

NO



Miss Mary Duncan
Care of J. G. Agnew Pittsfield
Mass.

P. S. Sisters, we all so much regret
that you've not written to us yet
Pray tell us why you do not write,
we are out of mind - when out of sight

E. D.

Nov. 18. 1854

My Dear sister

I miss
you so much. The house seems
quite desolate, with out you. & you
do not know how much we all
miss you. How I do miss Cousin
Marid's screaming. The cars have
just come up from Paris we have
quite a good train now. Miss
Beattlet is not dead yet. But Mrs
Brown expects to hear of her
death every day. Last ~~week~~ Sunday
Mrs B said she was very
ill in deed. I will tell you as
soon as I hear of it. It has been
trying to snow all day but it
melts as soon as it falls. I suppose
you have had plenty. I hope you

have not had such a time
with your ears as I have had
they are now as big as two ought
to be. do sister take care of your
ears. Tell brother Henry when
you write to him to inquire
at the Peever house and Post Office
for his letter that Mother and

Dr Jenkins wrote the day after
you left directed to the Peever
house. I was so sick ^{last} night
that I had to take an
emetic but I was quite
well this morning all
except my ears. Dr Marshall
staid a week after you left.

Good bye till after tea,

I have just come in from
tea to finish my letter.

I can think of but little more
to write. We are glad that
^{my} father seems so delighted with

your school and that you have
made so many pleasant acquain-
tances there. We are very anx-
ious for father to return. If it
was not for your good to remain
there we would like to see you
come back too. I must now
close.

Mother Lilla and Miss Maria
much love to send you all desire:

While cousin Doc makes the request
to be remembered among the rest.

And now they come dismal crew,
Dressed in yellow pink and blue,

Mary, Betty, Jane and Sue

Sending all their love to you.

Matilda, Ann and Vina do

Also send you their love too.

Hooping these lines will find you well

I am your loving sister

Elle

Turnover



Miss Mary Duncan
Care of P. H. Agnew D. D.
Pittsfield
Mass

the Institutes, I hope you will be able to conform to all the rules in every particular, be diligent & make up for lost time, write to your dear Mother often & cheer him in his loneliness, My dear daughter you have by this realized in some degree what it is to be in a land of strangers, but think you are in the human family & that we must not confine ourselves to a portion of country in our own neighborhood, but that we are Citizens of the world & adapt ourselves to any part we are called to be, I hope you may have agreeable associates
Mr Jenkins gave me Emmas letter last evening, I write these few lines this morning Thursday. We are all well, & miss you very much, you will remember how thoughtful Ellie was in fixing things for you the night before you left, & how

late she sat up, she loves you very much, your absence from home will teach you to appreciate a sister's love, write to Emma soon I write these lines in haste for Dr P to take in with him, all send much God bless you, Your affect Mother. E. D

New Haven Oct 24 1854

Dear Mary

Although I know it is almost needless as I expect you have started to school by this yet I am going to write you a few words in hopes that you have not to let you know that there is a pleasant place in consequence of the sudden departure of my room mate Miss Edwards regretted very much having to refuse you and asked me to write and let you know that you could come if you wished it. She would have written herself but she thought it too late and that perhaps you could not come now.

If you cannot come now, will you let me know
if you can come next term or at least when you
can come. If you cannot come I do not care for a
roommate. The ^{hotel} ~~boarding~~ will soon be here and I
must stop. I do wish you could come Miss Mary.
Please answer this immediately. If you are going
to school write me all about it. We had a most
beautiful walk from East Park last ^{Saturday} which I
will tell you about in my next letter. Give
my love to all and believe me yours affectionately
Please write me a long letter. Emma

How unfortunate! My dear
that this letter did not reach
here a few days sooner, & you
might have been with Emma
after spending this winter in Pittsfield
you wish to go to Miss Edwards you
can then go, do take care of your
health & avoid any change in your
clothing particularly in your shoes do
not wear thin soled ones not even
for one evening. I almost wish
that you & your ^{brother} had remained
in Lexington & taken your chance for
an education, You must ^{write} me all the
incidents in your travel, how you
got along without a lady acquaintance
the first impressions of Pittsfield &

Shelbyville Sep^r 4 1854

Dear Mary

I would have written before now but I have been taken up so much with my books and schoolmate that I have not had time to write to anybody but I went to see Mrs Finlay and told her the message your Ma and Pa sent her and she sent her best love to you and also Mrs Allen the same - there has been a great deal of sickness in Shelbyville since I left and it is very sickly now it is on account of the bad water and it is so hard to get water the pumps and cisterns are all dried up. Oh wish you were here to see the ^{pretty} girls we have and ugly ones to we have the scholars

and expecting more every day. Oh you dont know how I miss you & only wish you were here to play and sing with me have you learnt Saty Darling yet or any of them pretty songs. we are going to have a concert in november and all of you must come we are going to have it in the church and that will be so nice - the prettiest girl in school is Mollie Meinck from Danville learnt how to dance so well. as and the ugliest one is Becca Bodine from Bloomfield. I get with Lizzie Messersan a very nice and sweet girl she is a very ~~nice~~ studious girl to. do you expect to go to New Haven I wish you would come here you would like it so much I expect to board here the last five months as it is so lonesome Sadie Lyle is going to school

in Madison and I will be by myself have the Johnsons been out to see you yet or have you seen fairly - as I passed through Frankfort I seen via Ward and Will at the Capital Hotel. and they bowed. I did not know them at first but I pretty soon new who die was. I dont suppose you are going to dancing school any more as your school is nearly out - I must come to a close all well and Lizzie and myself send our very best love to your Ma and Pa Mrs Maria and Henry and Ella Litty and receive a large portion for your self. you must be prompt in answering my letters. so good bye you devoted and loving friend
P.S. tell your Ma and Miss Maria to write to me and I will answer their letters directly
Ellen Matthews



