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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Edward, 1839 Dec 7. In:
Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 4).

Elm Valley - Dec. 7th 1839 -

Dear Edward,

Our meetings and pastings go on.

Frederic left us for Cambridge, by the way of Northampton last Tuesday morning; and Theophilus ^{with his wife} returned from Abington on Thursday afternoon, having had a prosperous journey and a pleasant visit. The last meeting and the last pasting will soon come. And our state as well as that of those who have gone before us, will be fixed for eternity. Our thanksgiving festival has passed away (this is a fading word) tho' with some heaviness of heart. Bethia and I go on in our labours alone. Our pleasant companion, and kind assistant is removed. Her place is vacant; and we must mourn; but not as those who have no hope. In the pure and peaceful regions of the spiritually world, she must be more than satisfied. She cannot desire to come back to these stormy shores. In her Father's house she has found a home and provisions adapted to her spiritual wants, and he has wiped away all tears from her eyes. We miss her indeed at the social board, and our thoughts reverted to the time when our number was unbroken. who will next tread the lonely passage, we know not. Whoever it may be, may the Rod and the Staff, strengthen and guide. We are too apt, I think, to contemplate

Death as our enemy. But it is neither vain nor useful
to do so. This is the only way appointed by him who made us,
to escape from this state of trial, and suffering, and sin,
and ^{but} thro' this avenue, there is no entrance into the New
Jerusalem. Instead therefore of dreading ~~the approach of~~
Death we should rejoice at its approach. In a letter which
Bethia received yesterday from Amelia's good kin, she
has copied these lines. They give a beautiful view of
this Thing of Terrors.

In this misguided world,
They picture Death, a fearful tyrant.
O! believe it not. It is an angel,
Beautiful as Light, that watches o'er
The sorrowing spirit here, and when
Its weary pilgrimage is o'er, unlocks
The gates of everlasting life
And vanishes forever.

The question which most interests us is, whether we have those dis-
positions and that spirit which ~~will~~ qualify us, to share
in the pure and exalted employments of the great company
of the Redeemed. — May this engage our chief attention. —

Monday. Our family, that is, your father and mother sister and
brother were invited to dine at Charles': last Wednesday —
Thos Dr. excused himself on account of business at
home, the rest of us went. Helen was quite like herself
indeed her anguish is much less troublesome than it has been.
Your father too seems to be recovering his usual health.
Sarah Phelps remains much in the same state, in which
she has been for two or three weeks. —

We have in prospect, an addition to our family connections. —

And I tell you, we had a letter from Charles' sister, she is at the institution they

and Dr. Story
gives some account of the different public places she had seen - speaks of the institution they
feel in the subject, and among many other interesting particulars
says that after 22 days
journey to
he writing
he had read
in letters
of her by the
of her in which
they went out
of her father
is to be invited
in Haver
town
by Mr. Bartons
of Haver
the cooperation

A letter from William last Saturday informed us, that instead of
going on to Boston as he intended when he left us, he felt such
powerful attraction in the contrary direction, that in the
course of the day he found himself in Chesterfield, at the house
of his good friend Mr Edwards - where his daughter he rode with
the afternoon to her uncle Oliver's. More than this, some-
serious consequences of this visit, may be expected to follow, before
the first of Jan. when he expects to leave New England. -
The request that this might not be spoken of out of the
family connections till after his return which he said would
probably be tomorrow, Tuesday. - This restriction
seemed hardly necessary, as the affair was ^{to be} made
public yesterday in C-D. - What do you
think of such a sudden movement? It is rather
hazardous in my opinion. - But we hope it will
be well. - The letter also came Saturday evening,
with the Princeton post mark, directed to
Edwards in Alicia's hand writing - this looks ominous.
There seems to be a stir among the young men of
our family. Will you too leave us? -
I cannot but feel regret that the transition
from a scene of most irrefragable events, to one of
directly ^{contrary} a nature should have been so sudden.
I am almost afraid, we shall not be able to manifest
those joyful feelings, that are expected on such occasions.
The Lord bless us and ever make us all the objects
of his merciful care, and ~~the~~ the subjects of his guiding
and preserving spirit.

your most affectionate
mother Elizabeth

D. Huntington & M
Free

North Hadley
Decem^r 10th

Mr. Edw. D. Huntington
Carboville
Springfield
Ms