

Summerson

April 7th 1833

My dear Henry

Your Pittsfield

letter came to hand to day. We were all greatly gratified to learn that your father and mother arrived safely and can appreciate your feelings of delight in meeting with them. Before this probably those pleasant feelings have been exchanged for those of a contrary character produced by their parting with you to return home. Since they left everything has gone on smoothly and all continue to enjoy good health. Eliza & Lilla though they were deeply affected and greatly distressed to part with you, yet we have supported their absence cheerfully and would doubtless be willing for them to extend their visit longer than was proposed in order to afford yourself and sister the pleasure of their company for a reasonable period. Lilla was delighted to receive your father's affectionate letter to her. Cousin Maria has actively employed their absence in cleaning up the house furniture &c. The stone

room occupied her for three entire days - she says she has succeeded in reducing the chaos that reigned there to a state of introdic disorder. To day has been a day of sore trial to her temper. She has devoted it to turning out the contents of the dining room closet, cleaning the china &c. &c. She unsolicitedly volunteered to assist her and in restoring a custard stand to its place accidentally let it fall and a trifling fracture was the result. She first looked upon the disaster in stupefied amazement, but soon her feelings (at first too deep for utterance) found expression, and as his Latimer Majesty is supposed to be at the bottom of all sublimary mischief she vented his Highness in unmeasured terms. Then, having vented her wrath fully on the Old Gentleman of the clover hoop, her distress being the predominant feeling found expression in a copious flood of tears she lamented that she had ever been born. deplored the absence of your father and mother, this incidental occasion of her clearing up &c. &c. - but as every thing must have an end, supper time found her wreathed in smiles and her appetite unimpaired. While I write 9 1/2 o'clock P.M. I hear her busily engaged in her commendable labor of removing dust and putting every

the ^{three} apple pie order to receive the return of
your part man, and as cheerful as though
nothing had transpired to disturb the serenity
of her usually placid temper.
Spring has at last made its appearance.
The last 5 or 6 days have been generally pleasant.
A warm rain has fallen which was
greatly needed. The pastures begin to look
green and promise speedy sustenance for
the starving stock. Great distress is felt
through the country on account of the
extreme scarcity of provender.
I met with your friend Horace Brand
today. He returned a few days ago from
Mo and will remain I presume till after
the marriage of his sister. He inquired
kindly concerning you and said that
he proposed to write to you in a few
days for the purpose of encouraging you
in your literary progress. It is still said
that Miss Barrett Brand's loss of Johnson
has been Miss Kate M's gain. That she
is far from being indifferent to him -
defends him when his character or want
of intelligence is assailed. &c &c
You seem to have received the impression,
at any rate you have imparted it to your
sister that I had serious thoughts of matrimony.
I don't know how you could

have derived the impression from anything
contained in any of my letters to you.
If any expression therein bear such construc-
tion it misrepresents my feelings and purpo-
ses. As far as can be determined from
present appearances I am as distant from
such a happy consummation as I was
3 years ago. I wish I were otherwise.
The cruel tyrant, circumstances, vetoes all
thoughts of such a nature. I hope & pray
that in many years he may relent and
accord his approval of such a step.
When he does I shall bestir myself
actively among the girls and endeavor
to find out whether fortune hunting
store for me any fair specimen of
femininity for a "yup".

My pen is miserably bad and I can
get no better. The hour is late and
there is no news to give. I will therefore
close this (I fear) illegible scrawl and
bid you good night. Cousin Maria
has just come in preparatory to retiring
to roost after the labors and trials of the day
and desires to have her kindest regards
and love presented to you. Elle and Lilla
send their warmest love to you and say
that it would make them so happy to see
you. Kate Cartwright also desires her remem-
brance to be mentioned.

yours affectionately
H. O. Jenkins

necessaries, all join in Much Love to
you, God bless you, Your aff^t Mother

April 27

March 9th 1855

My very dear Son

After leaving Pittsfield
we had a most fatiguing time going
day & night until we reached home
on saturday evening to tea, where we
found all well & glad to see ^{us}, as we
were to see them, as fatiguing as it
was I feel fully compensated in
seeing my dear children that have
been so long seperated from us, I
get so impatient sometimes when I
think of the years long years that
we shall be parted from you,
but I try to school myself into the
beleif that it is for the best, and
should you come out pure & unscathed
from the evil influences that surround
you, it will a glorious achievement
but in order to do this, reliance

must be placed in the author &
preserver of good for all good
intentions & assistance for the perse-
verance in every good way, I hope
you will regard my request in the
daily reading of the scriptures, &
read the proverbs of Solomon attentively
& carefully be assured you will never
regret it, the scriptures are the only
safeguard from all the evils &
errors that fill & desolate this land
read also the pamphlet I gave you
is full of merit, do not dissipate
the mind by reading the present
flip flop that is flooding the land
I have also another request, that you be
^{very} particular in your associates, the one
that adopts the custom of the Turk, &
probably in others more reprehensible
than the one you mentioned, & his com-
rade van, for the old adage, ^{as} birds of
a feather fly together, is too true to

be mistaken, His indifferent & rather
disrespectable manner of speaking of
a gentle ~~not~~ well respected lady, is quite
enough for me to decide the matter, I
very much regret you said anything of
the introductory letter, be polite but
not intimate with such characters.

We found a letter from Robert Ford
saying he intended leaving home
on last Monday for Charleston S. C.
thence to N. Y. & probably to Boston.
He also said Cousin Caroline Scott
is convalescent, is able to sit up &
eats heartily, a very pleasing piece of
intelligence, her case has been consid-
ered hopeless, What secrets are there
between you & Dr Jenkins as he never
shews us any of your letters & only
reads parts of them to us, He has
moved out bag & baggage, Kate is
with us, Cartwright is in Illinois
& will not return till June. They

will then return to Mo where
Kate passes the summer, in the
Autumn they go south as far as
Texas to see how they like it. My
kind regards to Dr & Mrs Sparkes
when you write to Mary, tell her to
write to Mrs S. I intended to tell
her to do so but forgot it. I most
anxiously hope Mary will get
along more happily & comfortably
this term than the last, poor child!
she has gone through a severe ordeal.
I can't conceive how she stood it she
deserves great credit for her forbearance
under such tyranny. This is Easter
Monday & all the servants are away.
I intended to send your letter in
this morning, also one to Mary, so
you will receive a day later, if I
had written last evening, it could
have been taken to the post by your
father this morning, but it is against
my principles to use the sabbath in
that manner, unless it is absolutely

Lex Apr 9th 1855

My Dear Son

We arrived home safe
& well on Saturday evening
and found all well looking
anxiously for our return

Our trip was annoying
owing to our failure to make
our R.R. connection at both
Cleveland & Cincinnati
losing some 12 hours

This is county Court
and I am too busy to write
you long letters which I
will do in a day or two

All join in love
to you

Yr devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Hope Mrs Sparks has recd her share

[Faint, illegible handwriting visible through the paper.]

Lexington April 15th 1855-

My Dear Son,

Yours of the 8th last I received on yesterday - Also yours of the 7th inst to your Mother. In your letter to your Mother you speak of having joined a Boat Club - your uniform to be so & so & your badge the Ace of Spades, I confess my Son - that I have felt surprise and regret that you have connected yourself with this Association - I see in it a pretext for frolics and dissipation - Of course you will have your occasional Club dinner - which is apt to run into excess & I should feel bitter satisfied if you were to avoid all such temptations to lead you astray - In addition to this you incur some risk of life - as you are no swimmer - some accident might occur - which would ~~peril~~ ^{prove} your life fatal to you - I advise you to withdraw from the concern - Mr. Lane Anderson spent evening before last at my house and he mentioned to me that Nicholas had joined this Club - but had withdrawn from it - which had qualified him very much - He condemns as I do - from its tendency to dissipation - not that there is any objection to the thing itself but to its inevitable tendency & consequences

be withdrawing do to like a gentleman pay any
dues you have incurred by the stop - But my ad-
vice is to withdraw - Your Mother & myself will
be better satisfied If you can conform to our
wishes - seek exercise in other things - as it will
be difficult to dispose of your gun here - I have
concluded to send it on to you - By Mr Anderson
who proffered to take charge of it - This will afford
you much exercise & amusement - make yourself
a fine Rifle shot - learn to shoot quick - being care-
ful to avoid accidents - Now that the weather
is fine - exercise in walking as much as you
can in the open air - This contributes as much
to health & fine physical development as any
thing else, If not more so - What I have said
above is as advice - leaving you to take your own
course - But I hope you will feel no difficulty in
conforming to our wishes - as you have always
done

The Clay Monument Committee met here
on the 12th & recommended to the associa-
tion the adoption of a plan - which will be
decided upon by them at a called meeting
The plan is a gorgeous Gothic structure
costing I think too much & wanting in that
imposing simplicity - so appropriate to the
subject - When the association have met - the
matter will be definitely acted upon

Dr Jenkins & I have had 2 fishing trials at the pond this week - taking at the first 172 - including 6 bass - averaging 14 inches long the bass we put back & have stocked the pond in woods back of the garden - with the surplus of new lights - at the second sitting on yesterday we caught some sixty four - & have stocked the little new pond below the Rail Road - fish are more abundant & the fishing finer than I have ever found it