Miss Mary Duncan
Care of Henry Duncan Esq
Lexington
Kentucky

New Haven Oct. 25th 1854

Dear Mary

I am sitting alone in my room
writing to you when if I had only known that
you intended coming a little sooner I might
have saved you a place and had you for a
roommate besides. I hope you will not give up
coming before next term dear Mary for I do not
believe there is another boarding school like it.
I am without a room mate at present except
now and then when somebody drops in for
a night or two. Miss Maria Woodruff the young
lady that was to have roomed with me came



Last Thursday and staid until Saturday morning when she left with her father being so home sick that she could not stay. She is an only child and permitted to do exactly as she pleases though I liked her very well, that is what I am of her. I have a sweet little room May with a green carpet and oilcloth and everything so neat. But I am very busy and have very little time for anything but school duties. You would not probably be so busy as I have all my study hours taken up with French, drawing and practicing so that I take my leisure hours for study. Miss May wished me to drop one of them but I do not wish to and I like to be busy. Oh! May I want you here so. You will write often wont you and tell me about everything and I will do so too. Have you started to school yet and

how do you like it. Ma sent me a dress and so by Brother William who was in New York but he was not able to come over here.

Dear Mary I have not time to write you to night, Give my love to all and tell me if you can come next term. Goodnight + Yours affectionately

Please write immediately. Miss May was so sorry that she could not take you and said she wished she had known it before. Tell your Mother not to forget me. I respect Lily and Ellen have.



Miss Mary Duncanson
Care of J. H. Agnew D. D.
Pittsfield
Massachusetts

by Mrs Hemans, You must try to overcome your diffidence & accustom yourself to play for company, make a resolve never to refuse & you will soon feel at ease. I shall enquire ^{of you} what about you, it is a most enjoinable accomplishment, as it gives others pleasure as well as yourself, it will compensate for all ^{the} separation, & anxiety to see you all we could desire, will you not oblige with untiring perseverance to come off victor? determine to give us that satisfaction. My dearest child. Mrs Ford or Miss Flint have neither made us a visit, but still proper doing so before long, Robert has been every sick since his return home but is ^{now} convalescent, also Mrs Foot. Mrs Ballard did not make me a visit the last I heard she was going south, I think you might procure something to eat without sending such a distance, you must eat enough to grow larger, as your father says you are the smallestest in the Motivate, Good night
sweet child your affe Mother

Durham Dec 25th 1754

My very dear Daughter

Your joint letter to your Father & me was rec^d this day, all the "Christmas Gift" I have had, & oh I would prefer to any other, to hear of the health & happiness of my dear absent ones, is an unspeakable pleasure, it would have been quite appropos, had you wished us "a merry Christmass & a happy new year & many happy returns" I know that you do most ardently, but it shews you that thought & reflection are necessary to do things in a suitable manner, we have had a very quiet day at home, no one to dine with us not even Dr Jenkins, Your father intended to bring either Dr Matthews or Dr J. but they had some engagements, & could not come, The weather here is very mild, wet & dazzling rain, the rooms which have no fire are dripping with water, the servants all say they miss you so much, that it is not like Christmas without Miss Mary & Master Henry, Betsy made a cherry pie & brought it in & said

she had put them up so that she could give you some when you would come to see her as you used to, Eliza says Betsy has made all kinds of pies, peaches, cherries, apples, not any mince, which she thinks best, it is more seasonable certainly, I hope my dear that your Brother's visit to you will be a pleasant one that you may enjoy that fraternal intercourse which will ^{be} doubly dear for you separation seek his counsel & advice on ~~any~~ matter you may wish advice, the mails are so tardy, is the reason you do not get your letters for there is not a week we do not write two or more letters to you, I am glad to hear you say the Club in Penmanship will soon be organized, be attentive to this branch it is a beautiful art, indeed every study you attempt, aim to excel, we shall expect to see considerable change in you, when next we meet, Mind & manners, Tell us how your Brother looks since his beard has

grown out, if he is improved by it, Miss Maria sends much love to you & is very desirous to know if your clothes in your trunks did not keep smooth & uninjured in travel, she is a famous packer, she is packing up herself to go to Vincennes in about a fortnight, I shall miss her very much, but I expect it is the best, she will happier there where she will have society. Have you marked all your clothes? How do you get along keeping them in order? Keep yourself neat & clean, do not let your room look disorderly, "every thing in its place & a place for every thing," you are now to rely upon yourself, learn to be methodical it will save you considerable time & trouble deny yourself any present pleasure if you have a duty to perform, be punctual in the prompt attention to all duties, what new music have you learned? The "Messenger bird", is one you ought to get, the words are

last night when I wrote to you
my kind regards to Mr & Mrs
Agnew also Miss Lafon, my heart
overflowing with love to my dear
absent daughter, God bless you
& may his richest blessing be yours
seek at once that good hope in Christ which
shall be as an anchor to the soul, I like
your benevolent enterprise

Tuesday morning, It is still raining &
looks as if we should have a wet
time, my ink is so pale I am affe-
-aid you will not be able to make
out my letter, you ought to be accustom-
-ed to my hand to be able to read it
with ease, Elly, Lily send you
bushels of love they were asleep
good bye



Miss Mary T. Duncan
Care Mr. Henry T. Duncan
Lexington
Ky



Monday Feb 27th 1854

Dear Mary

I think you and I resemble each other in letter writing. I have commenced several but have been stopped by the ringing of one of the school bells every time I got a word or two written. You must not expect a very long one now as a good deal of the hour for letter writing is already gone. We have one hour every Monday evening that we devote to it instead of reading but as I have not been very well Miss Brady wished me to go to bed early and so I have missed it for a great while. I think you would be delighted with boarding school life. I assure you I am. You are so busy here you have no time

to be home sick. I expect to spend my
spring vacation in New Haven. Ellen
Bell is going home with Alice Wellingston
a girl from Cooperstown. I have changed
my room and am staying in one with
Bessie Stealand a girl from Brooklyn.
She is a great piece, very witty and smart
but not at all comical. Ellen comes by herself
now but next session we are to have a
nice room together as she says she will
room with us one else. Annie or Pauline
Sewman (a girl from Georgia) and myself
are of nearly the same age. I thought
you would like to know who are my
friends. I do not think you could form
an idea of what Miss May is by seeing
her once or twice. I never expect to see any
one else come as near perfection. You cannot
make up your to come here next autumn.
Pauline and Bessie are talking so, that
I can hardly write. Please do not hold
me accountable for what I write. We
have to learn a piece of poetry every month
which is quite as agreeable as writing.

