all day. Do you will know

I have felt badly. I would not have gone to ride if I had not thought I needed it. do write to me often my Dear Brother. Will you please send me some stamps in one of your letters. I will have to stop. Good Bye

Your loving Sister

Mary D.

Evy has been sick in bed for a week. she is better to day.

Lexington March 4th 1855

My Dear Son

I recd last evening your 2 letters of the 25 & 26 Ultimo — too late to get a check for remittance last evening — there being no mail until to Morrow Morning — after I got your letter (at home) I drove in to get a check from Sayer but found him out of town —

I shall foward you by the evening mail of to Morrow a check for $200 — and in the course of a few days — another check for $200 more — this latter for the use of your Sister — $175 of which I shall wish you to pay Agnew for the next term & put $25 into her own hands — which must do her for her pocket money for the term — She has spent at the rate of $20 pr month for pin money — up to this time — too much too extravagant — I shall write you in a few days at length — All well

In haste

Your Devoted Father

H T Duncan

PS I have made my land payments by the "skin of my teeth," the 1st of March — and am left pretty bare — you & your sister had better bear this in mind & practice more economy — Had you not better defer for the present your trip to N Haven & only go to Cambridge

& all things sent I may be at Pittsfield about the time you return with your sister from Cambridge

Lex March 4th 1852

My Dear Son

I wrote you a line this morning when in town at Dr Jenkins office - informing you that your letter was received too late last (Saturday) evening - to procure a check for the mail of to morrow morning - But that I would forward you one by the evening mail I am writing this at home (Sunday night) and shall take it with me to Paris to morrow and mail it there with a check of $200 - which I will get at the two Paris Bank - while there to morrow

Upon looking over the Almanack and seeing that Henry has a vacation of 2 weeks - preceeding either the 4 or 5 of April - on Wednesday the 4th ~~that~~ the next term commences - of course the vacation will commence on the 21st of March (Wednesday) and continue 2 weeks If this is the correct time - for the commencement of the new term - Now your Mother & I have concluded - that Henry will have some sewing to do & arrangement of her clothing which will take several days - say up to Saturday the 24th - when you can join her and make your trip to Cambridge & remain until Saturday following the 31st - when you will

return to Pittsfield and meet me there on
on Saturday the 31st of March – This will surprise
you not a little as it is the first hint you have
had of such a movement – It is our General account
counts best I suppose that I go on & meet you
there with your Sister at the proposed time – To
carry out this plan I shall leave home on
Wednesday the 28th of March and travel
so as to reach Pittsfield on the following Sat
urday & spend until the 4th of April with you
both – which is as long as I can be absent – Should
any thing turn up to prevent me from coming
on, I will make a remittance in time
for your Sister – But the great probability is
that I shall meet you at the time proposed
Saturday the 31st of March – Of course you will
come up to Pittsfield on that day prepared
to remain with me until the 4th of April
This arrangement – will preclude the possi
bility of the N Haven trip which must
be abandoned for the present – I have
much to say to you & talk to you about
my Son & I look forward to the delight I
shall have of meeting you in Pittsfield
my time will not allow me to be ab
sent longer or I should like to go as far
as Boston – But I must be at home the
first week of April the last of the month

You make some allusion to a portion of the press having ~~named~~ presented my name in connection with the Gubernatorial Canvass — a very foolish move in them & showing them to be but little acquainted with my feelings & opinions — of political station — The Idea that any decent Old whig a faithful man to his principals & party — could be elected to office in the midst of — all the evil ellements that have of late infused themselves into the publick mind is perfectly radiculas — an aggitation that has brought to the surface — some of the worst men & still worse principals — Altogether an unfit arena for any respectably decent man — who has either self respect — or principal left — look at the late result in Massachusetts, the Land of the Adams's Webster's Quincy's Everett's Storys Parsons — Pickerings Selsbee's Choat's and many others — men whom they delighted to honor men who were National Conservative and Union men — What true son of the Old Bay — who may hearafter visit the National Capital — but will bow his head in shame & humiliation, to see his state represented by such a set — of miserable demagogues and knaves — as he finds — No my son — when you hear of my embarking in a political Canvass, consider me as demented — their is

no station of honor or proffit I would accept - and upon seeing the articles you refer to - I put the quietus to it at once by assuring those that were moving in the matter that it was perfectly out of the question - And the strangest part of the movement was that it was a sort of Know Nothing a party with which I have neither connection or sympa=thy - Some things I approve of about them but others I condemn - though I think it not improbable for a while they will carry all before them - I fear that the Old Whig party is nearly absorbed by them & many democrats - But while I live my son no party can find favor in my eyes - whose principals are not Identical - with the Old Washingtonian and Hamilton Federalist or the Clay Whigs of modern times - these parties represent all that is National & Conservative - and when their principals cease to govern - It bodes no good to the Republick - all well

