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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Mary, 1832 May 21. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 12.

Miss Mary D. Huntington

Seminary

Tracy N. York.

Elm Valley May 21st 1832 - Monday afternoon

My dear Mary, your welcome letter arrived Saturday evening; and from your firmness at parting with William I had hoped to learn from it that you were contented if not happy. I have been thro' a most severe scene of suffering of this sort, and when I was less than thirteen years old. So that I know how to sympathize with you; and assure you that if your health is not good and you feel borne down with weakness and painfulness, your father will very willingly fetch you home. Bethia and I have been thinking that while William is here you can study with advantage at home, and you can have as much time to devote to it as will be profitable. Perhaps you will find yourself in better health after a week or two, and as you are there on the ground you may prefer staying till the term closes; but if you really choose to return, I hope you will not fail to let us know it.

Cousin Sarah and Caroline have spent an hour with us this afternoon; your uncle and Sarah with little Susan expect to go out to Poughkeepsie tomorrow and forced from thence in the stage to Boston, and Charlotte is to spend the afternoon with us; we shall want you to entertain her.

Tho' it was rather rainy yesterday, we all went to Northampton, excepting Theophilus and Marianna your brother William's horse has become so manageable that he is quite an acquisition to our riding establishment he and old Sunderland go very well in the covered carriage, and Prob. you know carries the chair very pleasantly. William and Edward stayed in the evening the rest of us went to Charles's - Little Frances has had her dress shortened and uses her feet with considerable dexterity. Ask her when her little white teeth are and she will put her hand to them and so to her black eye. she will take a handkerchief and wipe her mouth too if you

bed her. she did not seem afraid of us at all.

Mrs. Thorns was at meeting, sat in the pew with Mrs. Whitmarsh; as we stood in the porch waiting, Mrs. Whitmarsh introduced Helen and B. and me to her; she is rather tall, has a delicate appearance, & tho' Helen is quite pretty I think her husband has rather the advantage as to looks. The organ was used yesterday, and it seemed as if we were to be overpowered when the sound first began. It was played very well, by a Mr. Thingley who halles sacred music there, and has Harriette Mills and Frederic among his scholars.

Mr. Thorns, sermon in the morning was upon the use of the term morality; in what respects it differed from religion and how it was connected with it. He gave an example of the lowest kind of morality in a person who should abstain from sin on account of the injury which it would do to himself - a higher kind he said is found when a person abstains on account of the injury it may do to others. The highest kind and that which is connected with religion is that when a regard to God is the governing motive. In the afternoon his text was "Now is the accepted time, and now is the day of salvation" He urged very forcibly the importance of doing immediately what we knew to be our duty to do at all. If there is any thing which we have hitherto neglected and which we really intend to do, now is the time - he would not say that at any future time, pardon and mercy might not be granted, but the longer known duty is omitted, the more difficult with its performance become, even should we have a continuance of life sure. but considering the rapid flight of time and our constant liability to be arrested by death, and hurried to the bar of God, nothing but immediate faithful attention to all duty can ensure peace or safety. Those who had already

attended on a course of religious obedience he exhorted to diligent perseverance in the great work of life. I marked the hymns and you the numbers - 72 - 310th - 241st - 56th - 57th -
The vicar does not complain of being homesick, but seems to have his old fidgety fears coming on again - It may be a want of interesting employment which occasions it. Tomorrow the examination at the Academy takes place, but as the highway claims attention at this time Pa thinks he shall not honour them with his presence. When I began this letter I expected to send it by mail, on finding however that Dwight is departing to set out for the west tomorrow with a load of hats, I think it will be better to send it by him together with your fresh forgotten books. When your letter came Saturday evening it was in company with one from Whiting - I copy a few lines from it. It has occurred to my thoughts most frequently most forcibly within a few weeks, and I have a very strong desire to see those whom I so much love. It seems an age since I visited you; and if God will I shall spare my life and health to another happy journey - it will add another to the endless blessings which he has vouchsafed me. Tho' the divine goodness we are all comfortable and not be unmindful of our unwearied factor - write often and let us know just how you feel. In all anxiety, endeavour to have yourself and your cares with him who cares for us; this is the only resting place for wearying sinners. - most affectionately and tenderly your mother E.W. Th.

We all unite in kindest wishes.