compositions. Have you been to Louisville
this winter? You will see Mrs. Duncan
of course if you go there this spring. There
is the prayer bell. Goodbye. Yours affectionately
Expense the writing. Emma

My love to all. A kiss for Lilly. Write soon
and oblige me. This is a very abrupt letter
but it cannot be helped. Duty calls me away.
Goodnight? S.



Miss Mary Darnan
Care of H. A. Darnan Esq
Lexington
Mass

a picture & rather a pencil by her
daughter. It was a view of Athens and was
beautifully done. The other night Ellen
and Miss Westington went down stairs
and going by the staircase saw the door open
and entered. It was so dark they could not
see and Ellen grabbed a handful of fire
They filled their pockets full of apples and pears
when hearing some one coming they were obliged
to evacuate the premises. Miss Gray allows
us a shilling ^{or} more than each and has an odd a
bargain with the girls that if they will not
eat candy or cake she will let them give their
two shillings for a party every month. We are
going to have one tomorrow night. Ellen
and I are going to the charity school next
Wednesday. ^{It is} the girls later at the terms in
visiting it. The students are going to have the
Funeral of Euclid soon. I guess if Miss Mary knew
it she would make ^{the older girls} go to bed at eight o'clock. Though
they do not go around until midnight. They
stop before every boarding school and play
If they are found out they are expelled. But
as some ^{what} ^{girls} ^{are} ^{going} ^{to} ^{do} ^{it}

I can come on here to school I guess
I know Dolly two like Lenny and
Kate. I shall go for we walk there evening except
some and then when we are allowed to go to
the house. I guess. The girls make such a fuss
about seeing the students but I guess Miss
Gray will soon put that. N. C. October 19th 1853
out of their heads. But I think my letter
is getting most too long. I wish you would
write me Dear Mary all the news and write to
me very soon. I promised to write to you
as soon as I arrived but I know you will
write this early enough when you hear how long
I have been. We have been here two weeks
last Wednesday and so get the time has passed
quickly enough but I expect we long it will
pass rather heavily on my hands. I wish
to hear all about the girls the rules the fun we
have and so forth. I shall endeavour to
give you an idea of things as they stand. Well
I must before we get up Miss Mary's eyes we must
say our prayers which we do not do. The bell rings

(which it does for ^{any} thing) at six. At seven
we have prayers. Then we eat breakfast,
walk half an hour and study an hour. School
takes up at nine and lets out at one. We have
dinner immediately and then do what we
wish to until half past two when I take my
drawing lesson and the other girls who do not
study. I draw and let Grace and walk from
four to five. We do various things until dark
and dance or play sometimes then. Study from
seven to eight and sew from eight to nine
while Miss May or one of the girls read to us. She
is reading the Queen of Sheba's (I do not know
whether I have spelt it right or not). One of
the girls came in there to tell us Miss May
said she must write to her father and
tell him of her misadventure in having
dropped a letter directed to an im-
proper personage in the post office. We send
all our letters by the penny post and are
not allowed to go ourselves. I have not seen
enough of the plan yet to give my opinion

of it. What little I have seen of it seems
to be very pretty. Mrs Duncan left for Louisville
this morning. Her youngest son and Dr. Duncan
Ellen and I spent some time evening with
her and had a very nice time. She says she
will go to see Bro. Pike is about the only person
I should like to visit here during school time.
Don do not know what a plague it is to visit
when you go to school but I suppose we
shall have to do so to make friends. We went
to Ole Ball's concert a few nights after we ar-
rived and expect to go to Lott's halls in a few
evenings. I met one of the queerest characters
Sunday evening I have ever seen. It was a
Mrs Street. She had grey hair which she curled
in small ringlets all around her face. She
was rather fleshy with a beautiful complex-
ion and would have ^{had} very pretty eyes if they
did not have a wild ^{with} expression. She owns
the New H. even house and boards there though
she has a daughter living at the end of
the street. She took us in her parlor to see

Dunbar



Mrs Mary Dunbar
Care of H J Dunbar
Cambridge
Massachusetts



encourages all to do
- since ~~the~~ ~~man~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~found~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~man~~ - The
Madam ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~becoming~~ ~~quite~~
communicative - with some ex-
hibition of prejudice against
certain young ladies - all of
which I will tell you when
we meet - some of her state-
ments were a little curious, I
heard enough to desire to hear
more - and hope some day to
fall in with her again, you
here had some most unworthy
opinions I fear - Your gener-
ous and ~~good~~ ~~disposition~~
will ~~not~~ ~~be~~ ~~induced~~ ~~to~~ ~~give~~ ~~you~~ ~~to~~
the designing and knavish
you cannot be too cautious
in forming intimacies, your
confidence give to none

All send Miss Lucy their
love to your Mother & yourself
I devoted to you H. J. D

Lexington Oct 28th 1854
My Beloved Daughter
I recd a day or two since
your affectionate and most wel-
come letter - which though written
in evident hurry - gave us all
great satisfaction & pleasure
I am pleased with the account
you give of your diligence in
your studies - and trust that we
shall see its fruits in your su-
perior cultivation as shown through
your letters and conversation with
those gentle and lady like
manners - that throw always
such a charm in the society
in which you are moving
I beseech you your
opportunities - for if you do not
you will always regret it

in after life & make hay while
the Sun shines, a true but
true saying, when you return
home - unless there are those
evidences of cultivation
and good manners - which your
opportunities give - your friends
will be disappointed and the
ill natured will chuckle - let
your ambition be, to make
yourself an ornament to your
sex - excelling in all the qual-
ities of mind heart & manners
and bear in mind the advan-
tages to your country Sisters
over whom you are to exert
a great influence for good
advise yourself to the ne-
cessary effort - cultivate spi-
ritually your colloquial tal-
ents - as success in this will give
the greatest influence