Yr Affec Father
H. T. Duncan

P.S. at Paris - Enclosed is my check for $200 — —

my last letter

Yours truly and affectionately

H D J

Lexington Mch 5th 55

Dear Henry

Yours of the 24th ult came yesterday to hand. Accept my thanks for it. Your remarkable punctuality is very commendable and deserves corresponding promptness upon my part and a better letter in return than I fear I can give. I begin this letter without knowing where to derive the materials with which to fill it even, much less to render it interesting or even endurably readable. The ink I see is very pale - scarcely legible so it will make very little difference, if it cant be read, whether the matter is of importance or not. You say that in our recent letters we have given too much space to the discussion of trivial matters and suggest (to import gravity and importance to them) that I take up and give you my opinions upon the influence for good or evil of female society. I commend your good judgement, exercised in calling upon me whose extensive experience as a disinterested observer upon my friends has so thoroughly qualified to sit in judgement in the matter

Can never have to your sister Henry. Look here just when you get

Doubtless you will look upon my opinions as oracular and be greatly influenced by them in your deportment towards them (the ladies) The advantages or disadvantages of female society are very greatly determined by the circumstances of age and temperament of the individual seeking it. But before entering into a particular and specific dissertation on the subject I will give what I judge to be its general effects upon the mass of men. Frequent association with ladies of polished manners cultivated minds and refined tastes will impart to young gentlemen enjoying such advantages easy and graceful manners, confidence and freedom in conversation and delicate and discriminating tastes. It will create a a disrelish for and disgust in the gross and sensual pleasures of a corrupt society and lead to the selection of the pure and innocent pleasures of a virtuous life. It humanizes and refines our sentiments and restores to our nature the purity of our first parents at least in part. But these happy effects only follow when the ladies themselves possess the qualities that I have named among those reflected by them upon the gentlemen enjoying their smiles. They can never impart what they do not possess: and such as I have described are "rarae avis in terris." Though I

award to the female character a degree of native purity and virtue greatly exceeding that inherited by our courser natures I am very far from being disposed to admit that they are terrestrial angels differing from their celestial sisters only in the absence of wings and in being clothed the vestments of materiality. Many of them are gross and sensual, without delicacy and refinement and otherwise in the instinctive promptings of virtue no better than many of our own sex. Bear in mind that virtue and chastity ~~and~~ are not synonymous terms. Vertue embraces many attributes and is not the creature of the fear of public sentiment or the consequences of violations of its mandates. It is a condition of the mind that makes vertue lovely for its own sake and that prompts to its practice in order to merit the approbation of our self esteem and the commendation of our conscience irrespective of the opinions of society. Chastity as ordinarily employed only implies that the person of whom it is ~~is~~ predicated has never been guilty of a violation of the 7th command of the decalogue. Vertue extends to purity of thought as well as act. The influence of the society of all ladies of the estimable character I have so feebly and imperfectly described can only be good, whatever the age temperament or moral character of ~~the~~ those may be

upon whom it is exerted. I would advise you therefore to avail yourself of the society of such whenever your feelings prompt and it is not incompatible with important duties. Visiting ladies is a part of education that has been shamefully neglected in my case. I am painfully conscious of the sad deficiency and fear that it is now too late to correct it. Excuse the digression. There are a great many, perhaps the majority of ladies who are silly and frivolous, without dignity and wanting in delicacy whose society is at least negative if not injurious. Such at your tender and susceptible age I would advise you to avoid. I am warned by the narrowing of the blank space upon my sheet to suspend all further reflections upon the subject for the present. I may resume it at another time. I will attend to your request in reference to your correspondence with Mr M when a fitting opportunity offers. There is no news of interest All your friends are well. The clubs have suspended. The weather is now pleasant and rain is falling. A letter from Missouri to day informs me of ~~a son~~ the birth of sons to Mrs Fullenwider and Mrs Singleton in the case of the former following in 16 months after the birth of the first pretty good time!

Young Ladies Institute
East Building
Ivy Hall
March 7th 1858

Dearest Brother

I will write you a few lines this afternoon. I have been classed. my studies are French Arithmetic Grammar & Music. we have one hours study this afternoon & Monday we commence recitations. Mary Lafon has not come yet perhaps she will be here this afternoon but I scarcely think she will.

I am writing in Mary Reed's room. Cass is in our room writing home. When you write, tell

me what is going on in Cambridge about Mr & Mrs Sparks & all the "Sparks" Fanny Phebe, & every body & every thing; has Mis Hunter left Mr Sparks yet.

But I must say Good Bye. Mary Reed sends her kind regards to you. General Cass sends her love to you. & says we all want to see you mightly bad, as if you did not know it without my telling you.

Good Bye

Dear Brother

your Loving Sister

Mary D.