Grazing & vegetation is now coming on rapidly - a fine rain last night - which I hope will be succeeded by fine weather grazing was never so much needed stock is in a starving condition - Robinson has purchased 23 head of 2 year olds at \$25 per head - a good purchase - since my return home I now have 410 head of cattle (steers) which I shall increase to 600 - the number I shall handle this season

We entertained this monument committee evening before last - with a supper - every thing passed off very well

Your Mother Sisters & all very well
& send much love

Your devoted Father

H. L. Shuman

I am glad to hear that Mrs Sparks finds the
old Hams excellent - I hope the Box of
old Boursbon will come ^{find to} safely to hand
and that the Dr will ^{find to} fully up to the
reputation of that few famous article
Make to them both Mr & Mrs Sparks
my kindest regards

Wm D

Apr 16th 1855

My very dear son

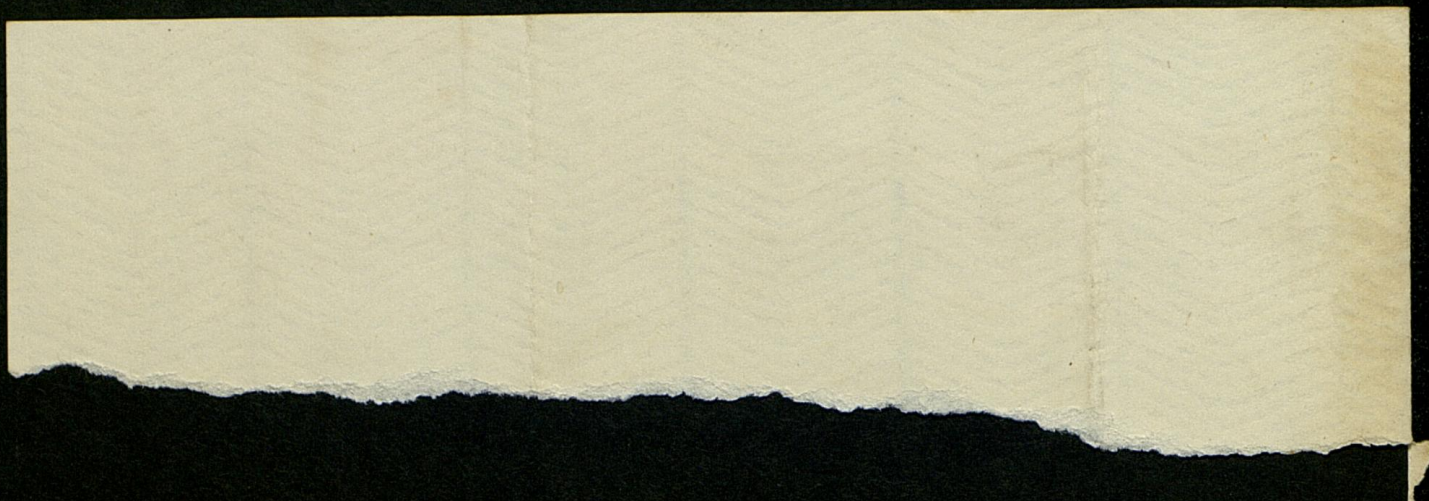
As it was some time before we
recd a letter from you we were getting uneasy
but was rejoiced on saturday afternoon to
hear of your well being, but there was one
thing which rendered me quite unhappy &
that was your connection with the rowing
club, their badge, the ace of spades savors
too much of frolic & dissipation, besides
the warm season is fast approaching, & the
exercise is too violent for a sedentary person
it is neither advantageous in a physical,
moral, or intellectual point of view, if
you have any regard for my wishes &
happiness, do be persuaded to abandon the
project, you may rest assured there is no
good to be obtained from such an asso-
ciation, irreverence for serious things, &
blasphemous language, which should

at once be turned from as a venomous
serpent, & the farther from such the better.
I would not my dear son in the least
wish to curtail your pleasure & happi-
ness, & I feel confident, that this will be
going the way that leads to destruction,
Have you commenced ^{the} reading the writings
of Solomon? be persuaded to begin at
once, for it is ^{a request} from one more desirous of
your happiness than any one else. I shall
be exceedingly anxious to hear from you of
your determination.

Your hat was sent
yesterday, when you write say what you
wish sent of summer wear, Your father
went to Bedford this afternoon & will
remain until Saturday, I hope you
be particular to hold & keep an erect
position, be firm & unyielding in
refusing to walk in the way of the
wicked, may you be brave & coura

Apr. 14, 1855

-geous in pursuing that which is right-
Ellen & Lily join me much love to
my dearest son your loving Mother



Leipzig

April 17th

1855

I received your letter
on Saturday and intended writing
immediately and undeceive
you in regard to the engagement
of which I had made you my
confidant. Permit me to correct
the misunderstanding - or was it
a wilful one on your part? I
suspected it was, but if you re-
ally misunderstood me - and thought
I said Mr. Harrison - let me beg -
you will not think this longer - it
is his sister to whom I am engaged
- mine is not a gentleman - but a

lady engagement. I think that
the probability of our engagement
being broken off - is very strong - for
a very particular friend of hers -
Mr. Red Hensley - has just returned
from the South - and I fear he
has supplied my place - he has
proved too good a substitute.
Mine is now a widowed heart -
so there is another - added to
the already too numerous list
of those who suffer with dis-
eased hearts. It is such a ter-
-rifying disease - that of the heart -
if we had any assurance of a
speedy recovery - it would make
it less painful to bear. No Mr.
Harrison - I expect would object
to such an engagement - as much
as I would - and I hope you will
give him credit for much better
taste - it is said - should dil-

for which you wish it? and
I will now beseech that you shall
be the only gentleman who shall
have it. I have given two to my cousin.
My Father had just been scolding
me for my neglect of my brother
Edwin - who is now in Santa Fe
and I have not written to him
since three or four months. so with
your permission - which I know will
be readily granted I will bid you
"good-bye" - not however without
begging you to write very soon
to

Yours true friend.

Wm. L. Garrison

N.B. Dont forget to give my love
to both your sister and Mary
Castleman.

N.D.M.

that it is with great difficulty
he can tear himself from these.
You have never told me yet - which
of the offices you preferred - Cardinal
or Arch-bishop - or did you take both
thinking you would have indul-
gences for two instead of one - or
have you as I suggested - invented
an office higher than either - one
to which you could do justice.

In regard to the Daguerrotypes
for which you asked me - I will
send you one - which do you
like best - the plain Daguerrotypes
or the Crayons - I think the Crayons
prettiest - I will tell you before
I send it - that my sketches - al-
ways flatter - as they do all ordi-
nary persons - now that I have
promised you one - woud you
tell me the special purpose

igent search be made for
his heart - they would at length
find it at the home of Miss Polly
Morgan who is certainly very deserv-
ing. And now as I hope I have
satisfied your mind on this. I will
dismiss it for it is a subject in
which self plays too conspicuous a
part to discuss longer - or to make
it even interesting to you.

I can
appreciate your feelings on seeing
your Mother & Father - do you forget
that I was absent from my home
for two years? How long will your
cousin Mary Castleman remain in
Pittsfield? or has she yet determined
on forming new relations - I mean
those cousins - do you forget your
old friends? What has become of
Emma McCaw?

Would you let me be the judge
of your ability - to write a preface
for my diary? you please make
trial - and I am convinced I will
be delighted with it. And when
may we look for the letter - which
you promised to write for our
paper? I have looked oh so an-
xi-ously - and anticipated so much
pleasure from it - but have found
nothing - I never look read any thing
but the marriages and deaths.
Harriette Brand's wedding has been
postponed to the twenty-fourth of this
month - so I am not to assist - she
has lost all love for me - as all
persons do - who have known me
for some time. Her brother Mr
Horace Brand is here - he says to
stay but six weeks - you know though
he finds Lexington so pleasant after
so long a stay from all his friends

Lex Apr 17th 1852

My dear Son

Enclosed I send you bill of lading for One small Band Box - containing your Summer Hat - which I hope will come safely to hand - you will have to have it repacked & retinned

Dr Jenkins Shropshire & myself fished at the pond yesterday and 130 new lights - 5 of them averaged 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb - the largest and finest I ever saw - This is the third fishing - taking 72 - 65 - 130 - I send Henderson & McClure to Frankfurt this morning with the Barrels & the Cash to purchase Baps Sammon & Pyke - so that we shall have fine fishing for you on your return home

I hope you will never lose sight of this fact that you have contracted a bad habit of stooping & growing crooked - hold yourself straight - sit straight and walk erect

I go to Bedford this evening to spend the balance of the week & shall write you a long letter - I mean to prevent the Yankees from cheating you & manage your Cash matters carefully - yr affec Father

H T Duncan

The freight paid by
me \$4.00

Young Ladies Institute
Chapel. April 17 1855

Dearest Brother

I have received
your two letters this week, "Short
& sweet" I also had one from
Mother yesterday all are well
I will write to Mrs Sparks
next week, I wanted to ^{write} to day
but did not have time.

I received a letter from Mary Hunter
this week, she is in Newport,
I wanted to write to day
but have not had time.