Miss Motley has been here
for a day or two - left last
evening for Mrs Castleman's
looks very well, and is much
pleas'd with N.Y. - She expects
to leave in a few days for
New York

On to Morrow we are to
have a great Fellowship Ban-
quet & Mass meeting, great
preparations are making
and an immense crowd are
expected - I shall write your
brother the particulars
I forget whether I men-
tioned to you - that upon my
return from Boston - while
the Cars were at the Pittsfield
Station - Dr & Mrs Agnew came
on - en route for N.Y. - we
traveled together for some
thirty miles & had much



Miss Mary Duncan
Care of Henry T. Duncan Esq
Lexington
Ky



crayon. I love my drawing better
than most anything else I do
I get a lecture every day about not
eating which I assume you is not
very agreeable. They have an extremely
nice table here for a boarding
school. The tea bell is going to
ring in a minute. Mary and
I must get ready. I hope you will
excuse this hastily written scrawl
and write immediately. I wish
you would tell Carrie if you
see her that I think she might
answer my letter. My love to all
Tell me what you are doing
and what the news is (if there is any)

Your affectionate sister

You do not know how boarding
school girls prize letters

New Haven March 21st 1854

Dear Mary

I received your kind letter
a few days ago and will gladly write to you
once a week if you will do the same.
I have been shamefully neglected I think
by my sisters as I have not had a letter
from home for nearly a month.

Now I would give anything if you
would come here to school. I know you
would like it. We would room together
and your school life would be so pleasant
that you could not be homesick even
if you did think of those at home.

My present roommate sometimes lies in
bed after I get up and watches everything
I do and asks so many questions that I often
get completely discouraged though in

every other respect she is a very nice
girl. The little girls are going to have
a fair next Saturday and expect the
older ones to buy them out which
will be very easily done. Some of them
make very pretty things and are very
expert in making paper flowers
and other fancy things. The favorite
occupation of the girls now is making collars.
The whole of New Haven has been in
a state of great excitement for
the last two or three days on account
of a riot last Friday night between
the students and town boys in which
a man was killed and many others
injured. What do you think of that
for such a quiet place as New Haven
The College is a complete wreck. The
town boys I believe threatened to fire
it and the students determining to defend
it tore up the stairs ^{and} ^(for something for fight with) ^{of the} places and
broke all of the glass in the windows.
Such is the account I have heard
of it.

I have done a great deal of corrected
work since I have been here. I do not
believe that there is a girl in school
that has not worked two or three fine
cushions or something of the kind this
winter. We have had some beautiful
weather but last night it snowed and
this morning it rained. I went to see
Mrs Edwards Saturday before last and she
pressed me to come to see her often
but it is so much trouble to get ready
to go out and I see her twice a week
any way which I dare say is as often as she
cares to see one. She is so kind though. I
know you would like her. Those
who wish to can go to church twice
a week during Lent. You asked
me if I was as fleshy as ever. I do not
think I am half as fleshy as I was
last summer. Vacation is only two weeks
off from next Tuesday and what is
to become of me. I have not the
least idea. I have almost finished
a snow scene that I am doing in



Miss Mary Duncan
Care of J. H. Agnew D. D.
Pittsfield
Mass

show you any civilities? Mrs Bell was
here to day & said she requested Mrs
Macalister to get acquainted with Miss
Lafon, Mrs Bell speaks in highest terms of
Miss Lafon, & says she is 15 years old -
Your birth day was yesterday week, it passed
without your notice, Miss Maria sends you
much love, & wants to know how your cloths
were after the journey - if they remained smooth
& nice. write to Maria & thank her & tell
all about it, Dr Jenkins left here since dinner
& desired to be remembered, Lily & Ellen send
much love & many kisses to you, & talks of seeing
you next spring, Eli & Lily send their love & thanks
to Maria for the nice books, I will try and
make E. write to her, your Father says you
are all apt to make Christmas presents, you
must exercise discretion & judgment about it
I would make but few & those not expensive
your Father has given Miss Lafon several things
I would see how things are done up at such a
time, books are a very suitable tokens of
regard, but we will talk about it & advise you,
the servants talk much about you, & say how
much they miss you, when Matilda took out
the soiled cloths, she said none for Miss Mary
whatever my dear you wish to write to me do it
no me shall be by writes on a slip of paper &
I will destroy it, Dr Matthews sent you Ellen's music, your
ever loved Mother Edith

Duncannon Nov 31st 1854, Tues

My very dear Daughter
Dr Jenkins brought out your
letter last evening, & seemed as glad as any of us to
hear from you, so I opened it & read away, you said
nothing of having received a letter from the Dr. be-
fore to write to him, you must practice writing
I want you to write a beautiful, clear, easy hand,
it delights me to hear you are so pleased with
the school, & hope that improvement will be daily
made in heart & mind, aim at being a thorough
scholar, & do my dear conform strictly to the
rules of the Institute, in every particular
Your dear Brother has been very good, he wrote
me a long letter the evening of your arrival in
Dittosfield, & another on Saturday, also one from
Boston, he & your Father are very much
pleased with the Institute, & think that you
are very comfortably situated as to the location
of your room, & mates, I hope you will both
harmonise together, my kindest regards to Miss
Lafon, make it a daily practice my dear to read
your Bible, do not omit your prayers, let you
be where you will alone or in company, do not
be deterred from them, let your moral courage
& a proper sense of your obligations, & gratitude
to your Creator, always be acknowledged.

