

Mr Frederic D. Huntington
Cambridge

Mrs. Mills

Elm Valley June 21st 1842

My Dear Frederic, Tho' it is only two or three days since you left us, I am unwilling that a good opportunity for sending to you should pass unimproved. Mrs. Mills intends leaving Northampton on Thursday - and we shall send this over by Mr. Williams today. Your father sister and myself listened on the sabbath to Mr. Thurston's instructions; Theophilus, Theodora and their wives went to hear Mr. Neil. There had then been no alteration in the state of Judge Lyman, after he was first taken ill. His physical ^{powers} were unimpaired, the disease having been confined to his brain. This has not deprived him of consciousness, nor of speech, but of the power of expressing in suitable words, his ideas. It has always been his expectation that he should die of an apoplectic attack - and has also been his prayer that he might not linger long in a state of mental impurity.

On Saturday evening Elizabeth had a letter from

her mother saying that her sister Lydia was losing strength, that they had call'd another physician who who gave it as his opinion that her disease was the dropsy. they were beginning a course of medicine which would require a week or two for trial. On the whole the circumstances appear rather discouraging as to her recovery - Theodore intends to go with her to Eastford on Saturday, and perhaps will leave her to stay two or three weeks. This is the dark side of the picture, and we know that this life is a scene of lights and shadows, and who can say that our sober, and even sorrowful seasons are not the most conducive to our advancement in the real work of life.

I must just touch upon the fair; at five this afternoon it will commence - Charlotte and Susan spent the Day yesterday in assisting to decorate the Hall. One hundred letters had been sent in, more I presume than will be taken out and paid for. Marianne is going to look this afternoon - Theodore decides, not to go - his wife feels life in the spirit of it than she did before she heard from home.

Your sister and mother took a ride yesterday after Dicky in the chair. he behaved himself very well his only fault seems to be a dislike of

speed - and this should not be regarded as his fault so much, as a consequence of his usual occupation dragging the plough - We certainly had a most delightful ride; nothing can be finer than the appearance of the country in every direction, as far as the eye can reach. - We were reminded of our pleasant visit to Mount Warner with you a week since. We miss you, all the Day and every Day - and when we think of you, we send to our Father in Heaven our earnest prayers for your usefulness and happiness. - "The Lord direct your heart into the love of God!" With the kindest wishes of all your friends - except especially of her who is ever most truly your affectionate mother
Elizabeth -

Theodore cut the grass yesterday around the house, and we are enjoying today a delicious fragrance from the hay and the roses. -