I suppose you are having
a nice time visiting Lanny
& Phebe, Tell Lanny not to
forget her promise; will you
get my Album I left it
at Mr Sparks, if Mrs Sparks ^{for Mrs I to write for it}

has not written in
it, get her to do it, & get
Laurie & Phebe to write
in it & you to write in
it.

Mary Leason came
back on Thursday afternoon
she has fattened & is very
well. "General Cass" Reed
& every one else are very well.

Reed says she will be
very glad when the Padlocks
come, is the man going to
make them if he does & you
send them if you do not want
my Opera Glasses will you ^{please} send
them also. I have nothing
worth telling you, O, yes, I went
to a Festival on Thursday night
given by the colored people of
Pittsfield for to obtain "Almighty
Dollar" enough to finish a
Congregational Church of theirs.
we had a very nice time.

Burns the celebrated
Negro who has caused so
much fuss is to make a
speech this week in Pittsfield.

The Tea Bell is ringing

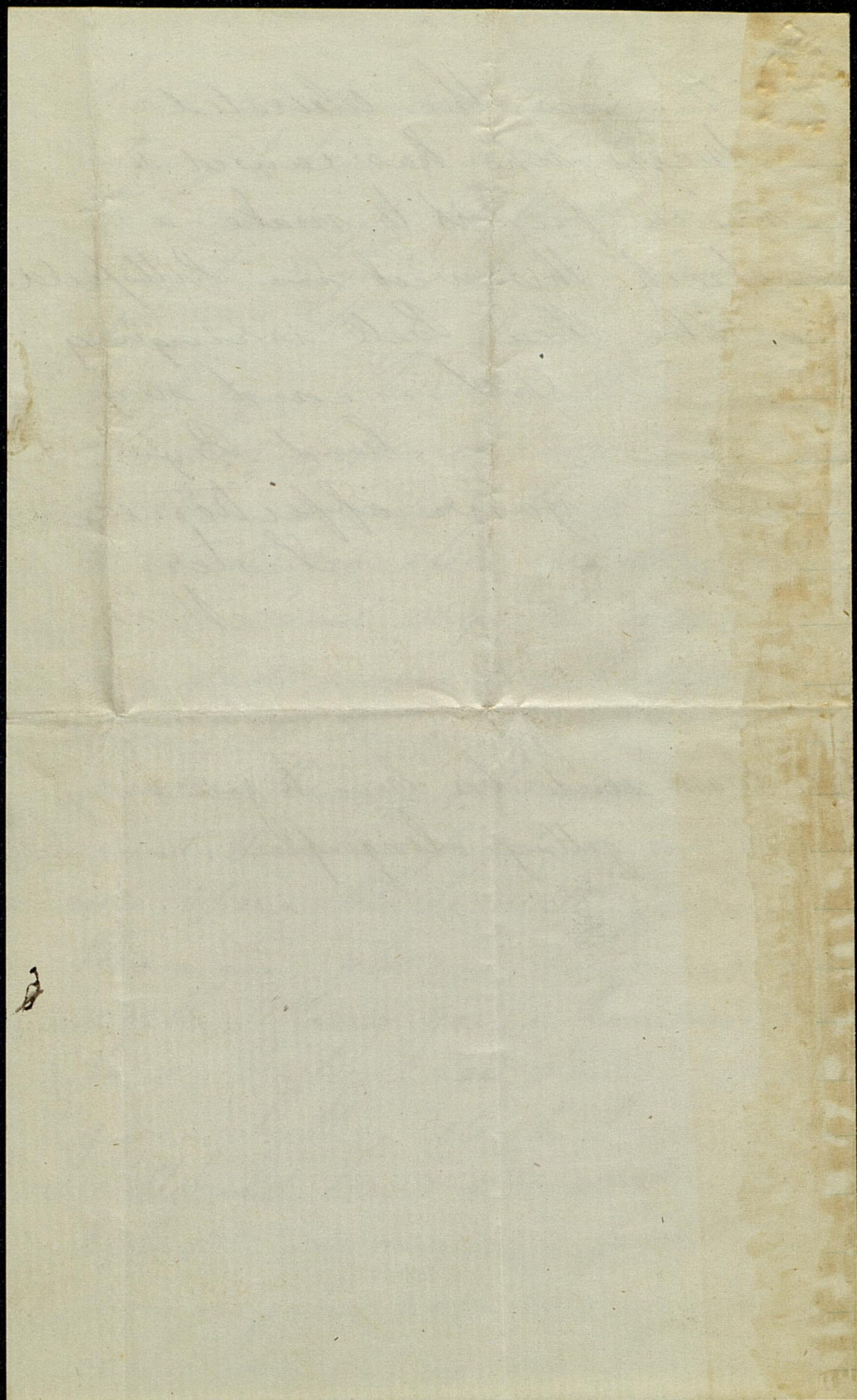
& I must say

Good Bye

your affectionate
Sister

M D.

P.S. Cass sends her Love to you & says
she is getting along fine.



Young Ladies Institute
April 21st 1855

Dearest Brother

I thought I would get to write you a long letter, but it seems as if something is always preventing;

I received a letter from Mother this evening all are well, also one from cousin Kate this morning one from Father yesterday & one from & one from Emma this week.

I have a trunk coming with my summer clothes in it Father sent me the key in his letter & it happened to be the wrong one Kate sent the right one in her letter.

Cousin Maria has had her toe taken off, & when it gets well she is going to Vincennes,

I wanted to write to Mrs Sparks

& Fannie to day but I have not
had time. give my love to
Mr & Mrs Sparks, & Fannie &
Phoebe, I will get permission
next week to write to Mrs Sparks
& Fannie, I would like to
have those articles I left at Mrs
Sparks I know what it is, I
missed them as soon as I came
here. will you ^{please} send them my
Album, & Opera Glasses, the
weather is beautiful, & I do not
suppose you will have much use
for the Opera Glasses during the
summer; & if you do not
want them, I would like to
have them to draw things
up to me when I am walking
& even when I am in my
room at my window, the
weather is so beautiful I can
scarcely stay in the house.
There has been quite

an addition to the choir of
Mr Branks church, Ellen Mathews
Amelia Hall & Pwet Manifee,
dont you think they are coming
out. I will try & write you
a long letter next week, I hope I
will get time. I am very
busy. I had to read "Beed" my
Composition yesterday. There!
I liked to have forgotten it;
you must certainly have the
Padlocks in ten days I have
particular reasons which I
have not time to give now,
I have left the society so has
Loue Franklin & Maggie
Beard. you must certainly
have the Padlocks done in 10
days, with all the molloes on
them. Mary Beed says
she thinks you ought to
send back the constitution;
she says she thinks it is not

honorable in you to keep it.

I will explain more "Moore"
fully when I get time. she
says she ~~do~~ if the Padlocks do
not ~~come~~ in ten days she will
not believe they are ordered.

But I must ~~do~~ draw
this scribble to a close, I hope you
will be able to make it out.
Do write to me soon & often

Adieu with a
Sisters Love.

Cass joins me in much love
to you.

Sumner April 22nd
1855

Dear Henry

Yours of the 10th inst. was received
4 or five days ago. I have been more
lardy than usual in replying; for the
delay I can offer no excuse except that
I had nothing of interest to communicate.
For several weeks or since your Ma and
me visited Mass. I have been staying here
and have visited Lexington but a few times
and consequently I have entirely lost the
run of the gossip. The life, however, is
not a serious one and I do not perceive
that I have sustained any loss of appetite
or flesh or that my sleep has been any less
sound or refreshing in consequence. I have
passed the time exceedingly pleasantly between
fishing, occasional exercise on the farm and
a little reading. Your father and myself
within the last ten days have had extra-
ordinarily fine sport in pursuing the first
named pastime. Within this period we have
caught in the neighbourhood of 500 new
lights and six hogs. The latter were all
caught on the first day's fishing. They were
14 inches long and weighed about 2 lbs. Since

them they have been very shy. Besides supplying the table and sending sundry notes to friends 100 have been sent to Bedford to stock the pond there and 50 or 60 hung in the ponds beyond the road and in the woods. Often has your name been mentioned in connection with our sport. The expression has been frequently uttered "How Henry would enjoy this?" and "I wish he was here to participate with us in our enjoyment." &c.

I anticipate a week of unusual pleasure during the ensuing one. In the first place Mrs Burr and Miss Barrett will be invited in the holy bonds of wedlock on Tuesday Oct 4 and I shall have the pleasure of standing beside Miss Lucy Webb on the occasion. I called upon her yesterday and passed a very pleasant hour in her company. Would you believe it? This is the second visit I have made her. She mentioned having received a letter from you some weeks ago acknowledging your thanks for her letter of introduction to Miss Stanford (is that the name?). In addition she paid you some very handsome compliments. She informed me that her father intended to visit Mississippi in a few weeks, and if he was pleased would make his home there and if not Texas would become their

and the Illinois project has been, I of course regretted to learn, abandoned. Excuse the digression. The bridal party will start on Thursday on a wedding tour. They will visit the seaboard cities and perhaps extend their visit as far north as Boston. If they do you will have an opportunity of seeing them. The second and no less source of anticipated pleasure is that Miss Mary Ellen is coming out here on a fishing excursion one day during the week. It will be my pleasant duty perhaps of baiting her hook taking off the fish and playing the agreeable game. While I am transferring the little fishes with the cruel barbed hook she will be, perhaps, all unconscious to herself, transferring my tender heart with Cupid's cruel shafts. The day's sport may end with her having caught besides numerous fish that swim in the water one dry land fish an "odd fish" that it may not be easy to get off the hook speedily. If such a catastrophe should unfortunately occur I will notify you of the fact and also communicate how deeply in gills he has been hooked.