What Church do you attend? or are the
the services in the Institute? write me
all about your Sabbath services, remember the
sabbath & do not spend it in idle chat with the
girls, retire to your room & spend the time
Sabbath reading, or contemplation, after the
labour of the week, write to your dear Brother
& cheer him in Concliness, I want to write to
him so much but do not know where to direct
I suppose your Father will be home soon - as
he does not write, Hal writes me from Boston
that he would return by Pittsfield, I hope he
will, I sent the Lex. Obs. to you there are
some very pretty verses written by Rosa John-
ston, "The Angel watchers," they are very pretty
preserve them, I am sitting at my window
all around the same as usual, save your
gay cheerful self, Wednesday I had just
written this far yesterday at 11 o'clock when
the cars stop, Ellen & Lily were for running
immediately, I called for them to stop, & see
I did not look for your Father before the
last of the week, but lo! & behold! it
was he, of course we were very agreeably
surprised, & delighted to see him, & more
he was just from my dear children,
your kisses on his lips scarcely cold, he left
you Saturday eve, spent the Sabbath in

Buffalo, & here Tuesday at 10 o'clock, had
not the sabbath intervened, it would have
been 24 hours sooner, just think only two days
you are from us, I am truly thankful he
has returned safe, & is so well satisfied
with you & your Brothers prospects, do not let
us be disappointed, apply yourself diligently
to your studies, & try to excel in all your
undertake, Your Father tells me you are in
the habit of eating in your room at night and
that there is communication, through the wall
into your neighbors, through which you pass things
now I would advise you to put a stop to it at once
I would have the ^{hole} stoppt, or get paste & paper to
put over it, you can't tell what such things will
lead to, you are not private either in speaking
or doing, but me beg of you not to do any thing
against the rules of the Institute, in look or
deed, determined to be a model of good manners
and behaviour, treat all kindly & politely but
be not too intimate with, or place confidence
in but few, when you want any thing done, go to
Mrs. C. Green, you ought to have shields in your
velvet, also your traveling dress, I intended to do it
before you left but forgot it, if you can't get
any I will send some in a letter to you, I was
glad you wore your traveling dress, I did not
concur with Miss Maria, did Mrs. Macalister



Miss Mary Duncan
Care J. B. Agnew D. D.
Pittsfield
Mass

Chapel Hall May 12/44

Dear Mary.

Will not
this day be long remembered
by us. because of having taken
such a long walk over the
hills, surrounding Pittsfield -
I think you will ^{not} after
years look back upon it - as a
day pleasantly spent. Dear Mary
I had a most splendid day
and my excellent company
was the sole cause of it -
I feel very little fatigued now.

Miss Dancer

but to know I presume I can't
put one foot before the other
without pain. Just think
of Kentucky girls walking seven
miles, it would be wonderful
at home for us to start out
on such an excursion. I expect
they will open wide their eyes
when they hear that I have
walked seven miles, it is a
daring feat for me to perform
I must own. This is only a
preamble to my question.

Will you not walk with me
the next time we go out on
such a walk. Sincerely
Mary

P. S. Walk with me after
tea

Miss Mary Duncane

Care of
Mr H. T. Duncane

Cambridge
Massachusetts



all want of Candor so as to decide or pro-
duce a false impression upon Men - there
are all denunciations, that will blight and
darken any character - I would rather
see a Daughter of mine with all the
charm of truth of character - without bear-
ing that to see her even defaced
in this quality - with all the distinction
& acquirement that has ever distinguished
the most celebrated of the sex
with the high moral tone & truth of character
I have known you to possess with your
fine capacity & goodness of heart, I am
at my dear child to look forward with
unwavering confidence - in the final
result - when I shall expect your posi-
tion to be that awarded alone to great
moral & intellectual qualities.

You must keep up your habit of
regularly writing home - never less than
once a week - all mine in love to yourself
& brother - with my best regards to Mr
& Mrs Sparks
I remain your devoted father
H. J. Duncan

30
Lexington March 14th 1857

My Beloved Daughter

You have now been some
two weeks at Cambridge, and we are without a
single line from you on the subject of the impor-
tant change you have made - I infer from your
Brother's last letter of the 7th inst, read only to day
that you had been low spirited - as he speaks of
your being more cheerful after making some
acquaintance & the kindness of Mrs Sparks, I hope
indeed I have no doubt my dear child that in
a little while you will find your situation far
more comfortable & agreeable to you than Pitts-
field - And I fondly hope it will prove more
profitable - which it certainly will do if you
diligently improve the very superior advan-
ces you now enjoy - Should's yours now be a failure
the fault will be your own - and can alone arise
from want of proper diligence & application
on or your own part - But my Dear Daughter
I cannot allow myself, for one moment to
think for an instant - that so mortifying a

a result is to take place - But on the contrary
that you have too much pride & ambition to
relapse into habits of inattention - No let me in-
-duce you by ^{the} love of your family - your own
Self respect and pride of position - to pur-
-sue with persevering resolution - a high &
distinguished position for Scholership in your
school. - Submit to no station of mere medi-
-ocrity, but aspire to the first position in your
class - which with your superior talents talent
and proper diligence on your part you can
accomplish - If you but resolve - you can
attain it

In your intercourse with the young ladies
of the school - let me again upon you to
observe at all times and under all circumstan-
-ces - the most perfect & lady like deport-
-ment - towards ^{them} - bear yourself with grace
- their kindness and invariable courtesy, be-
- polite to all - A little civility will make
us many & fast friends, though life - I do
not mean by recommending to a gener-
-al deportment of courtesy - that you

do me to make companions and intimates of
- all with whom you may be thrown in
contacts - By no means, In the formation of
friendships & particular intimacies - you
cannot be too circumspect & cautious - a pro-
-late & cautious intercourse can be pursued with
its necessarily becoming one of intimacy
or confidence - Do not infer that I intend
you a part the least disingenuous - No my
dear child - let truth - that first of virtues
form the foundation of your character
the older I get I am more & more im-
-pressed with the sad belief - that a want of
truth is far too common - & blameworthy in the
characters of both sexes - than I formerly
thought - I speak of truth in its broadest
and most comprehensive sense - not only
the most scrupulous veracity - but the ut-
-most sincerity in all we profess - that scorns
of subterfuge & evasion - that Jesuitical
morality - that seeks to accomplish its ob-
-jects by indirection evasion & shuffling
all this is as abhorrent as downright lying

PRESENTATION OF THE WOODEN SPOON.



