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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Hadley), to Mary, 1835 Mar 22. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 12.

Hadley W. Mills
March 24th
D. Huntington Hill
Free

Miss Mary
D. Huntington
George
George County
Md.

March 22/1835

This I wrote you a short time since
I am a little ashamed of this torn paper
but I did not notice that it was torn till I
had written down the first page. - you will
excuse it.

Hadley March 22^d 1835^d
Sabbath evening -

Dear Mary, It is so long since I have put pen to paper,
in the way of letter writing, that I hardly know how
to begin. There is a kind of awkwardness about it,
which we are well apt to feel, in returning to any
duty which we have neglected. In saying this, I should
not intimate that I have been deficient in writing
to you. The error of which we have been in most
danger was, writing too often, and thus laying you
under the necessity of devoting more time to us here
at home, than we could reasonably claim. But the
assurance in your letter to Bethel which we received
yesterday, has quite dispelled that fear; consequently
I put in ^{my claim} for a share of your time.

This day has been very stormy, and we have all
been at home. We have no reason to complain if
we are detained from public worship by the weather,
for we have a variety of useful and instructive
books at hand; and the throne of grace is free to
all, and Jesus is our Advocate at the heavenly
court; this holy day too is a type of the rest which
remains for the people of God, and we, tho' unworthy
of ourselves, may look forward in the hope of
enjoying this rest in the society of our loved ones
who are there, thro' the intercession of our great
High Priest. David however tells us, that the Lord
with the gates of Zion were then all the dwellings
of Jacob; and that he himself layed, yea even
fainter for the courts of the Lord. And this I believe
is the feeling of every true Christian.

William wrote you last week, and gave you an account of his proceedings. Thursday he left us and took lodgings at Mr George Hodges. We could not help feeling some regret at parting, but the thought that he had not gone to Kentucky, hushed at once all discontent, and we can only be grateful that we may still enjoy his society, and profit by his example. This morning just after I rose, who should I see walking into the yard in all the snow, but the Doctor, sure enough. I wonder what could have brought him out thus early, when he informed me, that he had been at your uncle's, since three o'clock, administering to Eliza and her who was attacked with a pain in the bowels, and sickness. After breakfast Charles came after him again, but he only found her very nervous and gave her some laudanum. This is his first call in Gladley.

A week ago last Friday we were all invited to visit at Doct. Brown's - there was no other company excepting Mr. and Mrs. Ward, & Doct. Pennington, who called and took tea on his return from a protracted meeting at Granby. Mrs. Brown told me that Lucy had determined to go from home this summer, somewhere.

Monday afternoon four o'clock. Bettina has made a call at your uncle's this afternoon, and found Eliza busy with her drawings - preparing to instruct another class at Amherst. Caroline feels rather sorry that she cannot find employment as a teacher. One is applied to, and requested to assist in instructing in an Academy, but does not like the employment well enough to continue in it. Another, after having devoted much time and some money to become qualified for the business, seeks in vain to be employed. What shall we think of these things? - We may learn to be thankful that our Domestic tranquillity has not been disturbed as has that of our neighbours. Another lesson we may learn also, that as we have such a bright prospect opened to

The spring looks dreary and cold - but we have nothing to fear. We have the promise. The battle will be in the heavens, the tokens of his covenant. With much love to all old and young great and small, I am as ever your affectionate friend.

us beyond the present life, it is very foolish and unwise to make ourselves unhappy by the momentary inconveniences of our passage to that better country. However, I cannot blame you for declining to assist Mr. Swift - you have a comfortable home, and friends who are dear and kind, and your desires for things which money can purchase, are moderate, and so you can be content and happy to move in a very limited sphere. Our usefulness depends not so much on our condition, as upon the disposition with which we perform the various duties resulting from that condition.

You say if the children of a school would be obedient and teachable, the task of teaching would be more pleasant. That indeed is true. But I believe all who have the care of children must learn, if they will succeed in the business, to do it from a desire to prepare immortal beings for a life after death. And I know of nothing else which can impart strength and courage for the arduous work.

These thoughts bring to my mind the twins and little George. And also an idea which Doct. Brown expressed. I wish we were there, it was this, that parents generally are far less solicitous with regard to the morals of their sons than of their daughters; they suffer their sons to frequent places, and company, which they would shudder to have their daughters exposed to. Is it not a good hint to mothers? - I hope your sister finds from month to month that her labours are not in vain; "He that goeth forth weeping bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bearing his sheaves with him." But we must mark the expression "weeping". It is no easy thing to do our duty. Often it requires a vigorous effort, a great degree of self sacrifice, and a constant watchfulness. And is the prize to be gained not worthy of this labour? - Can we think any thing too much for us to do or suffer, that we may prepare our own children and others to love and honour that Saviour who freely gave up his life to save the world.