On Tuesday last cousin Maria was prepared to start for Indiana but got in too late to take the evening train. On her return from

Town by dint of persuasion she prevailed upon me against my better judgment to take off her offending toe. I told her that her toe-affection was constitutional in character and that if its present site was removed it would locate itself in another toe and that therefore it was unscientific and unprofessional to amputate. But she said that she would assume the whole responsibility. Whereupon I consented remarking to her that as I was about to abandon the profession the loss of reputation that might ensue could be sustained. During the process of removal she bawled lustily. She is now convalescent but the count that I predicted has already taken place. The little toe has given manifestable evidence of becoming the shade of her painful mislady.

For 8 days past the weather has been extremely fine. Vegetation has been pushed forward with unexampled rapidity. The grass is in good grazing order. The foliage is rapidly appearing and the fruit trees of every variety are in full bloom. The promise for an abundant crop was never better. All are well.

Yours affectionately
H. O. Jenkins

Saturday Apr 28th /55

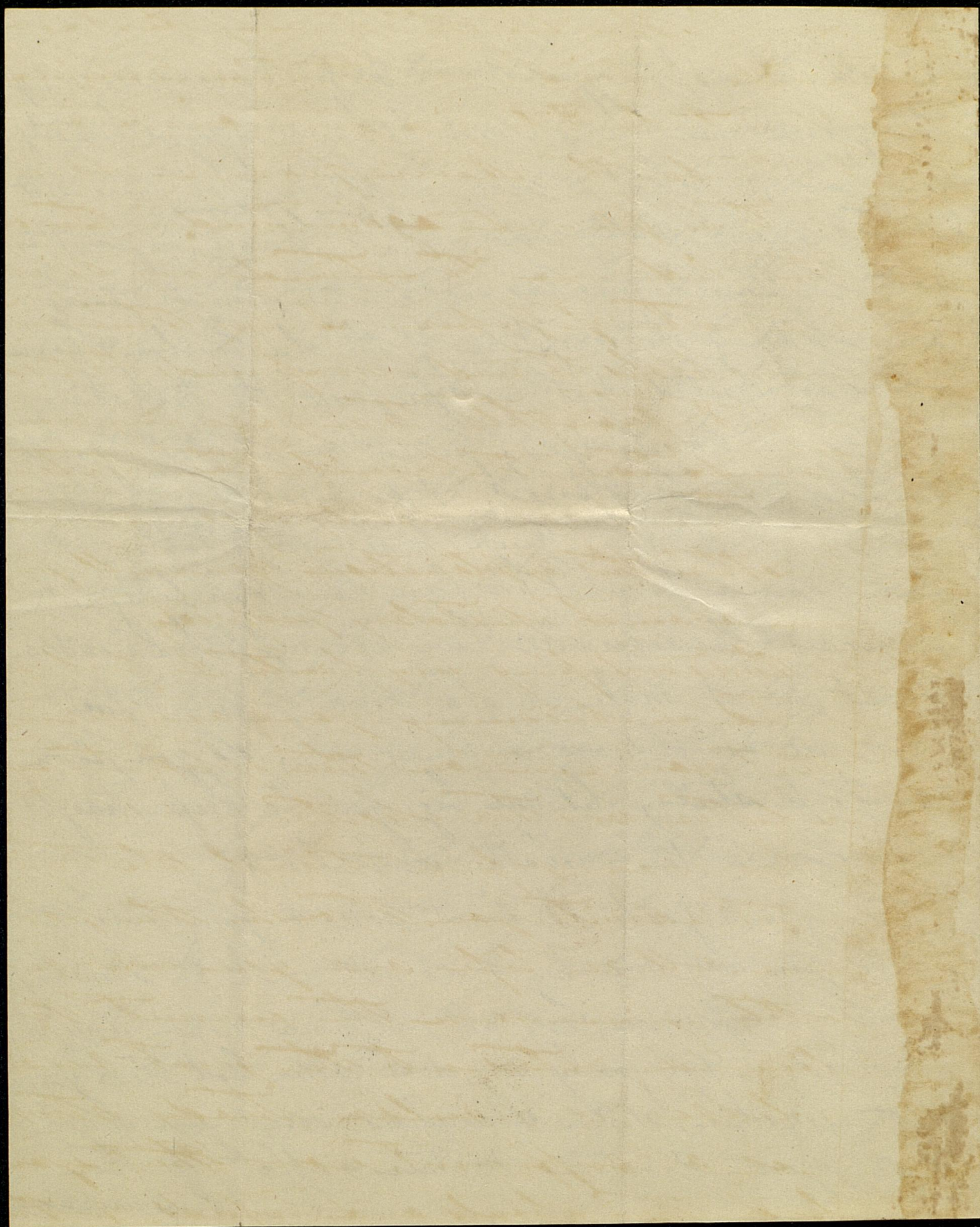
My dearest son

Your two Journals were very satisfactory, & a most satisfactory way for to receive letters from you, I shall certainly keep them, & thank you too. I would have written to you before this but I have had quite a bilious attack confined to bed, I am relieved but very weak, have just written Mary a letter, & commenced one to my dear boy, Oh if we could only be together, How pleasant & delightful! but since you remain well I'm thankful, & another thing that you have such friends as Dr & Mrs Sparks, to talk & advise with, I thank you for conforming to our wishes about the boat club, it makes us very happy, out door exercise is very necessary to health, & walking seems to have as happy an influence on you as any thing, judging from the one mentioned in the letter, it was an eventful one, & so agreeable to meet with pleasant friends, particularly of the feminine gender, there is something refining in a cultivated ladies society, late in the afternoon is the

most pleasant time to walk - at noon the sun is
very oppressive, we have real summer weather,
very dry it is. Thought if this state of things conti-
nues there will be a great deal of suffering -
We have the promise of an abundance of fruit,
Your clothes shall be sent next week, do you think
your new articles had better be purchased here?
or perhaps you can suit yourself best where you
are, it will be difficult to fit you, just send what
you left & whatever else you need get it, We recd
a letter from Mary yesterday. She is well & seems
contented & happy, altogether I think it a good
school for her, & all, going into society does not
do for those desiring to study, Dr Jenkins is at the
pond fishing with Mrs & Miss Craig, Mr & Mrs Canada
they would not come to the house & dine, they brought
out every thing in a basket & we had fish fried & sent to
the pond, they eat on the grass like a pic nic,
a bottle of wine, a pitcher of ice water &c &c
The Brand & Burr were united last Tuesday
evening, quite a gathering, they dispersed about

2 O'clk, I suppose you know Dr Jenkins was one of
the groomsmen he seemed to have enjoyed himself
very much, what is very surprising we were not
invited, Mrs Ball was out ^{from Baltimore} & Horace, in from the
west, Your Father has rec'd a letter from Dr Sparks
acknowledging the reception of the old Bourbon & Thoms
he also regretted that we preferred the Berkshire
valley to Cambridge, present my kindest regards
to them i.e. the Sparks, I do wish you could
get on with your Greek more comfortably, but
take courage what has been done can be again
patience & perseverance have accomplished wonders
do not let it make an old man of you before
you are an old one a young one, do you frown
& stoop still, let me beg you to keep straight
tomorrow is the sabbath remember &c,

You are a good obedient son & your parents
love you very much & do not wish to shew any
want of confidence, but all, at times need remind-
ing of duty, good by my dear son, God bless you
my Father, Mother, sisters & cousins send you much
love your devoted Mother & affct Mother
P. Duncan



Lex Apr 29th 1855

My Dear Son

I believe this is my first letter to you for some 2 weeks - This my son is owing to my very active occupations & pains in getting my crop in here & at Bedford - which has not yet been completed - together with a share of fishing when at home - And not that you were forgotten & not still an object of my most anxious thoughts & solisitude - I have urged your Mother the Dr & all to write But as they have not done it as often as I desired, I have taken the matter in hand myself & shall in future depend alone upon myself to discharge often this agreeable duty & write in future not less than once a week

Your diary to your Mother is very interesting to us all & is looked for & will be anxiously every week - I regret that you find the Greek so tough & hard - but be not discouraged re-
solve that you will master it - and the work is more than half accomplished - perseverance & labor and all difficulty will vanish - nothing was ever accomplished without diligence & perseverance - Study, study hard my son
R

is the only plan - This will - and this alone
accomplish your object - Remember that
you have gone too far to recede with credit
It will never do not to enter your class and
that with credit - And until you do so - I advise
you to lessen your intercourse with Society
visit Boston as little as possible - I speak
comparatively - I am induced to believe that
you may indulge in social intercourse
more than will prove profitable to the
success of the objects you have before you
What you have of social enjoyment let
it always be subordinate - to the thought
which should ever be uppermost in your
mind - that of entering your class with cre-
dit this fall - Nothing is more unprofitable
my Dear Son - As I know from experience
than too great a fondness for the Society of
Ladies - owing to the waste of time it accom-
plishes - I do not mean to abandon it all to-
gether, but keep it always subordinate &
in control & to give place to one of so much
more importance at present to you - to
secure your position in your class.
When you have accomplished this - then a
moderate indulgence in Society may do ~~but~~
until then bridle & control any inclination
you may feel in this way & greatly moderate.