INSIGNE COCHLEAUREATORUM.

1856.

COCHLEAUREATI.

ADOLPHE BAILEY.
WILLIAM H. L. BARNES.
EDWIN CORNING.
HART GIBSON.

J. ALBERT GRANGER.
D. L. HUNTINGTON.
ALEXANDER M. D. LYON.
FRANKLIN A. SEELY.

STANLEY T. WOODWARD.

Wooden Spoon Exhibition,

June 12th, 1854.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

1. **Grand Opening**—Overture to *Handel's Oratorio of the Deluge*, *Orchestra*.
2. **Height of the Ridiculous**—in Latin—a la porcine,
JAMES CRUKSHANKS, *Haddingtonshire, Scotland*.
3. **Poem**—"Words and Deeds," WILLIAM R. WOODBRIDGE, *Boston, Ms.*
4. **Physiognomic disquisition**, FRANK A. SEELY, *Honesdale, Pa.*
5. **Music**, *Band*.
6. **Colloquy**—Moral Reforms subjectively considered, *Incog.*
7. **Song**—Air, "Shool, Shool, &c."

FIRST TRIUMVIRATE, *Pompey, Crassus, and Caesar.*

Were all the world a Wooden Spoon,
And every man a jolly Jun,
Then earth with heaven would be in tune
Δις κ' αμ βιββλς αλλα βω, &c.

But he who strives the Spoon to win,
Nor for appointments cares a pin,
Helps "ring" another Eden in.

CHORUS.

But Madame Eve would taste the "twig,"
For which she didn't care a "fig,"
And Adam First became a "dig."

The cosiest Collge corner his—
The sunshine of his merry phiz,
The light of Cloister Life—it is.

CHORUS.

CHORUS.

Of bitterest experience,
That tree of knowledge ever since
Has made the sons of Adam wince.

CHORUS.

Very little, indeed, cares he
What microscopic odds may be,
Τωιξτ τ' αεθλς ουμ and τ' αεθλς οεε.

CHORUS.

But the worst of digs is a College dig—
Albeit he sports a key so big
'Twould turn the capstan of a brig.

CHORUS.

For, winning once the precious prize,
He finds himself, in Ladies' eyes,
The luckiest chap beneath the skies.

CHORUS.

For four tough years he toils away,
And deems it quite sufficient pay
To "spout" upon Commencement day.

CHORUS.

Then sing the jolly Wooden Spoon,
And him who wins the classic boon,
From noon till night, from night till noon.

CHORUS.

8. **Philosophical Oration**—"Movements," ELIAH CONE, *Locke, N. Y.*

(3)

9. **Dissertation**—Bisected Eloquence, A. P. ROCKWELL, *Norwich.*
10. **Music**, *Band.*
11. **Oration**—"The three Blind Mice"—a tale, detailing the sufferings entailed on their tails, WILLIAM H. TAYLOR.
12. **Poem**—"Mysteries and Miseries of Yale College," L. M. CHILD, *Lowell, Ms.*
13. **Colloquy**—A Faculty Meeting, *Incog.*
14. **Music**, *Band.*
15. **Song**—Air—"Those Evening Bells,"
SECOND TRIUMVIRATE, *Octavian, Lepidus, and Antony.*

Beneath our elms, 'mid evening's shade,
How many a calm still hour we've strayed
While Hope a golden vision sent,
And then withdrew the lines she lent,—
It was the Spoon, the Wooden Spoon.
The glorious, jolly Wooden Spoon.

Come view the Spoon-man! well may now
'The Laurel press his stately brow,
And glances swift from sparkling eyes
Seek oft the form they so much prize,—
'They love the man—they love the Spoon.
'They love the jolly Wooden Spoon.

As streaming rills from mountains blue
All strive to gain the still bayon;
As clouds at sunset span the dome
And pant to bathe their locks of foam,
We seek the Spoon, the Wooden Spoon.
The glorious, jolly Wooden Spoon.

And now, 'mid forms of beauty bright,
Where many a gem shoots crystal light,
Where verdant wreaths their fragrance
bring,
And rosy hues their incense fling,
We give the Spoon, the Wooden Spoon,
We give the jolly Wooden Spoon.

Dark clouds come up, some luckier one
Has snatched this diamond from the sun;
Our glorious visions all are o'er,
They fade in gloom and gleam no more,
We've lost the Spoon, the Wooden Spoon.
The glorious, jolly Wooden Spoon.

But when these gilded walls decay,
When Spoon and Spoon-men pass away,
We'll draw aside the pall of gloom,
And 'grave upon their stately tomb,
'Here lies the man who had the Spoon'
And deemed it heaven's richest boon.

PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION OF THE SPOON

16. **Presentation Address**, ALEXANDER McD. LYON, *Erie, Pa.*
17. **Reception Address**, D. L. HUNTINGTON, *Charlestown, Ms.*
18. **Music**, *Band.*
19. **Valedictory**, by *A Gentleman engaged for the occasion.*
20. The audience retire, headed by the boy nearest the door.