Duncannon March 8th 55

My very dear Son

Some weeks have elapsed since I have written you a line, the reason is there were so many letters being written in the interval by Father, Dr Jenkins &c that I did not deem it important to write, but now it is high time for me to begin, I am glad to find you in such fine spirits, the pleasent weather & the return of your absent friends, all combined seems to have produced a sunshine over your spirit, may it be perennial giving life & cheerfulness in your pursuit after knowledge You can sympathize with your friend Nic, feeling sad, as you have scarsely risen from the chain that seemed to drag as you went forth from all that were loved on earth, from the companionship & support of youth, to feel utterly alone, they are sad hours, but the clouds have passed & sunshine with cheering rays gilds the scene, comfort & encourage each other up the hill of knowledge

In regard to the Bible class I was delighted that you had voluntarily joined it, for a knowledge of the book is worth all others, & regret that you thought to discontinue in the class, if there are those in it that are disagreeable, it is not necessary for you to have intercourse with them if they are improper associates, the same objection might be made to other classes, our duty is to go on in the discharge of what is right we must meet those that are not proper in all places we can be civil & polite without familiarity, I sincerely hope you will not feel it necessary to with draw from the class

There is no book that will repay the study of more than the Bible, & it would be my greatest joy to find you making it the study & guide of life, I will here transcribe what a blind person says of this blessed book;

"The Bible is the book of books. In comparison, Byron loses his fire, Milton his soaring, Gray his beauties, & Homer his grandure & figures. No eye like Isaiah's ever pierced the veil of the future; no tongue ever reasoned like sainted Job; no poet ever sang like Israel's shepherd king, & God never made a wiser man than Solomon.

The words of the Bible are pictures of immortality, leaves from the tree of knowledge, pearls from the river of life, & gems of celestial thought. As the moaning shell whispers of the sea, so the Bible breaths of love in heaven, the home of angels & joys too pure to die. Would I had read it more when my poor eyes could see. Would more of its precepts were bound about my heart, & I had wisdom to make them the mottoes of my life.

The world may entertain its ideas of a magnificent Deity, whose government is general, but let me believe in the Lord God of Elijah, whose providence is entire, ordering the minutest events in human life, & with a father's care arranging all for the greatest possible good. Yes when storms gather, & my sepulchral way is dark & drear, with no star to guide, nor voice to cheer, my sinking spirit finds refuge in the world wide sympathies of a Saviour, who did not chide Mary for her tears, & came himself to weep at the grave of his friend."

My dear son I hope you will not tire or feel impatience of what I have written, do not read it over in haste & then throw it aside as an idle tale, but give good heed, it is sober truth, & will be such while immortality endures.

You seem to consider the Know Nothing organization worse than democracy, you must inform yourself upon that matter, the K. N.s are anti roman catholic, & for the protestants, the power that is at this time in the hands of the romish bishops is alarming, the bishop's ipse dixit is sufficient to cast the vote of hundreds, also the amount of property in their hands immense, too much for the faithful follower of the pope, nothing but vigerous resistance to this encroachment of power by foreign & domestic papist will save us,

Your father Mr Pope & Miss Maria left this morning in the 6 o'clock train for Paris, the former for Bedford, the two latter for Paris, they all return this evening at 8 o'clock, Mr Pope goes to Louisville to morrow afternoon & Miss Maria goes that far with him, on her way to Vincennes, but she has been going so often, I will not think she is going untill she is actually started in that direction, she may remain at Paris, the intention was to return this eve, Mrs Scott is still very low, she is at Dr Flints, there is no hope of her recovery,
The influenza has been very prevalent for some weeks past, your father was quite sick & had to go to bed for a day or two then Lily took a turn, I have also

been quite indisposed, but am thankful to say we are all doing well at present.
I hope you & Mary will be careful & escape all disease, if you should be sick take care of yourself in the begining - March has come in very mild & pleasent. I hope Mary will have fine weather for her visit, do not let her neglect writing to her father while at cambridge, he will be very anxious to hear from her whilst there, at such neglect he gets quite out of patience, your father talks of going to see Mary at Pitts - & meet you there, & then almost discourages the idea of my going in the summer but I must see you both before long, if we all live, I feel sometimes as if I could not stand it any longer, but then when I reflect it is for your good, that we must deny our own pleasure, in having our dear children with us, for their improvement, is the important concern, & if impracticable at home must be done abroad,
I think you are most too severe on Dr Agnew, his is a very responsible trust, those cases of expulsion were no doubt, couse enough to harass & put him out of humour, & make him unnasually careful & watchful. I hope you will not make any difficulty, in the course of your visits there pass along pleasantly & good humoredly - "be slow to wrath," All unite in much love to you my ever dear son Your affct Mother E. Dunn

Young Ladies Institute
March 9th 1858

Dearest Brother

I have just come up from tea; & will write to you to night, so that my letter will go in the mornings mail; I received your letter before tea; & was delighted to get it; it does me so much good to get letters;

School will be out on Wednesday, & we can leave here on Thursday next morning; the concert is on Wednesday night; I wish you would come Wednesday morning & be here to the concert: We are not going to have examination, is it not splendid! & therefore we will be out a week sooner. You must be here Wednesday morning, & you must come to the concert; I wish I had some "Almighty Dollar". I want

I received the stamps, & am much obliged to you for them
Reed says have you ordered the padlocks to be made yet?

to get some things before I go to Boston, I will have to get a dress & have it made, but that can be done before Thursday. Will you please send me some money as soon as you receive this letter. It is "hard times" among us girls just now. I received a letter from Father yesterday. he will be in Pittsfield on the 31st of this month. & Father says you will stay here the last part of the vacation. he will stay about a week. Father said we had better postpone our visit to N. H. until another time. Emma is going home during the summer vacation. O, I am so glad Father is coming. I felt just like screaming when I read it.