your indulgence - do not understand me as
as disposed to urge you to an abandonment of
Society - by no means - but do not permit your
inclinations in this way - to interfere with
your studies or your regular hours of study, ~~never~~
Never for one moment - forget the great object
of your residence at Cambridge - To take a
regular course - to make yourself a thorough
scholar - not a mere smatterer - and when
you come home - come home a man in every
particular - and prepared to take your po-
sition as such

I received from Mr Sparks a letter ack-
nowledging the receipt of the "Old Bowdoin",
& House - in very appropriate & becoming terms
I think his feelings towards you is such - That you
might at all times rely upon the candor and
sincerity of his advice - and place full confi-
dence in the accuracy of his judgement
in most matters about which you might des-
ire occasionally to consult ~~with~~ & advise with
him - I shall continue to feel intense anxiety
about you until you have fairly entered
your Class & got under way - into regular
work - I shall write to Dr Sparks in a day
or two - touching these matters & request of
him, to occasionally make to such suggestions
as may be needed & prove useful to you

we have had several fishing sets this week
Parron Brown Dr Jenkins & my self caught
by 10 o'clock on last Thursday over 200 new
lights - They bit better & faster than I ever
saw fish bite - we never go down without
taking a good mess - we have had several
fishing parties out from town - all en-
joying very much the sport - I have
stocked the pond in the woods the one
over the Rail Road and one at Bedford
from it - I have also added to the old
from the My river some 50 or 60 Bass white
perch Red Horse (a class of suckers) Channel
Cat - black suckers - so that when you come
home - we shall have splendid fishing

We are standing much in need of
rain - the crop is short for the season
another drought will be terrible to us
I sold my wheat the other day at \$2 per
Bushel a higher price than it ever
brought in My

Burr married Sup Brand the other
day - we were not invited - though a few
eral invitation - some screw loose I suppose
a matter of no moment - all well and
give in much love to you

Your devoted Father
H. L. Duncan

Leipziger

April 30th
1855

As it is just after
dinner - and - like most peo-
ple at this time - feeling
incapable of exertion - of
any sort - I shall beg no
pardon for the architec-
tural deformity - for the
want of proper arrangement
of the parts of my letter -
but shall abandon my-

self. to whatever first suggests itself.

How shall I
Thank you for your prompt-
ness in answering my letter?
It is to me another evidence
of your friendship for me.
Let me thank you too - for
the interest you evince
for my welfare - before know-
ing to whom I was engaged.
I appreciate your kindness,
and is there not some
way in which I can con-
vey to you an idea - of the
interest I feel in you? -
and if not now - should
an opportunity ever oc-

-can- in which I can render
you a service - I hope you
will not ~~and~~ hesitate to
call on me for assistance -
is there not something I
can do for you?

I hope your
cousin Gen Cass - will not
only think - but accomplish
writing to me - It would
give me great pleasure to
receive a letter from her -
we did exchange letters -
when I was at school - and
it would afford me much
gratification to renew the
correspondence - of which I
have many pleasant remem-

- Frances.

Miss Harriette is married - I was not at the wedding - it was necessary I should go to the country and nurse a sick cousin. I heard it was delightful - you will hear everything of her - as she will visit the northern cities - and you perhaps will have an opportunity of seeing her - of which you will of course avail yourself - she being the sister of your best friend - excuse me I did not mean that Mr Brand may be a very good gentleman friend.

[April 30, 1855.]

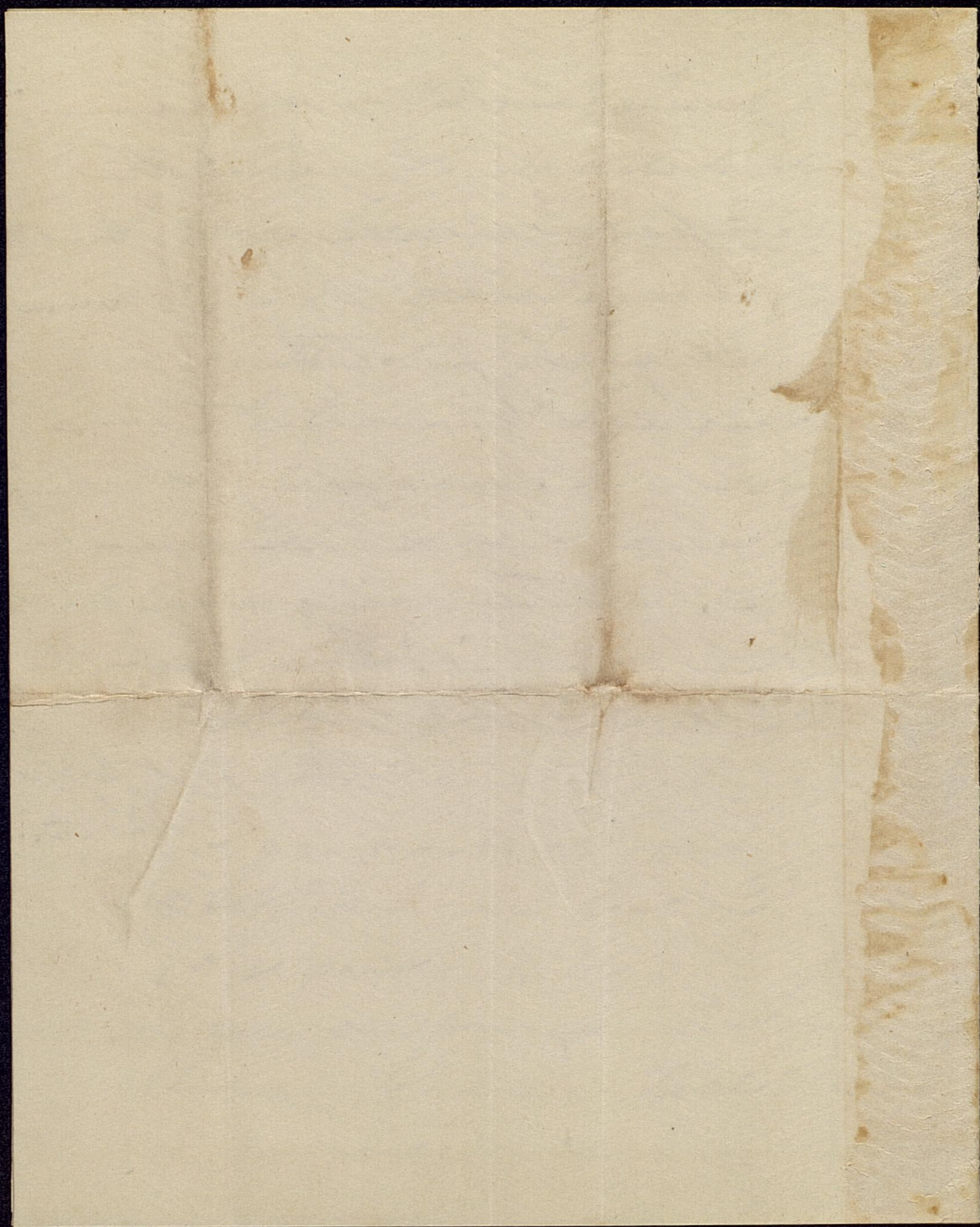
but he is not your best friend
Has Mr Brand become so
fascinated with Miss Follie
Smith? I should imagine
he had found some one whose
society - or the remembrance
of it in this instance - he en-
joyed - more than that of his
once-were friends in Lexington
he seems to have forgotten -
them all. it is only an occa-
sional thing - to hear of his
visiting the ladies - and as
for myself - I despair of ever
seeing him again - if it is
business - he is wrong - to let
that - wear him so entirely
from his friends - don't you?

agree with me? Doesn't the
country look beautifully now?
I have been unable to deter-
mine in which season it
is prettiest. Spring - Summer
or Autumn. I imagine you
have arrived at a state of
perfection as a Logician -
from the manner in which
you reason of your great
love for Chr. Your friend
Mr. William Beechinsridge
has graduated - delivered
his speech on last Thursday
it is said to be very fine.
I am surprised that a gen-
tleman of such taste as
is universally acknowledged

you - should not have
gone sooner to hear the
troupe. Tomorrow - if a pret-
ty day - I will have - ~~you~~
a daguerrotype taken for
you - I saw your father on
Sunday - as I was going to church - and he warned me - he
says I go the wrong way - what
think you of it? You have the
kindest wishes of your

Your best friend
Kato.

Morrison



April May, 1855?

Saturday evening.
We received the Packets.

