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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Hadley), to My dear Mary, 1831 Apr 11. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 12.

by April 11th 1831 -

My dear Mary, I have been trying to gather strength and courage to write you a few lines on your birth day, but feel quite insufficient for the duty. My weakness is so great, that it reminds me forcibly of that hour when flesh and heart will fail; and I am desirous of leaving with you on this occasion a little memorial of my affection as well as an incentive to duty. The subject upon which I would address you is secret prayer - as I consider that, & the reading of the bible among the most important of the means of religious improvement.

I have reason to hope you do not cast off fear and restrain prayer; but that you daily endeavour to seek him who requires of all his worshippers that they worship him in spirit and in truth. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of all those who diligently seek him" - Endeavour to believe firmly the promises which our blessed Saviour left for our encouragement - and plead them before the Father, in the all prevailing name of the great Intercessor - remembering that it was he who said "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out - Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find - knock and it shall be opened to you."

I recommend to you to attend to the several subjects of prayer as they are noted and explained in the Spirit of Prayer - in observations on the Lord's prayer; - the plan there proposed is very good and well worthy of attention.

I'm reading the bible always seek the enlightening and sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, without which we can do nothing acceptable to God - and to this end - endeavour to exclude from your heart those worldly affections and sinful passions which would grieve the blessed Spirit - and cultivate those holy and devout dispositions which will render it a meet temple to be inhabited by the blessed Comforter.

This is a suitable time in which to look back
upon our lives to praise God for all the mercies
we have received - sixteen years you have been
supported and preserved by his care and kindness,
and now what will you render to him in
return? will you not say, all that I am and
all that I have, heavenly Father, shall be
thine - employ me in thy service in this world
and afterward receive me to thyself in thy king-
dom of glory? - may God of his infinite mercy
dispose you thus to act and feel - and thro' his
infinite mercy in Jesus Christ fit us all for a
peaceful death, and a heaven of peace and love
prays your affectionate but
bereaved mother

Elizabeth H. Huntington

E. W. P. Huntington
Haddley April 11.
1831

Mary E. Huntington