Dr Baird from New York dined at our house last week with the Rev— Dr Brown, Dr Brank Dr Matthews Mr Burkley Mr Pratt. & "twelve reverend gentlemen". Mary A. Eastman is not coming

here to school; her throat is very sore again. I did not much think she would come; I am very sorry she is not; Mary Lafon says she is glad; she says she likes "Lass" better now, than if she had come on here to school.

Just think next Friday night the Institute will be deserted; it will look very gloomy after school breaks up. some of us will be in one place, & some in another. some will be at home. & some ~~have graduated~~, & to those quite a number will not return; some we never shall see again in this world. Ada Anderson is going home she is only sixteen; she is not going to school again. A great many of the girls are sick with influenza. 35 were excused from school today. three sick in one room; ... I expect they will soon get well now ~~when~~ as there will be no examination. 12 have gone away O. K. C. C. P. meets to night, the last time this term. perhaps

forever one of the members. I will probably not come back next term.

I have a great story to tell you about my boy, when I see you.

Your society must all have their Dagnerreotypes taken in a group, so ours say; & I will bring it back, if they do. I will be very busy now until Thursday. packing, & getting my clothes ready. I have torne & worn out most every thing I have, I am hardly fit to go to Mr. Sparks; but I can mend & my clothes. will you please send me the money assoon as you receive this letter, I do not know what I will do, if I do not get some. our society will meet soon & I want to write to Mother cousin Maria & Em... to night. & My paper is full, & I suppose you are tired of my scribling. so I will bid you Good Night. My devoted love to you Dear Brother.

your affectionate Sister
Mary D.

Mary Lapham sends her Kind regards to you

Lexington March 13th 1855

My Dear Son

I mailed you a letter on yesterday (Monday) a week ago - from Paris - In which I enclosed you a check for $200 - In that I mentioned that I would soon send you another - for the purpose of paying your sisters - entrance fee for the next term of 175$ - I think - and in addition hand her $25 for pockett money - quite enough if she has been extravagant in that way the past session

I now send you another check for $250 - which must do you for some time - this will furnish you a surpless for your trip with your sister to Cambridge and back - keep an account of these expenses

I mentioned to you in my letter that I would endeavour to be at Pittsfield on saturday the 31th of March where I should expect to meet you and your sister & spend 2 or 3 days with you - If any thing occurs to prevent my coming on, I will write you I send you this additional check - upon the possible contingency that something may occur to prevent my coming - though I know of nothing

now to present - I recd from you a letter a few days ago - for which accept my thanks - I am so occupied & going to and from Bedford - that you must not be disappointed - I do not ambways promptly answer your letters - You must write after we are ambways anxious to hear from you we no sooner get one than we are on the look out for another

We have nothing new all well and join in love to you

Your Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Lexington March 14th 1855

My Dear Son

I remitted to you on yesterday a check for $250— and on Monday the 7th I remitted you a check for $200— together $450— The latter check or 200$, of $50 was for your Sister— to pay Agnew his $175— for the next term and $25— for her spending money— the odd fifty in the last check— or as much as you needed was for your joint expenses in the proposed trip to Mrs Sparks— These 2 remittances must last you as both as long as possible

Should all things suit— the great probability is that I shall leave home this day 2 weeks— For Pittsfield & travel by easy stages spending a day at Cincinnati & a day at Albany N Y— where their Legislatures is in Sission— Some of the members of which I wish to see & reach Pittsfield on Saturday evening when & where I shall expect to meet your Sister and yourself

I see by your letter to your mother of the 7th inst— you have had great changes in your boarding house— Why is this? I am sorry that you and your friend Nicholas have become seperated— Have they found a cheaper or better

house? What is the explanation? You speak of meeting a Mr Messinger of Louisville - I presume he is the son of a gentleman - while living connected with the Louisville Journal - If so I knew his father a very clever gentleman - You speak of his being the particular friend of Harding - This must not draw you into any intimacy with the same individual Be wary and cautious - Hear others but forbear to give your own opinions of others especially if you can say no good of them say nothing calculated either to prejudice or wound "A still tongue makes a wise head" You have I see discovered that great injustice is done to men often - from motives of envy & jealousy - Unfortunately for the honor of our race - falsehood & detraction are too often resorted to disparage & assail others a leveling spirit - a disposition to assail & detract from those we cannot equal Never permit my Son such a spirit to enter your bosom - Let truth justice and charity always regulate your opinions and in the long run it will command the confidence & esteem of others - It is the true secret of substantial character & popularity & influence -

