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DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCED ITEM:

Elizabeth Huntington. ALS (Elm Valley), to Frederic, 1844 July 15. In: Porter-Phelps-Huntington Family Papers, box 12, folder 9).

Planning
Cher July 20

Rev. F. D. Huntington

Care of A. D. Phelps
No 124 Washington
Street Boston

Boston

Elm Valley July 15th 1844-

My Dear Frederic,

How solemn is the lesson which we have received during the last few days! You and Hannah, and your friends here, have had our hearts made glad because a man-child has been born to you - and I have rejoiced in the hope that from his birth he will be devoted to the Lord, like the son of Hannah of ancient days - that by unceasing prayer, and in the use of all the divinely appointed means, he may be nourished and educated for God for Christ and for heaven. But in the midst of our joy and hope, we are taught, not by the voice of inspiration alone, but by our own sad experience that like the flowers of the field, the dearest and loveliest may wither and decay. There are certainly considerations to be derived from the gospel, which should hush all rejoicing and which in time may soothe the anguish of the stricken heart - but thanks to our blessed Lord who has assured us that it is not sinful to weep at the remembrance of the loved who have vanished - we must shed tears, while we say in the words of another - "She died before her infant soul

Had we burnt with wrong desires;
Had we spurn'd at heaven's control,
Or we quenched its sacred fires.

