



AMHERST COLLEGE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS

PORTER-PHELPS-HUNTINGTON FOUNDATION, INC.

This reproduction of an item in the Amherst College Library is not to be reproduced or published, in whole or in part, nor sold or given away, without written agreement of the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation.

Not for commercial use without paid prior permission from the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation. For inquiries, contact Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, archives@amherst.edu

DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Mary, 1833 Mar 19. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 12.

D. Huntington Bell

Free

Hadley U. Mills

March 19th

Miss Mary D. Huntington

Female Seminary

Brook N. York

Elm Valley - March 18th 1833.

Dear Mary, You see by the date that it is Monday, and also Thuders' birth day. We all remember how faithfully and seriously our birth days were all noticed by our dear Whiting - in this respect as well as many others, he ~~was~~ ^{has left} an example for us to follow. Your letter, mailed March 13th, we received Saturday evening; and I must own I felt a little disappointed in finding ^{as} "Detail of so many aches and ail,". Your Pa and Thersphilos gave an animating account of your heroism, both during the journey and when they left you; and I have a strong expectation of hearing from you, the next time you write, that your courage ~~and~~ strength have returned, and that fears and forebodings have taken leave of you, at least for the present.

I frequently try to reckon up the blessings with which we are surrounded, but in the midst of the attempt I find myself perhaps indulging unreasonable fears, and distrusting that kind Providence which has followed me all my life long till the present day. Heavy with this conflict, I sometimes venture to glance a thought beyond these trials, and infirmities and sins, and descry a region of purity and peace where no storm ever blows, no enemy invades, no fear ever intrudes, - where all the inhabitants are friends - all are employed in works of piety and love, all bear the image of him who is the first born among many brethren, all belong to the general assembly and church of the first born whose names are written in heaven. And is there such a state in reserve for us sinners? - The apostle says ~~on~~ them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, shall be bestowed the gift of eternal life. Then who would not willingly for a little season "bear the toil endure the pain" "Supported by this word!"

Last Tuesday your father and I went to Northampton, we
dined at Charles's, and came home in the rain. Theophilus rode
over also on horseback, consulted Doct. Flint. who told him not
to starve himself any longer, & gave him some different medicine.
He has been out at work in the lot, several days in the
forenoon, since that time, He thinks some of going to ^{London} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~London~~
to morrow. We had a letter from William last week; he
appears to be in good spirits. The day after you left us,
Mrs Hatchcock came up before dinner and stayed till
evening; at her request we read some of Whittier's writings
to her. Last Wednesday I spent the afternoon with
Mrs. Wright and I should not wish to be made more
welcome by any one. Paul was at home, and very
kind and steady. David I think is an uncommonly
promising child, at least he has one good quality,
he is very quiet - instead of crying as some children
do with tending, he lay on the floor and kicked about
much of the time, in perfect good nature.

Theophilus alone went to N. yesterday - heard Mr.
Stearns preach in the morning from these words "Our Father
who art in heaven" in the afternoon from these, "Blessed
are those servants, whom their Lord when he cometh
shall find watching". The sabbath after you left us
Edward Bethia and Frederic, went over, heard Mr.
Stearns from this text in the morning, "Whoever shall
keep the whole law and yet offend in one point is guilty
of all" - ~~the~~ idea he advanced was that a person
who allowed himself in any vice, could not ~~hope~~ ^{hope}
for acceptance with his Maker. In the afternoon
from these words, "For the Father loveth the Son, and
sheweth him all things that himself doeth." Jesus
Christ is the most perfect representation of God which
has ever been made in our world. The two last
sabbaths, Susan Flint performed on the organ, in account

of Mr Whitman's absence, and those of our family
who heard her, were more pleased with the manner
of her performance, than with that of any other
person they have heard.

I would have you a little cautious about taking
the blue Pills - as there is mercury in them. Indeed
I would have very little to do with medicine
excepting the mustard seed, take that regularly,
in the same quantity and at the same times
in the day. If you cannot get exercise enough
without, go to Mrs. Willard and tell her from me
that it is very important that you should have
violent exercise every day, enough to produce
perspiration, and request her advice in direction
in the matter. If you are faint hearted and feeble,
call to mind the animating motives which are
held up to you for our encouragement in duty.
You are not your own, you are bought with
a price. you have now an opportunity to qualify
yourself for usefulness; who knows but you may
yet be an instrument in the Providence of doing
some good to your fellow travellers in the heaven
ward course. May he whose strength is made
perfect in weakness, strengthen & establish you
and may we at length.

"Form a family anew,
Unbroken in the skies."

With kind remembrances from all I send this
midday of a letter from your affectionate mother
Elizabeth.

Love to Caroline her family are well.

I think of your room as a little Bethel, with often.