Where is your friend Mellgren of

the Law School? Has he returned — Has Stephenson left or not — You speak of receiving a letter from Robt T Ford — I hope you have answered it — Bob is a very intelligent youth & I presume would be an interesting valuable correspondent — Though in some respects a fast and extravagant young man I fear — Should he come on — He will be a useful & profitable acquaintance from his fine information & I expect good qualities — But you must learn to discriminate and avoid his errors & extravagance — you will soon see them

Pursue diligently your Studies — Keep one thing before your mind at all times to make yourself a scholar — and to go through College — with high personal character & distinguished scholarship — Do not fail to join the Sophmore class next fall — lose no time — Taken you have done this I shall make you a visit at Cambridge I do not know that I shall before — It is a matter about which I have the deepest anxiety — all a Fathers pride & hopes are involved in this result — Count no time that is not necessary for other proper objects — All well & join you in much love Yr devoted Father

H L Dawes

Duncannon Mar 15th 1855

My very dear Son

Between us there have been three letters recd from you this week, the last, last evening acknoledging the receipt of $200, It is exceedingly gratifying to hear from you if only to know you are well, & doing well, I feel that I can not be too thankful for the good health that you & Mary have been blessed with in your new homes -

Dr Aic Warfield's daughter Mrs Shackelford went on to Phil- with her husband in Feb- was taken sick the day after their arrival, on monday & on sunday she died, her family did not hear she was ill, the first intelligence was her death by telegraph, It was a great shock indeed, her remains were brought home & deposited in the Lee cemetery to await the resurrection morn,

How uncertain is life! Oh! how very important to be prepared when the summons comes, it should be our chief concern, to posses a fitness for that hour, all things else subordinat, Our Bible should be our daily

companion, as the only means for that preperation, The Pittsfield Institute has a dictory for reading the Bible through during the year, a portion for each day. it is very good, excellent, I sent you some time since a Statesman with an extract of an address of Dr Breckenridge's relating to the reading of the Bible in schools, I hope it was not overlooked by you as it was sent in reference to that particularly,

If we all kep well your father will certainly make you a visit, I should like exceedingly to accompany him, the difficulty is, Elly & Lily, what to do with them, they are very anxious to see you both, but for so short a visit it would be scarsely worth while to take them, so I must stay & take care of them, & deny myself the very great pleasure & satisfaction of seeing my dear ones, your father does not calculate on being from home more than a week or ten days, Your residence in New England will be more pleasent during the summer than the winter, it is almost too soon to talk of

summer appeals in your latitude, have you grown out of what you left at home? has Mary grown any? Your father scratches his head in talking over the expense you are at, why not reduce the rent of so many rooms? I should think one room would accommodate you, Mary's room is not more than half the size of yours & she has another to share it, I regret Mrs. A— is seperated from you, are your rooms in the same vacinity? I hope you passed a pleasent day at Mr Bowditch's,

Give my kindest regards to Dr & Mrs Sparks. I appreciate their kindness to my dear children. Your father has been promising to pack up some old Bourbon but has not done it yet, he has been very much perplexed about meeting his payments Money is a scarse article, & collections almost impossible, those who owe him seem to think he can do without,

Dr G. H Brown has had a very serious loss, in the burning of his house in which was stored his hemp & all his farming imple-

-ments

He is in debt, & was waiting for a market to dispose of the article, to enable him to liquidate his debt, it is very sad, I hope his friends will step forward & help him out, the fire was an incendiary- which is not a pleasant reflection, it occured on sunday night-

Lewis has been indicted by the grand jury in the Paris court, (now holding its term) for cruelty to servants, it is thought the slaves will be taken from them, perhaps that is the punishment- to forfeit the property- slavery is a horrid system, to be enslaved mind & body- making human beings semibarbarian- very little above the brute, the mind is the superiority of man over the brute creation, if the mind is not educated what is man? but enough, when I commenced this letter this subject was not contemplated, but when you begin to write one thought brings another & so on- here it must close & send to the mail.

God bless & direct you, Your affectionate Mother

P. S all send much love to you, good by E. D-

Thursday March 15th 1855

My Dear Brother

I received your thrice welcom letter a few weeks ago and have taken time to deliberate upon your proposal about writeing to you I will write to you one a week and to sister Mary the other, You can write very week so that will be two to my one, I have received one from you and one from sister Mary it made us very happy to hear from you and sister: Mr Pope came up Tuesday he went back Friday Heard cousin Maria went to Paris Thursday cousin went to spend the day but she spent the week she come back yester day in the first train has been asleep ever since Cousin Amelia is to be married to the rector of the St Peters church

Paris Kentucky. I thought we would have been blown away the wind blew very hard the wind blow so severely that several chimney's were blown down and the tin covering of Randall's factory was blown off it was rolled up like so much parchment. ~~In the~~ the sun was shineing bright when all of a sudden it began to hail it was not large enough to do eany harm. the wind blew down two tree's in the wood's.

