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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Frederic, 1843 July 8. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 9).

With the papers last sent you, concerning the
silk business, you will find both from Theophilus & etc, what
you mentioned as necessary to get the money —
H. —

Rev. Frederic D. Huntington

Boston

To be left at Unitarian Halls Hotel —

Elm Valley July 5th 1843.

Thanks to you, Dear Frederic, that the silence is broken, a
thousand thanks for the pleasant words sent by cousin Theophilus,
but especially let our united thanks rise to the Father of all our
mercies, for his goodness to us while you were here, and since your
return: we can hardly form a wish that is not granted — and we
have little to desire more of worldly blessings, in addition to what
we already enjoy — our constant and earnest prayer should be that
our lives may better correspond with the obligations we are under
and that we may be prepared to meet the trial, and improve
the sorrows of life in such a manner, as to become in some humble
degree like the captain of our salvation "perfect tho' suffering."

Your course for the past year has been, apparently, singularly
prosperous — may you never be satisfied with a portion in this
life — may you feel and manifest such an indifference to the
enjoyments of the present world merely — as shall convince all
over whom you have influence — that you have not made
this your resting place, and that the pomps and vanities and
luxuries of the present life, are wholly unworthy of the serious
regard of a minister and follower of Jesus.

I am glad you have escaped from the city — and that you have
found a cool and quiet retreat — and also have found that in
our days there are some "given to hospitality". I trust you will
be better as well as happier for having been an inmate in Mr.
Putnam's family.

This morning, we had a very pleas-
ant call from Mr. James Mills and wife, Mrs. Blake, Gertrude
Charlotte Blake, Charles and Helen and little Edward. Mr. and Mrs.
Mills spoke becomingly of you and Hannah. On the 4th as it was a
busy time with your brothers — your father and I were obliged to

represent our family at Northampton. The weather was delightful and the address good, Mr. Ellis. excellent the grounds were adorned with great taste, and the bowers, filled with refreshments, were decorated with all the multitude and variety of flowers, which the season could afford. - It was thought that about three thousand persons were present. - Last sabbath Mr. Ellis for the first ^{time} performed the service at the Lord's table. It was done most seriously and impressively. - before the exercise began, Mr. Whitmarsh's daughter who married in Pittsfield, was admitted to make a profession of her faith. - It was good to hear the articles of our belief repeated - our ministers have heretofore been quite too much afraid of forms. - I hope our new ministers will produce a change among us in many respects. - our hearts are turned to him - may the Lord assist him to advance the kingdom of Christ - even among the dry bones of our society. -

After the afternoon public service, the dear youngest child was baptised at home by the name of Henrietta Mills. - We went up and witnessed with much satisfaction the observance of this interesting rite. - Mr. Ellis has improved vastly as a preacher - he is very ready in extemporaneous effusions - and his prayers are remarkably, exceedingly good. - A week ago yesterday your father carried Betsey to Cabotville and left her - she returned on Wednesday by stage. - Two weeks ago today Theodore went to Eastford after Mrs. Sumner - they returned the Monday following. - Since that time he has not been as well as usual - you know the heat and labour of the season do not suit his constitution - he has consulted Doct. Stacy, and taken some medicine - and is better than he was a week ago. - Having engaged a man to help about the mowing I hope he will recruit. - The sheep yard front yard and fence above the garden are all done and the hay secured. - also the fence at the foot of Phasant Hill - and I believe some others. - We had a letter from William Tuesday - he writes cheerfully and trustfully - tho' he says the crop of wheat will be small. - He had heard of a package which you sent by Mr. Moore, which he was hoping soon to obtain. - Edward intends to make a visit of a week or two soon, to his friends in this

region, that is in Hadley, Northampton, and Deerfield. - Mr. Chase has returned - which will give him some relief from labour & confinement. - Helen Sophia has been gaining since you left us - her cough has nearly left her, and she attended worship with us last sabbath in the morning and at the Lord's table. - may the goodness of God lead us all to repentance and holy obedience.

Your father has preached at Deerfield once since you left - he is quite engaged with his numerous family - I believe he told you of his intention to try the silk business again. - His health is generally good - better than in former years. - Since your visit, Bethie and I have had time to remember and talk over the pleasant circumstances attending our intercourse with you and Hannah - within a few days we have been trying to account for your not having written to us - and have feared that unwittingly we might have given you or Hannah some cause for grief or displeasure. - We rejoice that it is not so - and that your recollections as well as ours have been grateful and satisfactory.

Your brother Theophilus and his family are in usual health. - he is in the midst of haying. - Theophilus Phelps has come back resolved on work, quite a different sort of man from what he was when he went away - cheerful, social, and active. -

I am quite astonished at the degree of strength and ease which I am able to exert and enjoy - I would be thankful for it while it continues - but it cannot last long - the allotted period of man's life on earth, for me, is well nigh made up - be it so, I would not go back - my life has been filled, crowded, with blessings - but as it has also been polluted with sins and follies - I look with an earnest, tho' trembling desire to ~~reach~~ brighter world, where sin, and pain and darkness and death cannot come, and pardoning mercy will cover all imperfection. - With the most affectionate remembrances to our dear Hannah, who is dear for her own sake as well as yours - I am truly your loving mother Elizabeth. - Kind regards from all quarters to you both.