Miss Mary Duncan
Care Henry C Duncan Esq
Lexington
Kentucky

New Haven June 26th 1854

Dear Mary

I dare say you have been wondering what could have become of me and I should feel a little ashamed of not having written before if I did not feel assured that it was not forgetfulness of you dear Mary neither want of inclination but I think I will leave it to you to guess the reason why when you come to boarding school but that it is not very pleasant here for indeed I

think we have ~~a~~ nice time
as we could possibly have
Miss Mary does all she can to
give us pleasure. We went
to the Wooden Spoon exhibition
but were almost crushed getting
in. I will send you a programme
so that you can form some
idea of what it was and will
~~make~~ what we all thought were the
best pieces. I write to Ma at noon
I shall have to say what I have
to say to you in a hurry as my
practice bell will soon ring
and after tea I am obliged
to go to the dressmaker. I have
commenced to draw an old
monk and I have ^{been} drawing
for an hour and a half
I was at Mrs Edwards to tea last
Saturday evening. Mrs Dymean will

not be on I believe until
the very late and probably not at
all. I suppose you have had
strawberries long ago. We have
not had them long.
How do all the girls do and
what are you about Mary?
I wish you were here. I am
almost sure you would like
it. Please make up your
mind to come on next fall
But I shall have to close as
I have no more time. Write
soon. My love to all.
Your affectionately
Emma

Do not wait quite so long as you
did before. Please Mary

*Received at the
Young Ladies Institute
Pittsfield Mass*

W E E N
J A N
23
K 3



Miss Mary Duncan
Young Ladies Institute
Pittsfield
Mass.

MIS-PAGINATION

4
praying me again the
compliment already
given.

I greatly regret her
illness & hope ere this
she is restored to health.

You say you love
her very much. Let
me know wheather you
can love her enough
by yourself, or will you
need some help. if you
do I am at your service
to assist as much as
possible.

You say it is very
cold at Pittsfield &
that the snow is deep
we have very pleasant
weather & no snow here
there is some ice on the
Ponds

Cambridge Dec 8. 54

My Dear Sister

One rule with
me is to answer all
letters immediately on the
receipt of them - therefore
you will excuse me
for writing so soon.
I will stop writing so
often for I receive but
1 letter for every 5 that
I write.

I regret greatly
that Dr Agnew does not
allow you to write - you
must persuade him to
suspend that rule so
as to allow you time
to write to me at any
rate.

I can't conceive how you
arrange so as to carry
on all your correspon-
-dence - for I should
think if they write as
often as I do - that most
or all of your time
would be occupied in
writing

You say you have
received letters from home
& all are well this is
very good news - but
I received a letter on
yesterday from Ell
she says all were
well & concludes by
saying that Miss Drimble
left this morning on
which she wrote I
guess Doc is in

great distress I pity
the poor man - I know
just how he feels on
parting with one towards
whom he has most bene-
-volent feelings of interest
I think I shall have to
write to him and give
him my sympathy in
his great trial

You say Mary Lafon
wishes to read my let-
-ters (I hope she has not)
You may tell her I am
overwhelmed by the com-
-pliment she passes me
but I would advise her
not to read them for
she would be so disap-
-pointed that she would
be discouraged from

3

letters are uninteresting
they are most welcome
always the oftener &
longer the better

Give my love to
Glare & the rest
of Dr Agnew's family
& all

I have not looked
this letter over &
the mistakes are
not corrected

So good bye

Your Affet brother

A. D. Druecker

P.S. I neglected to say
that if you see any
one ~~that~~ at school
that likes me

it will be a benevolent
act

Miss Maria is going to
Vincennes to shovel the
winter you say - she
ought to have gone long
ago - & when she gets
there she ought to stay

You say Mary Bee
(then marks again) asked
you what word I sent
her? Thanks her for
the interest she seems
to show in knowing
what ~~interest~~ word
I might send her

but my letter is growing
state as I will stop
& go to dinner

But never do you
suppose that you

2

3-

I will now turn over to
the second page of your
letter

Feel no anxiety on
my account for I
take the best care
possible of your Brother
& he thinks if you were
to see how I bundle
him up sometimes in
one or two overcoats as
shawl & Dolma over
that you woud think
she might take a trip
to the north Pole with
perfect safety

I rejoice at the
prospect of being in
Pittsfield during
christmas week

6
- you might get
into some scrape.
Do not let the girls
draw you from
your books - my
word for it. It
won't pay while
you are trying to
enter your class.
Father seem to think
Kate to be a very
unusual sort of
girl. He give me
such advice rel-
ative to her - I
guess I had as
well tell you but
in confidence. That
I am desperately
in love with Miss
Kate - and I came

7
very near telling
her so last sum-
mer & if I had
remained in Lex
much longer I am
sure I would have
done so - don't you
say anything about
this to any one

Father gives an
item of good news
I will copy it for
you - "we received
from your sister on
yesterday 12 pages of
letters - This is ste-
adily improving
she write now for
her Latin Dictionary
and some Latin
books - Does she

12
of the young people
to get married or
do some such thing
I hope Mattie and
one of the "Stone Cub's"
will make a
match - Joel Higgins
is the very fellow
dont you think it
would be well they
would be such a
pretty pair of made
cups - Father still
has a great dis-
-great for Mattie
and I am glad
after him she
is a very bad little
imp - I wish she
were in heaven

9
Father says they have
had very cold weather
cold enough to freeze
the pond over some
5 inches in thickness
I wish Father could
have been here on
last Monday to see
what cold weather is
was it cold at Pittsfield
- Wood Press is now
in my room - I want
to stop writing and
talk to him but he
is unwilling so I
will continue to write
I will make him
send some word
to his sister or

10
some one else. He
says give his love
to his sister and
request her to dis-
tribute it amongst
the girls - a good deal
of it to Miss Lillian
he says this is all
he has to say - I
will tell you he is
in love with Miss
L - and I am ~~two~~
as this is all he has
to say I will give
you some items
of news from Dr
Purkins last letter
he says "It is now
said with what
truth I know not
that a full and

entire reconciliation
has been effected
between Ben Johnson
and Miss Harriet
Brand and they
will soon be mar-
ried" he says that
old Tom Redd the
fellow that Wilford
shot about a year
ago is to be married
to Mrs Law Bullock
I think the old sin-
ner ought to be
shot again - Doc
says "The clubs are
still in full blast
- Cupid is officiating
at the bellows and I
reckon" he will soon
prevail on some