Mr Isaack Scott will marry Miss Ann Pickett and some body is to marry somebody else about the same time but I can't tell you who they are cousin Doc will let you know in proper time. One of your particular friends is a party in the case. Doc is going to Illinois and turn farmer Dont you think it a pity to spoil a good Doctor to make a farmer?.

Your letter to father acknowledgeing the receipt of $200 has just been received but father is a way. They went to Bedford yesterday and will not back till to morrow.

Father brought some Stryckmine to kill the crows at Bedford. He says that Theye are tens of thousands there and that they eat a great deal of the corn fed to the cattle. He left some for the crows here and Doc went out to day and put up some we are going up after while, to see if they eat it There are thirty nine or forty lambs. Quess has gone to that abode from which no dog returns

Cousin Doc Miss Maria Lily and Mother send there love to you all the servants send many kind messages to you.

good by your affionate

Sister Ellen Duncan

At home Sunday March 18th

[1855]

Friend Henry.

Your welcomed letter come to hand several days since - and would have been answered, ere this, but for the severe indisposition I have been laboring under. The weather has been so intensely cold this winter and having more than usual riding to do I have been exposed and consequently have been suffering from it - I feel as if I am on the mend. —

You seem inclined to quiz me a little and suspect me for being in love I will not plead guilty - though I like the society of agreeable ladies and think it decidely bad taste in any gentleman to deny what I have admitted - Will you agree with me? - The idea of ever captivating any of them never enters my mind if ever I should be so fortunate I will write Poste Haste and tell you all about it. — — — —

Your Father spent an hour or

two with us last Sabbath evening, he looked well, as usual — he spoke of visiting you, the last of this month — How do you like being away from home, and relations? or are you so much engaged — you hardly have time to think of home or have the blues either? —

From the books you are in and the other duties you perform; your time is well occupied — you spoke of having read Ruth Hale, it has been going the rounds in our midst, and there seems to be great diversity of opinion concerning it, I have read it, and liked it, though many thinks she makes herself too perfect, and she exposes her family detailing, the many difficulties, and privations, she underwent —

The Democrats held their Convention in Frankfort on the 13th Inst — and for governor Clark, of Simpson, Magoffin, for lieut governor, Mercer, for attorney general R, W, Woolley, of Fayette, for auditor J A Grinstead, and for superintendent of public instruction Dr Matthews who is

said to belong to the Know Nothing party, his election is thought to be very sure, as they have the ascendency.

I noticed a call in the Louisville Journal on your Father to become a candidate for Governor — the Whig convention comes off in April. I hope to hear from you again soon write to me I will endeavor to have something that will interest you in my next —

Yours with esteem

John Rodes

Henry T Duncan Jr

Lexington March 19th 1833

My Dear Son

I shall leave home for Pittsfield on Wednesday the 28th inst – next Wednesday week – Accompanied by Mary A Castleman who has finaly decided upon going to Pittsfield which she informed me of to day – and at once makes her arrangements for the trip – I shall write to Dr Agnew – informing him of her determination to come on & make arrangements for her accomodation – coming with your Sister &c – I wrote to your Sister a long letter from Bedford this week, which as she left for Cambridge earlier than she expected – she will not get before her returns to Pittsfield – I wish you to be at Pittsfield – as by the earliest train on Saturday the 31st as I think we shall go over from Albany on the morning of that day – Spend Friday at Albany – as the Legislature of NY is in Session and being anxious to see some of its members Should you reach Pittsfield before I do take rooms for me at Berkshire Hotel Love to your Sister – with my kindest regards to Mr & Mrs Spanks – I remain Yr Devoted Father

A. J. Duncan

P.S. Early last week I sent you a check for your Listens use $2.50 - which I hope has safely come to hand - your letter acknowledging the receipt of my check for $2.00 I duly rec'd

Mr. & Mrs. Cartright arrived here last evening - Kate proposes spending some time

Affectionately
H. T. Duncan

Lexington March 22th 1852

My Dear Son

Your 2 letters from Pittsfield — One to your Mother & One to myself came to hand on yesterday — I was not surprised that Mary kept you waiting a day — possibly more — She should have started with you — without delay & had her work done in Boston — by the by which there she had better leave the measure of her foot and have all her shoes made there — and order them through you as she needs them — You seem to have had a better turn of it at Pittsfield — Aspen behaved a little more like a gentleman than he did — In my letters to you ~~of~~ this week I informed you that Mary Ann Castleman — would come on with me — I also informed you that we should be at Pittsfield on Saturday the 31th — We shall be there earlier on the 30th Friday — to Morrow week — So that you had better take the morning train of Friday & meet us on the 30th — I will give you a secret — which you must keep — Be not surprised If you meet your Mother in Pittsfield as well as myself — But this is uncertain only talked of

