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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS to Frederic Dan Huntington. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers (box 12, folder 7).

Mr. Frederic D. Huntington

Student

Amherst College.

Mother

Elm Valley Oct. 24th 1835 - Saturday evening

My Dear Frederic, It is more than a week since I have written, and half that time since I received yours; I need hardly tell you, that I was much gratified by the perusal. The promptness with which you answered me, was pleasing on two accounts; ~~in~~ the first place, it afforded me an opportunity of witnessing your talent at writing letters, and in the second place, it was a mark of filial attention and regard which always gives joy to a parent's heart. The child who is well desirous of doing the will of his earthly parents, is hopefully in the way ^{to do}, or rather is already doing, the will of his Father in Heaven.

Religion you know, consists not in doing great things, but in doing every thing to the glory of God. A supreme regard to his approbation and acceptance, is essential to a holy heart. There is much said about conversion, and getting a hope; I pray there may not be many indulging false hopes, which will fail them when God shall take away the soul. Our Saviour told his disciples, that "whosoever would do the will of his Father in heaven, the same was his brother and sister and mother." ~~He~~ ^{He} declared also, that they "who have done good, shall come forth, to the resurrection of life, and they who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation." "Blessed are they who do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in thro' the gates into the city." May the Holy Spirit prepare us to keep the coming sabbath in such a manner, as to advance us on our way to this heavenly city.

Sabbath evening - Mr. Stearns' text this afternoon was in the 16th Psalm 109th verse. "I have set the Lord always before me." He illustrated by many familiar examples, the variety of motives which influence the human mind, and exhorted his hearers, to make the glory of God, the will of the all righteous One, the governing motive in all their conduct. - In the morning he addressed parents and masters, upon this text, Father provide not your children to anger &c. ~~Exhortation~~ ^{Exhortation} 3-2, &c. - remonstrated against a harsh fault-finding method of treating children, and recommended decision, but gentleness of manner. - How solemn

is the short, that for the improvement of another sabbath, we must give account in the day of judgment. yet if we can say with Peter, "had thou known all things, thou knowest that I love thee," we shall not dread the final account. Two of our loved ones have entered the world of spirits; and I live to look forward to the period, when again united under the captain of our salvation, we shall serve him without wavering, and never, never sin. I love to think of the dear departed, as even now perfected, not lying in a flesh vigorous, immortal, ever drinking full draughts of the pure river of the water of life. - I delight to look back upon the lookings of their characters, tho' it costs a pang when I remember their sufferings. This however is the way to heaven. Our Saviour says, thro' much tribulation ye shall enter into the kingdom. And of the redeemed in heaven it is said there are they who came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. - And who can say that the disappointments and privations & sicknesses of your departed brother and sister, were not instrumental in preparing them for their early ^{removal}. Tuesday evening your brother and sister have gone to singing school. Your father is reading the Gazette in the sitting room, where Mother is employed with her needle, and Miss Paige with her book, Elizabeth sits by the fire and may possibly be dozing by this time. Susan and Ben. are paring apples, and Mother is in her room writing to Fredrick; but as it is rather chilly, she will join the family circle, and finish the letter then. Your father has been in the woods today with Ben. paring a load of wood for Mr. Bascom, I believe, which will probably be carried out tomorrow. Theodore has been hawking on the hill, and grinding ^{potch} apples at the mill today, so it is likely in a day or two, we shall have the pleasure of boiling down the cider, for apple sauce, which you know is a very important accompaniment at our table. I believe the Sheringtons are as remarkable for their partiality to apple sauce, as the Posters are for their fondness for butter.

You are aware I suppose, that Theodore has become headman at Elm Valley, Theophilus having resigned the office, to take the exclusive management and care of the land which they own in company. The business seems to proceed in the old way, and no change is apparent, excepting that Theodore is up some time before Theophilus in the morning, and takes upon himself the job about the house.

Edward came over yesterday morning just as we had our breakfast, but not too late to have a bowl of baked apple and milk. He had business at the Mills, and returned to dinner. Your father and brother attended town meeting and voted for Mr. Everett governor as did all the town beside. Capt. Will Smith and Simon Dickinson were chosen to represent the town in General Court, leaving out Mr. Stockbridge.

Theophilus spent last evening in soliciting subscribers for the Temperance Banner, at the Mills, did not have much success; the people there have become less ardent in the cause, than they were two or three years since.

I am quite desirous to hear how you were pleased with the religious meeting, the evening after we called on you. Could there be harmony of feeling, such meetings would be very pleasant, and improving, if conducted with proper solemnity.

As your studies do not press very hard, I hope you have some useful reading to occupy your leisure time. you know Whiting kept a list of the books he read, and it while in college, and it was really surprising, to find how much he accomplished. He lived fast. He was rapidly ripening for the sublime employments of the spiritual world. Let us ever, daily and constantly, fix the eye of faith, upon those animating prospects, which are presented to us in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by fighting the good fight of faith, become followers of them who thro' faith and patience are inheriting the promises. With much love your mother &c.

We shall expect you next week.