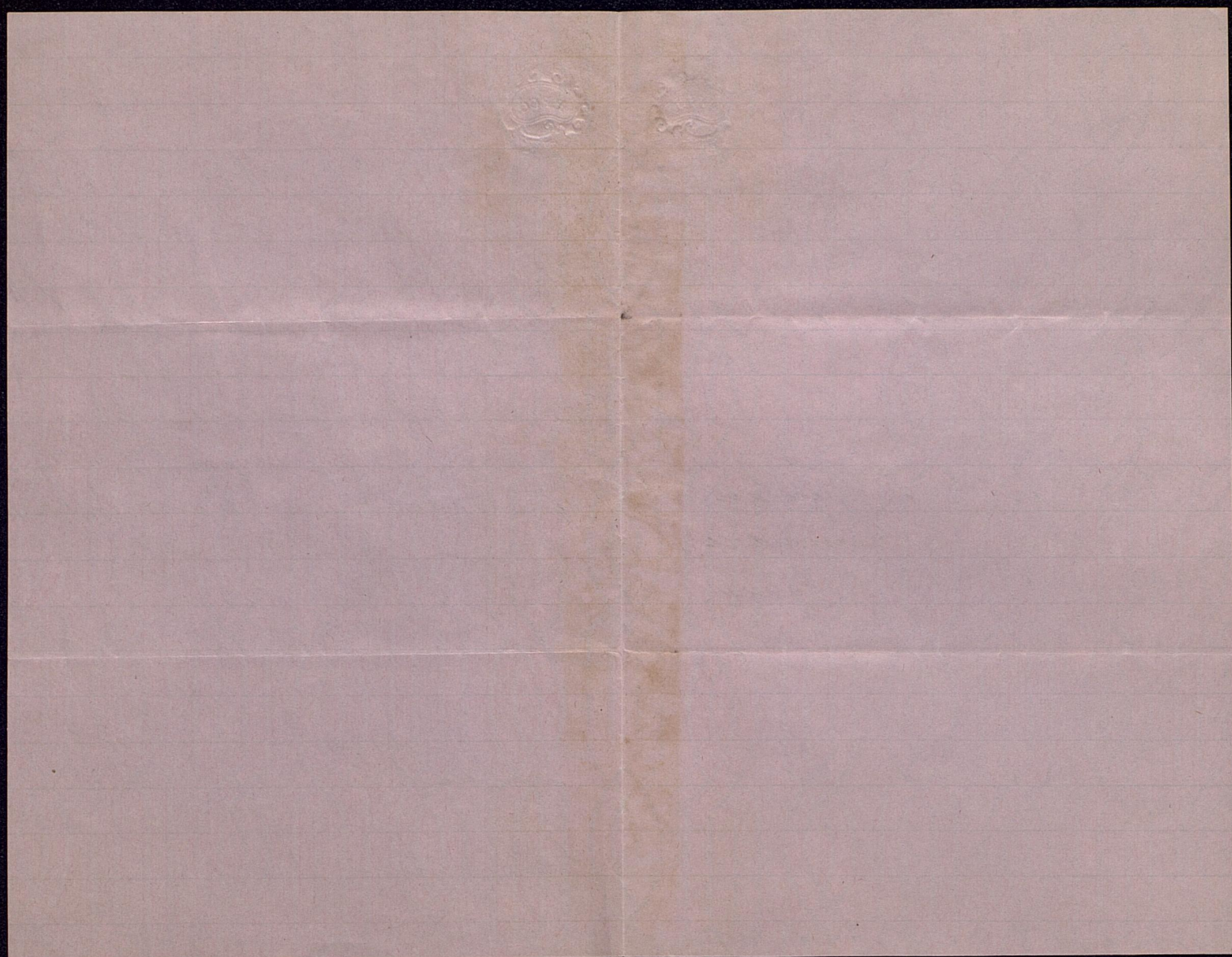
which you ordered. all are
pleased with them. and
exceedingly obliged for Mr.
Sampson's kindness - yet
another favor we ask. That
you will send the enclosed
to "Messrs. Linn & Co."
I believe it is the right
amount. if not. let us know.

With respect.

"O. S. L. L. P."

Chapter 1st

Compliments to "No 5"



Mr. H. L. Surcouf.
Cambridge
Mass.

Simeon May 2nd 55

Dear Henry

Without waiting for a
reply to my last letter as it is necessary
that some one should write to you to
inform you that a box of clothing has been
started to you by express, I write again.
The box was started this morning and will
reach Cambridge as soon or sooner than
this letter. Mr. Burr's marriage came off
according to appointment 24th and he &
the bride went off on the 26th upon the
wedding tour. Miss Mary Ellen came
out on Saturday last and spent the day
on the bank of the pond. There were
but a few fish caught but the day
glided away very pleasantly for all
that. The weather continued extremely warm
& delightful; but ruin is greatly increased.
As your sister Ella is going to write
to you I leave the remaining space
to her. Yours affectionately
A. D. Jenkins

Wednesday May 2 1855

Dear bud

I have not got much to tell you at home except that the weather is quite warm and pleasant. The trees getting to be quite green. The sugar trees are in full foliage. The fruit trees are going out of bloom. They are very full of fruit. I wish so much that you could be here to enjoy ~~them~~ ^{them} with us when they get ripe. We have had several fishing parties here during the past week. Mr & Mrs Brown on Thursday, and caught a great many fish - about 200. Mrs Jewett, & Mrs Rule & daughter on Friday evening caught a good many & Miss Mary Ellen & Mrs Kennedy on Saturday. The biggest fish Miss Mary caught weighed 140 lbs (that was Doc) and two little fish that she carried away with her. The big fish she threw back upon the world. It could not have

We have got so many little lambs, they
are capering over the lawn like so
many wild deer. They are so pretty.
The birds are chirping delightfully and
building their nests. All nature is so
lively. Mother was quite unwell last week
but has recovered. Father has gone to
Bedford and will spend the balance
of the week there. I have employed
Eog as my amanuensis as I could not
write fast enough to finish for the
mail in time to be sent off today.
I must close now as Sam is about
ready to be off for town.

Yours affectionate sister

Ellen Duncan

P.S. I sent you ~~the~~ candy Mother
the cake all joins in much love to
you. I forgot to tell you that Miss
Maria has had her toe cut off.

[The page contains several lines of extremely faint, illegible handwriting.]

The first has been for some time
 given to the poor of that parish
 the other will be given to the
 poor of the parish of St. John's
 I am very much obliged to you
 for the interest you have taken
 in the cause of the poor
 I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Your obedient servant,
 J. H. H.

Lexington May 5th 1855-

My Dear Son,

I this moment opened your letter to your Mother - and find you to be on the borrow - This is too bad - so I send you a check for \$100 - which I hope will relieve your present troubles - But pistols & Boat Clubs will soon exhaust that amount you must economize

I will write you on to tomorrow when I have more time - I hasten this to send you relief - your Box is off with your clothes a day or two since

I fear your Pittsfield adventure for the girls - will prove a bad investment

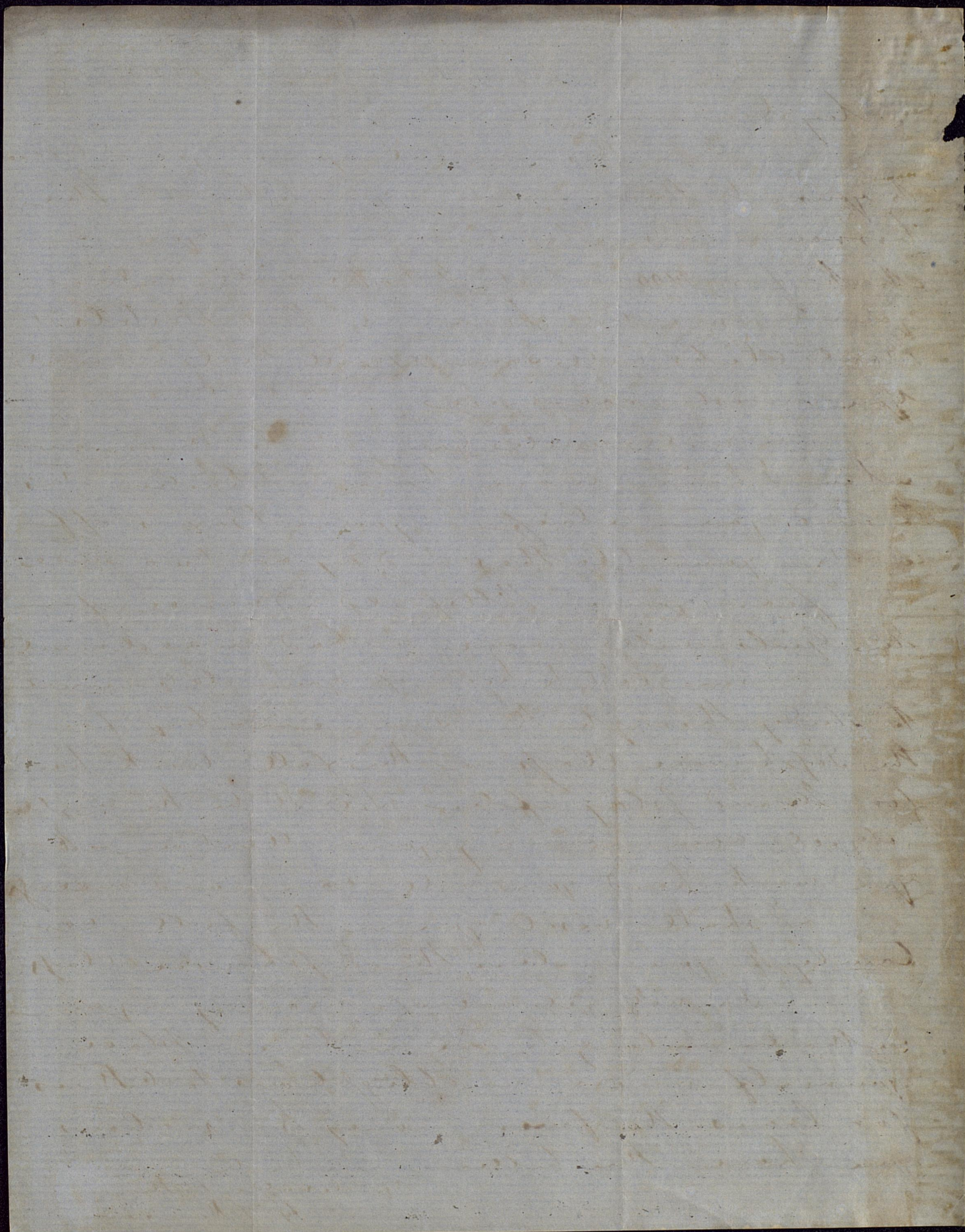
I am glad to hear of your determination to study through the summer & try for the Sophomore Class in the fall - work hard for it and play after - Let it be the single object commanding your attention - If you work hard you will command success