I directed my Merchant Mr Jno H Pope in whose ware house I had stored a little choice "old Bourbon," made several years ago expressly for me - & taken off "proof at the worm," as the distillers call it - a choice article & perfectly pure - to be Bottled off & to forward to the Hon Lenard Spark a Box of it - which I wish you to apprise him of & request him to do me the favor to accept as a small testamonial of my Esteem & high personal regard

I have as yet received no Acknowledgement of the receipt of my last check for $250 - I hope it has safely come to hand before this

I sent to my friend Mr Selsha a second Saddle of Mutton - I fear it has miscarried or more probably been Stolen - as I have no tidings of it Hereafter I shall have such articles Boxed up before put up in Cotton Cloth - which is Inoffensive as it gives the air - It is a temptation and is apt to be "hooked"

You mention in one of your letters Mrs Sparks - difficulty in getting good hams - I shall go to Bedford in a day or two - and if I find any old Hams left I shall send her some - Do not speak of it, as they may be out - I shall advise

you If I find them

The weather is extremely cold here quite a winters Spell

I spoke of spending a day at Albany as I went on — this I shall not do until my return — So that If we make the connection at Albany in time on Friday morning — we shall be at Pittsfield — by the Morning train of that day — do not fail to meet us

As we shall leave home next Wednesday Morning — I am full of occupation until I get off — I must make another trip to Bedford — I have kindled the establishment — The Scott place for Cox Overseer and a seperate set of hands who live there — McDaniel — who lived at the Lewis place I have engaged is now there — & Robinson has moved to the Lewis house — Taylor has charge of Bedford proper — This I hope will work better

By the way I will give you a piece of intelligence that may surprise you — we have a Law in Ky — which requires a master to treat his slaves with humanity — The penalty, is that the slaves ma[illegible]treated — are taken from the owners & Sold — to others & the money paid I believe to the former owners

For a violation of this Law by Lewis- The grand Jury of Bourbon indicted him- The Case was tried before a petit jury- and the Charge found to be true- The Slaves are taken from him & one advertised for Sale- This does not correspond with some Statements current among the Abolitionists- That a Slave can in this country be punished cruelly- with impunity no such thing-

All are well & join in much love to yourself & Sister

You will present Our kindest regards to Mr & Mrs Sparks

Yr Affectionate Father

W. L. Duncan

7.1M38

Lex March 22th 1855 —

My Dear Son

After Closing my letter to you to day — I made an examination of my stock of Old Hams and found I had some to spare I picked out ½ Doz and directed John to pack them — He was able only to get 5 in the Box which I have just deposited at the express office & directed to Mrs Jared Sparks — and paid upon the Box the freight $4.50 —

I send you the bill of lading — which you will hand to Mrs Sparks — and with It my best compliments — and say to her that I hope she will do me the favor to accept them as an earnest of my esteem — and personal appreciation of her great kindness to my Children

Yr Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Lexington Ky.

March 2d 1855

My dear Friend.

I cannot tell you how much pleasure your letter gave me - and I will not tire you with reading another of my ineffectual attempts to express it. You may have thought it strange my not having answered it immediately as I promised - but I feel assured almost you will pardon me - when you know my excuse - I was in the country - and did not get your letter until my return home this morning. I intend keeping a diary - wont you write me a preface

for it? or do you think there will be so little worth reading in after years - that it will be "wasting your sweetness on the desert air". But there may be many changes connected - even in a little - voiceless - life like mine. Promise me you will do it wont you? In your letter you say "if Lent is worth observing it is worth observing well" - certainly it is worth keeping well - and we try to do it. As you say - our prayers are acceptable to God without our starving ourselves - this is just what I contend - that there are many ways in which we can deny ourselves - besides starving - if the season is spent in visiting and relieving the wants of the poor it is better than abstaining from meat - there are many other ways which are too numerous to write that would

be acceptable. The Presbyterians and some other denominations think they see a great resemblance between our service and the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic church - if they would but join in our prayers and chants - they would very soon discover their error - when you come home - if you will go with me sometimes to church - I will try and convince you that we are right. No - Mr Duncan I do not believe you are becoming bad - I do not think it a sin to write friendly letters on Sunday - I often do it and I think one can be much worse employed - but don't let it interfere with your going to church. Perhaps you will think it impertinent in me to ask such a thing of you - but it is an evidence of the great interest I feel in you

and is not intended for impudence
I hope we have been friends long
enough for you to know that I never
want to be impudent.

Certainly you
shall be either Cardinal or Archbishop or ~~either~~ both if you please
but can't you suggest or rather
be the originator of an office higher
than either of these ones that will
do you justice. Many Castleman
I believe has not yet determined to
go to school. I went to see her the
other day she is as you say a
charming girl. I love her very
much we have known each other
a long time.

