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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to My dear Mary, 1835 Jan 25. In:
Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 12.

Much love from us all to all the dear family. I wrote
to Elizabeth week before last.

D. Huntington

Harley W. Mills

Miss Mary D. Huntington

Queens County
New York

Brother George's No 1835

Elm Valley Jan. 25th 1835 Sabbath evening

My Dear Mary,

At our family worship this evening, we
had one of Jay's sermons read, entitled the final change,
and your father read to be sung, the hymn which
our dear Catherine last learned, "The heart directed" &c.
You can conceive, I dare say, how vividly it renewed
the feelings of that solemn season when her lifeless
remains were all that was left for us to contemplate.
The anguish is past, and we now think of her as an
inhabitant of heaven, a companion of angels, as
joining with her beloved brother, who has since
been admitted to the same glorious company, in
those high and holy employments, which constitute
the happiness of the just made perfect.

I have had much enjoyment of late, in the thought,
that our dear departed ones have done with sin.
Sin is the burden which weighs down the ^{im}mortal
spirit, while confined in mortality. And while we
remain here we are sanctified but in part.

When ever my children are absent, the fear that
they may offend their Maker, that they may be
led into temptation, and thus be exposed to evil
is what gives me the most uneasiness. But
now, blessed be God, two of them are safe. I cannot
feel anxiety on their account. Who knows but they
may be commissioned to impart to me their
cheering hopes? Is it all imagination? or do I
really hold communion with their spirits?

The saints below and those above

But one communion make
All join with Christ their living head
And of his grace partake.

Mr. John Smith at the Mills, has been very sick since last Monday with the lung fever, and there is little hope of his recovery. Throphilus is going to night to wait with him.

Thursday evening. I have just finished reading your letter to Frederick, and what do you think? has made the deepest impression on my mind? Perhaps it is a feeling of gratitude, that when my children have not moral strength enough to resist the inticements to dissipation, the watchful care of our Father in Heaven interposes, and disables them from pursuing the forbidden path. You will probably say it is only visiting in a friendly social way. But let me ask you one question. Do you find this frequent mingling with the gay and thoughtless, to be any help to you, in your heavenward course? After an evening spent in this manner, is your mind more heavenly, and better prepared for communion with God? Have we yet to learn, that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? From the Holy employments of the spiritual world, do our departed friends look down upon these scenes with a feeling of complacency? ~~But I am sure that if they do, they will not impute this solicitude to any other cause than~~ You will not hope impute this solicitude to any other cause than as most tender regard for your highest happiness.

Feb. 11th 1835 - Since writing the above, I have passed another of those periods which divide our earthly existence; and looking back upon what is past, I am unstrained to say, that goodness and mercy have followed me all my days. Even those heart rending afflictions which brought with them a horror of thick darkness, have issued in more abundant communications of peace and comfort.

Saturday evening we were eagerly expecting letters from William Theodore and Mary. but had nothing but a disappointment. just a week ago this evening, Theodore left us, and you may be sure we are quite desirous of knowing what he is about.

Little Fanny has been staying a few days with us. She came home with us from meeting a week ago yesterday

whether you take charge of the young ladies or the little children; and hope you will let us know how it agrees with your health and taste. Mr. John Smith is recovering, and has found in his sickness the peace of God, which is more than he had before. He is now able to go out with the children, and I went home with her on Friday. She is now in good health and went home I believe as well as of late. She is an example of obedience and kindness, which all might do well to imitate. Charles Whiting is a little fellow, not very handsome, but very quiet and active and healthy. Your brother and sister have invited Marianne Phelps to spend a little time with them and she intends going over to-morrow. Ellen had hoped to have you or Bethia with her the greater part of the time after her mother left her; but in your absence she is afraid to deprive me of Bethia's help. However, there may be an arrangement made, which will release your sister and I from this close confinement. I suppose you would be very glad to hear that we are thinking of taking a little girl. Mrs. Judge Lyman is quite desirous that I should take the youngest of the orphans, nieces to Ann and Elizabeth Clarke. They have no property, and this one, Susan, who is about eleven years old has no one to provide for her. She lives with an aged grandmother, who is herself dependent. She has been decently trained, excepting in point of learning from books; she can hardly read ~~in~~ easy reading - but is free from vice, and Mrs. Lyman says if she wanted a little girl she would take her, herself. I mentioned to Mrs. Lyman the circumstance of having Ben. in the family, she said she should consider it no objection. I am to give her an answer this week. Sarah is at Judge Thinsley's, but continues to think of a trade. Caroline is with Mrs. Lyman yet, she assists Miss Stearns in her school in the morning. Mrs. Lyman has written in two or three directions, to engage a school for her, but we do not yet know the result. I suppose your labours will begin before long. I should like to know