I shall visit you in the fall certainly if you enter the Sophomore Class

Do not get out of money again without writing to me in time - place yourself under no obligations to others for loans - the finer money transactions you have the better - be true

Your devoted Father

H. T. Duncanson



Georgetown May 6th
1845

Thank you Henry for
your letter, now the less
appreciated because so
long left unacknowledged.
It came to me in Louisville
at a time when I felt
with the Psalmist "In
a barren and dry land where
no water is", pardon me
for harping ^{you} even in thought
(you say you are my friend)
and to doubt I never is

to do them as signs and
^{thereby} show ourselves unworthy
of them. Now Henry you
cannot blind me to the
truth, that, you follow
your own heart feelings
rather than obedience to
my advice. But leaving your
heart at "Head Quarters",
she is as lonely as your
partial eye could conceive
her to be. ^{your} thoughts while
dwelling upon her are
a agony, which is
explained by Julia, "when

the things literally explain
unto me as signifying something
in the state of human
happiness." I am at present
in Georgetown, and expect
to spend a greater portion
of the summer here, the
remainder in Lexington,
and Leesville. I have
nothing that would
interest you. I am sorry
Miss Mary Woodson is
in Europe, as you found
her so agreeable an acqu-
-aintance.

I cannot tell you how
often the assurance of your
warmest sympathy and
real friendship touches
me. God grant Henry
that through life's
adversities you may remain
pure and respected your
sincerity and generosity.

Yours friend

Lucy J. Webb

Seneca Falls May 6th
1855

Dear Henry

I got your letter of the 28th ult. on Friday and as I had written you a short letter the day before I postponed replying for a day or two. I have at present nothing of any manner of interest to write about and only write in order to keep up a habit of punctuality. On the night of the wedding of Burr I took final leave of Miss Lucy Webb, with no expectation of ever meeting her again. She has gone to Georgetown to remain for sometime and before her return I shall be far away on the "Prairie Villain". She gave me a very polite invitation to visit her and I should certainly do so if I were governed by the promptings of inclination; but such a man might be expected to erroneous promptings. I shall therefore restrain desire. The "Old fish" is in no manner of danger of being accessory to any such sad catastrophe as cap-gulling by ladies and therefore entirely safe from harm. You mentioned the anticipated pleasure of making the acquaintance of \$250000 animated by a female soul. I myself should prefer the soulless enjoyment of such

a sum but if the vivifying principle
was clad in attraction, clay and gilded
the charms of heart and hand in a high
degree for ornament the incumbrance
might be gracefully supported.

Fred. says that your pistol if
new he can sell for \$65. You had
better send it to him. Your father
says that he will give you half the amount
it cost you and that you will be doing
as well in the transaction as the person
from whom you obtained it.

Your father went to Bedford 8 days
with the purpose of spending the week.
There, sometime during the present
month he will go to Illinois. I shall
reserve giving you my plans in refer-
ence to my emigration till I am set-
tled. Did I tell you that Ben
Johnson is married and not to
Miss Potter. He married in the south
several weeks ago. Porter Harrison is
also married in Henderson to a
Miss Preston. She came in a
few minutes ago and asked me if I
would take in a banquet to your sweet
heart. I told her I would with pleasure
and asked her who she was. She replied
that you said I knew. I suppose

I might venture to take it to Miss Kate
etc. I am at a loss what message to convey
without slandering; but will endeavour to
frame some speech suitable to the
occasion. Miss Birmingham stops
off to-morrow night with Mrs. Field.
People are astonished at her choice
and some say that she is marrying
beneath herself. We had a delightful
evening a few days ago. It was greatly
needed. There is prospect of another
this morning. The fishing season for
mud lights has ended. We have not
caught any for more than a week.
I recollect the characters of the
numerous outrages. The two by the oppo-
nents are first rate. The third is a
vile & indecent calumny upon the
sisters of charity. Your father showed
it to cousin Maria. She could see
nothing vulgar about it. The mysteries
of the immaculate conception were
incomprehensible to her.

Ellie is in a dreadful state of perturbation
of mind occasioned by some bulging
of the foundation walls of the house.
She is in nightly terror that the house
will fall about our heads before morning
and crush us all. She cries herself to

To sleep out of pure fear. To satisfy
her effort country will be sent for to
make an examination and pronounce
an opinion in reference to its soundness.
If his opinion is favorable Elle says
she won't believe him and of course
if it is unfavorable her alarm will
be increased.

All are well and I give in much
love to you. Yours affectionately
R. D. Jenkins

May 8th /55

My beloved Son

Your Journal so anxiously looked for did not arrive until Saturday, I regret it on account of the books you desired, as they could have been packed in the box so easily, I hope you received your clothes safely, I sent only the last summer ones, whatever else you need you can get, I sympathize with you in the loss of your shillings in the boat club, but I am happy you are out of it, still I should have been tempted to have gone & see it launched, you manifested great self denial, may you be amply blessed in the training of mind to disappointments, life is chequered with many vicissitudes, but there is peace, rest, & happiness for those who are found walking in the ways of righteousness - seek & you shall find,

I am pleased that you prefer the society of refined cultivated ladies, to the rude boys, but not let it interfere with your studies, take recreation in the open air as much as possible, keep an erect posture, the habit of leaning over your books is injurious get a high table so that you will be compelled to hold up, It is very gratifying to hear that

your Greek is not so tough, I hope it will continue to grow more & more easy, so that the clouds may leave your brows, & the bow from the shoulder, I'm sorry you will not be home but if it is for your good, so be it - take care of yourself,

I have been a little uneasy about Mary the last letter from her, mentioned a cold & cough, still she was attending to her duties, one day she was called out of school by the house keeper, & taken to see the Dr. (a quack at that) a homoeopathy, without consulting her about it, the next day he called again to see her & she refused to take any thing, I am glad she manifested such firmness, if a physician was necessary she should have been consulted & by Mrs Agnew not the house keeper, & ^{as} Dr we have no confidence in, I have seriously thought of writing to Miss Eastleman to hear what the state of Mary's health is, this season is so changeable, & there can not be too much care in regard to the change of clothing, to prevent taking cold, & when a cold is taken to get rid of it at once, go to bed take a warm foot bath, hot teas, a tea spoon of calcined magnesia, then hot lemonade, it throws out perspiration, & a day or two in bed will make a cure,

Advise Mary to have nothing to do with Dr's
more especially quacks, when do you think
you will make her a visit? if she does
not get relieved of this cough soon. I feel that
she ought to be taken from school until she is,
I most devoutly hope she may be comparatively
or quite well when I hear from her,
There has been a very great change in the
weather within twenty four hours, from the most
beautiful, balmy, summer like to cold making
a large fire comfortable, if we have a frost
our large prospect of an abundant fruit will
be dashed to the ground, there is the
most abundant prospect for fruit, the cherries
are loaded if half were off it would be
better for what would be left.

Dr Jenkins has passed the day at Bedford
is just returned, to prepare for Miss
Cunningham's wedding, Your Father went
down on Monday he sent me word he will
dine with me to morrow, I have had a
nice little roaster killed, so you will
know what part of our dinner was, if not
all, vegetables are not abundant yet, asparagus
lettuce, radishes, onions, we have old potatoes
yet, our pond affords us most delightful fish
it is amusing to see them fishing for cat
after dark is the time for them, they draw

them very fast - it keeps them busy -
I should like to send you Journal, but I
am afraid I could not be punctual there
are so many things to occupy me, that
would make it rather difficult, still I think
it the easiest way of filling the paper, & probably
making it more interesting, a country life is
very quiet, & rather monotonous, not many events
to record, Ell & Lily keep me busy to keep
at their books, it almost tires me out, as
so little is accomplished, the sun is
setting gloriously, I am afraid we shall
have a biting frost. present my kind
regards to the Sparks' and for your
self the love of cousins & loving sisters
& the overflowing affection of a Mother be
God bless you my dear son

as usual my pen is bad. E. Duncan
but hope you will be able
to read it. Lily is standing
by me & says she wants to see you so bad
the servants all desire to be respectfully
remembered to you

Lexington May 9th 1822

My Dear Son

Upon my return from Bedford today I found your letter of the 4th of May - you speak of writing me one the day before - which has not come to hand - Altho I anticipated your wants some days ago and wrote you on Saturday last a very short letter enclosing you a check for \$100 - which I hope has come to hand. This I done in consequence of what you said in your Mother's letter of last week.

