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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Edward, 1838 May 20. In:
Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 4).

Elm Valley - May 20th 1833 - Sabbath morning
11 o'clock

Dear Edward,

It is so long since we have had a letter from you that I have determined to begin one, and ask what can be the reason of your silence? - Were you in the habit of writing only once in two or three months, an interval of six weeks would not excite surprise. Neither does it now, knowing as we do your numerous labours and engagements. We considered it as the loss of an accustomed enjoyment indeed, but trust it is not the indication of sickness or negligence.

Your last letter to me, was received on your birth day. My mind had been unusually occupied, all the morning, with thoughts of you and your affairs. I had looked back to your earliest infancy, and endeavoured to notice the hand of a kind Father, in his various allotments with regard to you and our family. With regard to worldly prosperity, we may say truly that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth. The treasure lies within, if the immortal spirit has become united by obedience and faith, to the Captain of salvation, to him who for our sakes became poor, that we thro' his poverty might be made rich; it is comparatively of little importance whether the individual be in a palace or a cottage. I wish we could all feel a deeper sense of the insufficiency of any worldly circumstances to confer happiness. - I have been at home alone this morning, Theophilus and his wife and Theodore attended worship at Hadley, the rest of the family went to Northampton.

Mr. Brown, the minister of North Hadley intends having come for the far off west. he has a son already there. Mr. Thayer has been able to continue his labours thus far; his health appears to be better than it was a year ago. He has exchanged within a few months with Mr. Fessenden, Mr. Parkman who was settled last autumn at Greenfield, and was a classmate of our dear Whiting, and also recently with Mr. Everett the minister of Northfield. but I like our own minister better than all of them.

Monday afternoon June 4th Since I began this letter the season has advanced rapidly and at my north window where I now sit, the northwestern breeze comes perfumed with the mingled odors of our flowers; no great variety indeed but were there nothing but the *Flus de lis*, and the rocket, the fragrance would be agreeable. There is a prospect of much fruit. the apple blossoms were abundant and our peach trees pear plums and cherries have all been in blossom. the weather for a week or two has been delightful, just warm enough to be pleasant, and just showery enough to promote vegetation. At this season *Bothie* and Theodore were sick with the Varioloid, I was also sick with a fever. how how different! all of us in health, and able each to contribute a share of labour for the common comfort of the family. not only so, but innumerable sources of enjoyment are open for our pastime - recreation, relating to our present state of existence. There are favours which call for our gratitude. But chiefly should we thank God for the hope of immortal life. This brings to mind Mr. Thomas' moving sermon yesterday. "O, die is gain!" While listening I felt that it was good to be there, and my thoughts wandered over the wilds and mountains of Maine, to find my dear Edward in his solitude, and amid his hardships and privations; and an involuntary desire arose in my bosom that you could have been there to share in the high enjoyment. The fervent aspiration also ascended to heaven, that these long sabbaths of yours might be made joyful and useful, by the more full and free communications of the Spirit of God, without which all outward means are without effect. - The views which he presented of the employment of the redeemed in heaven were highly interesting, and the thought of our dear departed ~~Whitney~~ and Catherine made me shed tears; but they were not tears of sorrow - alas - I trust they were tears of joy and gratitude and hope - the hope of escaping from these scenes of sin and suffering, and of being all, all united in heaven.

Last Thursday we received a letter from you directed to rather addressed to Theodore. and the week before, two came, one I think to Charles, and the other to Frederic. At the same time Theodore had a long letter from William inviting him to join him in Illinois. He has taken up as he says, two hundred acres for himself, in a part of the prairie which he calls the mound. He tries hard to induce Theodore, or Theophilus to go and settle there. Theodore said he should tell him in his next letter that he should not go - I don't know whether Theophilus will conclude to pluck up stakes at present.

Frederic returned to college last Wednesday after a month's vacation. We all enjoyed it very much. he assisted in making the garden, helped Theodore some, and his father some, and Theophilus some, besides being present and lending his strength at the raising of the barn, which took place week before last. - Theophilus?

house looks much more respectable with this appendage.

There is a part of a tribe of Indians in this vicinity, the descendants of Mr. Williams of Deerfield who was taken captive. A very aged female among them, is the grand-daughter of Eunice Williams. For several days past they have taken up their residence in the woods between Northampton and Hatfield, and have been visited by many of the inhabitants of the towns adjoining. On Saturday ten or twelve of the students from Amherst, went to see them, ~~Indians~~ among the rest. This company went home by the way of Northampton, after resting awhile, for they were on foot. He stayed at Charles's and attended divine service with us yesterday. In the afternoon the Lord's supper was celebrated, and previously to this two young ladies received the rite of baptism. It was a most touching scene. What can be more fit and proper and more beautiful than to see them in the morning of life, bringing the innocence and freshness and vigour of youth, and laying them on the altar of Divine love, dedicating all to him, who gave himself for them. You will be happy to learn that these ladies, were Julia Dikeman and Caroline Young. The Lord increase the number of those, who thus follow Christ, an hundred fold.

Your father has been very busy in building a new fence point of the house and north and west of the sheep yard - it is not yet done; this afternoon he is sitting down the old cherry tree east of my window - it is not only barren but dead, why cumbereth it the ground? Our friends in Northampton are as usual. - Samuel Thimbley returned with his wife about a fortnight since and had a great wedding. They reside with his mother at present. It has been supposed that he would take the brick house where Mr. Hibbins lived. Edward Barker and wife are keeping house on the hill. You know he built a fine house there last year. But his health is not good - I hope he will secure a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. They have taken the pew behind Charles's - but he is hardly over there.

I was much gratified with your particular description of your room. It must be a quiet, and I think a comfortable retreat - may the presence of God ever make it a Bethel to you, the house of God and the gate of heaven. I rejoice heartily that you collect your family together and with them pay the morning and evening sacrifice. It is a privilege ^{and duty} which none should omit. The morning devotion sheds a light over our path thro' the day, and who know but some thoughts and at length to heaven. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." That you and I may be the followers of him who went about doing good is the earnest desire of your affectionate mother Charlotte.

D. Huntington P.M.
Free

North Hadley
June 5th

Mr. Edw^d P. Huntington

Lepreau
New Brunswick