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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Mary, 1833 Apr 17. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 12.

D. Huntington & Co.
Free

Wadley & Wadley
April 19th

Miss Mary D. Huntington
Female Seminary

Love
N. York

Elm Valley - April 17th 1833.

Dear Mary, This day brought us your letter to your father, and as you may suppose, occasioned some unpleasant sensations. The glooms seem to have returned with all their strength. I had hoped that they had been chased away, by the light of science and religion, as the shadows of night, fly before the beams of the morning sun. And even now I trust these evil spirits will give place to brighter and happier visions.

Your father has been wishing to write you for some time, and on your birthday he went so far as to write a date. But since that, his business has been so urgent, that he has been unable to finish a letter. You may wonder what can occupy his time to such a degree, ~~but you will not~~ perhaps be surprised to hear that he is making preparations for ~~making~~ ^{shingling the kitchen & wood house, making some &c &c} attaining the kitchen chambers, and next week he expects the workmen to begin their operations. We shall almost want your help then. Had not you better conclude to return with Edward, who intends leaving us next week for New York, and will probably call on you at Troy on his return which will be I suppose the forepart of May. In the mean time, I should like to have your practice on the guitar as much as you think proper. Bothie and I have been making shirts for Theoph- iles, and we have some also to make for Theodore. We go on much in the old track. And I consider it no small blessing, that day after day and night

after night, we can labour and rest, undisturbed by the groans of the sick, and the sufferings of sympathy. Truly we are surrounded with mercies, more than we can reckon up. Even in your case, uncomfortable as you think it is, how much have you for which to be thankful.

The faculties of hearing speech and sight, are so common that we hardly think of them. But if deprived of them, ^{how} much would our enjoyment be diminished. The power of ministering to the comfort of those around us, is another source of comfort; - which those who have not the use of their limbs are in a measure deprived of. But above all, the use of our reason, and the gift of revelation, call for our most devout gratitude; for when all earthly comforts fail; and mortal life is closing, the gospel assures us that those who sleep in Jesus, shall go with him. Let us then comfort one another with these words.

Elizabeth wrote a letter to Bethia lately, in which she speaks of a protracted meeting which has been held there and which lasted three weeks. The two ladies, Mr Myrick and Mr. Warren, lodged at Mr Fisher's during their stay and Mrs. F says they preached and practised the doctrine of perfection. She says also that she has received new light upon the subject of depravity, the new birth and christian perfection. I hope she will soon communicate some of her light to us. But it is growing late, and I am a good hand to retire in season, so wishing you grace mercy and peace I subscribe as ever your affectionate mother &c -

Dear Mary Edward will not fail to come by Troy, when he returns from N York, & if you & W. Willard, on the whole think best you can return with him, however great the mortification & disappointment might be. In the mean time, I enclose you five dollars, for your present use. I should consult no physician, unless something new & alarming occurs. Theophilus has left off using all pills & medicine excepting mustard seed. He eats his meals, regularly with the family goes about his work, & says & seems to think nothing of his complaint, if he has any. Would it not be better for you to do the same & mind nothing about what a parcel of foolish girls have to say about your rosy cheeks. You know I love you dearly, & that I do not mean to trifle about your complaints. If they are serious W. Willard will know it, & will tell you what she thinks. If it is necessary ^{at any time} to come home, there will be no difficulty about it. Very Affectionately, Your Father