I promised to make
a confidante of you when I had
any secret. Now I have an opportunity it is something so new so
unexpected that I am sure you will

be surprised in hearing it- now I will tell you in three words- I am engaged- and to whom do you think - it is to Mary Eliza Harrison- but she is beginning already to treat me badly- she has left me for Mt Sterling - and I am very lonely- I dont know what to do with myself- I think I will house myself- and let no one see the light of my countenance until her return- it will not be a source of much sorrow- to others - if I were to carry my threat into execution- it is flattering and would be a pleasure- to know we were missed by others- and would be an inducement to do such a thing. Have you yet heard of the many engagements our girls have entered into First on the list is Harriette Brand to Mr Bunn- then Ellen Warfield and

and Mr Daniel Bell - Carrie McCaw
and Mr Will Scott - and a number
of others. A concert was given here
last night by a Mr Schultheiss -
of whom I expect you have heard
as playing so beautifully on the
clarionett.

I have on my table a
sweet collection of flowers sent me
they are not rare - but very fragrant
- the first I have seen this spring
and I expect on that account -
they seem so much sweeter and
prettier than those common ones I
have ever before seemed. They re-
mind me - only in their odor - of the
beautiful flowers you used to give
me last summer - I have kept some
of them pressed - Those few pleasant
timely warm days - we have just

had - gave us a pleasant foretaste of warm weather. The valedictory of the Law class will be delivered on Thursday evening by a Mr Harlan from Danville. I would write more to you but it is late Saturday night and I have three or four letters to write. When you write to your sister won't you give her my love and for yourself the best wishes of

Yours truly friend

Kate.

[Morrison]

Lincoln Mch 24th 11-55

Dear Henry

Your letter of the 18th & 20th came in last evening's mail and was taken from the office and perused this morning. Through yours and your sister's letters from Cambridge & Pittsfield to your Mother and father I was appised of your trip to and stay in the latter delectable village whose hotels are so strictly observant of Lent. "Bread, water and cold turkey" are amply sufficient for the season kept in commemoration of Christ's 40 days fast in the wilderness. You aught, out of regard for the religious prejudices of your fair friend Kate, to observe at least every alternate day the requirements of Lent abstain from meat and practice the Grahamite system. Speaking of Miss K reminds me of your request, which as yet I have had no opportunity of complying with. I saw however her sister Mary last evening - walked home with her - and took occasion to say to her that I had been informed she was a correspondent of yours. She referred me to Kate remarking at the same time that she (K) had received a recent letter from you &

that you may very well do. She said to me that she felt that she ought to have known me long since; she had heard so much about me. I did not inquire what her source of information was or whether what she had learned about me was favorable or otherwise. She impressed me highly by her elegance and brilliant colloquial powers that I am strongly induced to afford her personal opportunities of knowing me more thoroughly than she does at present. If Miss Kate had her sprightliness she would be a paragon of attractiveness - of the two I dont know but it is better to be born pretty than smart for the ladies at least all fools - and this lack of the gums have largely preponderates and the majority of sensible men to - shame upon them! - prefer female beauty to female sprightliness. I think it more than likely that Miss Mary as independent as she may conceive the feels of the opinions of the world and independent to its admiration would be more than willing to make a complete exchange with her sister of physical and mental qualities - George Harrison says that it will be a source of lasting regret to him that he had not been born rich instead of pretty. I am of the same opinion Money can buy the best opinions for any

one male or female That keeps fairly within the pale of decency; and if outside it aspires mightily in getting back, and besides it procures a great number of little comforts that hearty cannot always purchase. This then is the order of preferability; 1st wealth then good looks, then sense. He was a sensible old fellow according to the wisdom of this world that advised his son "to get money honestly if he could, but get it" This is a very pernicious maxim Too often observed by this money loving age and country Honesty and integrity should be paramount considerations more valuable and bringing greater honor to the possessor than wealth intelligence and all other qualities beside Without them all others are valueless — but I find that I have run off into a moral discourse too dull for your patient endurance Excuse me. I will devote the remaining blank space to news. First I will tell you a secret that you must communicate to no one whatever — be sure you do not. Well Mr W E Burr will marry without providential hindrance Miss Harriet Brundage on the 17th April. He has spoken to me to be one of his attendants upon the happy occasion. Miss Lucy Webb

has been assigned to me to stand up with
I am entirely satisfied with the assign-
ment. I had not heard that she was going
to Texas. I understood that she was going
to Illinois. I hope that your authority is not
reliable. For a week past the weather has
been extremely cold - freezing each night and
northern blasts day and night. I hope that
there will be a moderation before your
father and company leave; if it does not
he will have a very uncomfortable trip
Wednesday of next week (29th) has been fixed
upon for starting. Isaac Scott marries Miss
Pickett on the 29th. Father Kate is here and
will remain several weeks. Mrs Cartright has
gone to Illinois. No further news of interest
Give my love to Mary. Write soon

Yours affectionately

W D Jenkins

P.S. 25th Your father desires me to say to
you that he will reach Pittsfield on
Friday if he meets with no detention

H. D. J.