16
Thursday as I expected
- I will go
on next Saturday
to see Mrs Silsbee
and know if she
will renew her in-
vitation for you
to come and stay
with her daughter
I have written
home about our
going to New Haven
& I hope you have
done the same
thing - I guess
Father & Mother
will not object
but I hope they
will send some
funds for we
shall need some

13
I will tell you of an
odd play the clubs
have played - this
is it and it was
first played at
Mrs Brands - The
Young ladies all go
into one room and
select the gentleman
they like best after
they have selected
the stand in a
row and the
gentlemen are asked
in - and they then
select the lady
best suited to his
mind - if he selects
the lady that se-

14
selected him there
is a shout of
applause - but if
he takes a different
lady he is kissed
& so on. This play
must be studied
very much so -
how many do you
think selected the
right lady? only
one he was the
hero of the evening

Dr. Matthews has
taken Ellen & Lizzie
from Shelbyville
and put them to
school at Mr.
Surgers - Institute
this is a good idea
have you written

15-
to Ellen Matthews yet
she must think
you have forgotten
her - this is all
the news - in Do's
letter - I just
now had a call
from a young lady
Miss Belcher daughter
of my land lady - she
came to tell me that
Dr. Sparks had sent
to their house for
me to come and take
tea with them I am
going and after my
return will give
you some account
of proceedings there
I did not go to see
them on last

20
in Boston this
evening -

Good bye - give
my compliments to
Old Agnew - Mrs
Agnew and family
my love to you &
May & Eva & do
tell Eve I will send
her a volenture -

You must write
soon to

Your Aff Brother
Wm Dunbar jr

You will find in this
an envelope with a
piece of poetry for Eva
in return for the story
she sent me tell her I would
have written it in a volenture but
& though it must look

17

on yesterday I went
to Boston to hear
the last opera
given by Gris and
Marie it was fine
I send you the Opera
books of the evening
so that if you have
any desire to read
or sing the Opera
you can do so at
your leisure - the
opera is conducted
just like a play
at the Theater only
instead of speaking
the words they
sing them - you
would like it

Miss was frequently
 encircled - and after
 the piece was over
 was called to come
 before then she did
 so - Mr Hackell
 came out with
 her and made
 a short speech
 on her behalf to
 the crowd - while
 standing there the
 ladies in all di-
 rections threw large
 bunches of flowers
 to her probably a
 hundred of them
 Miss seemed much
 pleased and gather-
 ed up an arm-
 ful of them

I wish you had
 been there you
 would have enjoyed
 it very much
 but I suppose you
 will see us good
 on our some of
 these days when you
 go to State

I went this
 morning to see
 Theo Parker who
 is a fine preacher
 - The snow is
 very deep and the
 villagers are enjoying
 themselves sleighing
 even on Sunday
 what do you think
 there is a concert
 to be given in

4 Ballard had Maria
Potter suffering from
his excessive drink-
-ing - this is a
most dreadful
world we are in
what will now become
of his wife - he is
a ruined man
and will be trust-
-ed by no one after
this - These items
are all that would
be of interest to
you except that
all are well &c &c
and I suppose
you have heard
it all before so
it must be stale
to you

this is too long to read over so
I wont do it
WASD

Cambridge Feb 11th

My Dear Sister

I believe
you made me
promise you when
I was in Pittsfield
that I would write
you two letters a
week - so far I have
done so - and hope
to continue so to do
as long as I can.

Since my last
letter I have recei-
-ved 3 letters from
home & one from
my young friend
Nick L Anderson
whom I have before

² had occasion to
mention
one letter from
Mother dated Feb
it is very long four
pages foolscap paper
Mother tells me that
Alec Morgan and
Miss Russell - but
you know all about
it from the Miss
Offetts & Co. there
is one piece of bad
news - you know
that Wolfs Ballard & Co
have failed - and that
Mr Ballard went
to Texas last fall
to collect funds
from the firm.
He had been to

Texas collected the
money and was
as far as N. Orleans
on his way back
when he fell in
with sharpers who
made him drunk
and then induced
him to gamble. as
might be expected
he lost all the
money he had
some \$4,000 - Mr
Dolan was in N
O - at the time I
came up with Mr
Ballard as far as
Andersons plantation
where you know.
Mrs Ballard is at
Spending the winter

mean to review
 our Latin - This
 looks a little like
 it - I hope she will
 I hope this will
 serve to urge you on
 to redoubled dili-
 gence in the study
 of Latin for it
 will be of great im-
 portance to you here
 after - in passing
 over the troubled
 sea of life - The
 women hereabouts
 are so well acquaint-
 ed with Latin that
 they can speak it
 with the fluency
 of an old
 Roman

Confidential

another letter is from
 Father dated the
 3^d of Feb. - Father
 has found out
 that I correspond
 with Miss Kate M
 and writes to me
 similar advice to
 that which he gave
 me in Philadelphia
 in relation to
 Miss Mary Ann Gas-
 -tman - Father
 says (don't you say
 any thing about it)
 "you had better
 be cautious ~~now~~
 in writing letters
 to young ladies

I think I shall leave here
on Christmas day and
reach Pittsfield the
next day - so I will
miss your fancy ball
or party

You speak of your
thanks giving dinner in
rather a boastful manner
from ~~the~~ your account of
what you had you
must have very poor
fare on these days - I
wish you could see
our boarding house -
you would be surprised
at the luxuries we
have

You say you have
been raised in position
since you have been

a school to "Maid of Honor"
I am as blind as not to
see in what respect you
have been raised in position
- I guess Cousin Mary La
- you looked very green-
ish or greenly in the char-
acter of Mary Queen of Scots
does Sue Galespie resem-
-ble queen Elizabeth in
any respect - it was in
bad taste to choose two
such pretty maids as
Mary Agnew & "Mary Reed"
(what do you put these
marks under Mary Reed
for)

What is the object of
your benevolent society
here. If you spend
the next meeting in
writing a letter