I very deeply regret to hear of your indisposition - and do my dear Boy - hope you will follow out fully Dr Jacksons instructions & get you a desk with high feet for study & reading both - If you do not you endanger your health and destroy all symmetry & beauty of figure & contract the stoop of the old men. This I cautioned you against at Pittsfield. I observed your stoop & crooked shoulders you must - If your health is affected stop study - But with plenty of exercise, much walking and always sitting & standing straight I hope you will soon get rid of the impelas and sinistors.

You speak of changing your table & that by your doing so you have offended

those with whom you boarded - This is a
high thing that a gentleman cannot
change his place of board without giving
offence - But if they are offended let them
take their own course - make no seeking
of your independence of character to
to propitiate or conciliate them - In all
matters of a personal character - act your
part with perfect firmness & spirit - Do
not permit yourself to be mistreated or tri-
fled with - I do not mean that you must
seek quarrels - but bear yourself with per-
fect independence & firmness - Who are
these fellows that you have fallen in
with - and tell me precisely what has ta-
=ken place - Have they treated with per-
sonal rudeness or any indignity - If so you
should have resented it promptly - If any
thing of this sort has happened let me
know - and who they are.

I shall write to Dr Sparks a letter
in a few days & thank him and his Lady
for their kind & polite invitation at
Lebanon to your

I returned home today to dinner from
Bedford where I went on Monday - and
shall go back to Morrow morning at six
in the Car & remain the balance of the
week - I purchased this week 54 head

of stock cattle - bringing number of this
some to some 300 head - for feeding next
winter I shall increase them about 100
up to 400 full for beef - I have now be-
sides my stock cattle 186 Superb beef cattle
which will be in fine order next month
when I hope to ^{get} at least 10 pr lb - They
will produce me from \$80 to \$90 pr head

I am running a stone wall in front of
the late Lewis purchase - and hope this
season to make from 700 to 1000 rods of
stone fence - I have never before taken
the same personal interest in this pro-
perty - under my own personal super-
vision I shall make to pay a fine
revenue - better than I ever have

Some afternoon I sell my fat cattle I
and Mr I will go to Illinois - & determine
upon farm improvements &c &c

We have nothing new or of
interest here - you must ^{not} interrupt
writing us frequently - particularly of
your health - all we shall feel great
anxiety until we hear you are re-
lieved of the unpleasant symptoms of which
you complain

All join in much love to you
Your Devoted Father

W J Lawrence

May 10th 1855

My very dear Son

Your indisposition makes me feel miserable, & wishes you were at home but still I try to console myself by hoping it is not serious & will soon yield to proper treatment, I wish you had a horse to ride it would be more agreeable, & prevent your walking too much at once so as to heat yourself, & so take cold by cooling off too quick, do not sit in a draft of air, I am glad you have made the change in your study table, probably it would have prevented this attack had you used it from the beginning, do not kill yourself, you may as well die without learning than to kill yourself at it, a horizontal position would be good for you, for instance when you have reading to perform, lie down at it, When I wrote you last I was uneasy about your sister M., I have heard since she says she is almost well, but still I feel anxious, Mrs Leafon & Mrs Bell were here this morning, the former told me her daughter had written to her that my Mary had had a cold & cough for some time from which I am fearful there is more than

Mary admits to ^{be} the matter, between you both
it makes me quite unhappy, ~~then~~ Last of
your Journal came yesterday afternoon (Thursday)
it rather encourages me to hope you are improv-
ing, observe closely the Dr's directions, do not
neglect the use of the liniment, because it may
be troublesome to you, there is virtue in
such things, it is much better than to
swallow drugs,

I commend you for separation
from those profane fellows, they could not
do you any good, & might do a great deal
of harm, it destroys & blunts the nice sense
& delicacy of refinement, the morality & the
great sin committed against our Creator &
Preserver, to permit ourselves to listen to such
conversation, I would recommend you to
withdraw from all such,

It is strange that you do not hear oftener
from home I write every week, & that I
thought was as often as would be profit-
able, there is not much transpiring in the
course of a week to say much about,
As to my writing a Journal, it is almost out of
the question, for one thing, each day is pretty the same,
to keep Ell & Lily, ~~at~~ their books, in a small way
& my domestic concerns, occupy principally my
attention. Ellen has ^{more} no idea of confining or apply-

-ing herself to study than a Wottentot, I lament the day that ever Dr Marshall came here, it is the ruin of E.H. & disturbs me so at times, that I am unfit for any thing. Dr Jenkins can't do a thing with her unless I sit in the room, so I am compelled to keep her with me, Your Father is so much engrossed in business he does not seem to think, how time is rolling on past recall, it is a horrible life to live if he at Bedford, I here you & Mary another place, & that we may strive to meet & be happy in that place where there will be no more partings or separations.

The Journal of Health might be very advantageous to you, & if you will read it & wish it I will direct it to be sent to you,

Ellen rec'd a letter from you this afternoon, you seem to think you are getting better, but complain of fatigue, I am afraid you take too long a walk, at one time, & the walk to Boston on Sunday, is not right, that is a day of rest, & it would be more beneficial to you to regard as such, both mentally & physically to disregard the sabbath is a most provoking sin in the eye of the King of Kings & Lord of Lords, & will be marked by his sore displeasure, & my dear son let me beg of you to "remember the sabbath, to keep it holy?" Let the time be spent in the study of the divine law, you will never

regret it, avoid all associations & associates
on that day that do not reverence it,

It is very pleasing to hear you have a friend
in Dr Sparks. one so capable to advise & encourage
you on in the pursuit of a correct course of
conduct, & literary attainments. Present my kind
regards to Dr & Mrs Sparks, I shall ever remem-
ber their kindness to my dear children,

Now my dear son I bid you good bye, God bless you
Your ever affectionate Mother
E. Duncan

P. S. cousins & sisters send much
love to you.

The servants talk about & enquire for you. Very
affec^t & desire to be respectfully remembered to
master Henry.

Young Ladies Institute

May 12th 1855

Dearest Brother

I received your letter on Thursday & am very sorry you have been sick, you did not say what was the matter with you. Have you a cold & a cough? I hope you are entirely well now. ^{you must} I have ~~take care of yourself~~ had had a bad cold & a cough. They called me out of school one day to see a Homiopathia Dr. without ~~over~~ consulting my wishes. Did you ever hear the like? I like the pens you sent me very much, I am writing with the one that makes the fine mark, it is made by the same make that we use in school. They are excellent pens. I am much obliged to you for

the handsome string you
sent me, but I have not
worn it yet, I will keep it
for grand occasions. did you
receive the money I sent you in
my letter? I never said any
thing about several things in your
letters because I did not know
you wanted me to; but I will
in future, I am sorry you are
not coming to see me in June. I
hope you will be able. I am
much obliged to you for correcting
our French mottoes, I did not
put them down it was Mary
Breed. Mr. Richard told her what
it was, & I suppose she forgot & put
it wrong. you did not tell
me how the y Gardners spelt their
names some spell Gardner different
there are two Miss Gardners here.
at school. I have not written
to Mrs. Sparks of Lannie yet, &

I have not much more time to
write, O! Dear me! (Esor!)

I will write next week any
how I have a very good reason
for not writing today.

Mrs Richard took all of us who
wished to go, to south Mountain
we left here started a quarter of
nine & reached home half past twelve.

It is the school girls cry, the bell
has rung, & I must finish my
letter after study hour. Good Bye

I have just come to finish
my letter & the retiring bell
has rung, & I cannot write as
much as I want. I have been
helping Mr Richard to correct
the French compositions &
have just come to my room.

I must stop the mail is
being taken up. General
sends her love to you,
my love to Mr & Mrs Clark

tell her the reason I have
not written love to Fannie
& Phebe. I received a letter
from Father this ~~morning~~
to one from Dr Perkins
yesterday & one from Mother
the a few days ago, all were
well & give my love to
to Kate when you write.
Good Night in haste,

Dearest Brother
with a Sisters
love

Lexington May 17th 1852

My Dear Son

Your letter of the 5th inst - I received last evening upon my return from Bedford, your letter of the 2nd where I had gone on yesterday morning expecting to spend the balance of the week - But late in the evening I received a letter from home by messenger - Infor-
-ming of the arrival of Mrs Flint her Ancestral Mrs Givens (late Mary Farley) and her husband & Mrs Georgeanna Taylor of Harrodsburg another Cousin - with a message to send up (from your mother) some provisions in the way of some beef pigs &c - I ordered up a supply of both & started for the depot at Coopers Station & reached home about 8 o'clock - finding all well - Mr Givens is quite a gentle clever man

You ask my opinion of your entering the Sophomore Class - or the Freshman, upon this subject I think as I unalways have that if you enter the Freshman Class you will have a much easier time & not be so hard pressed - You will enter rather advanced & of course - with much more ease to your-
self sustain a higher standing - which you should

be ambitious to maintain - Have more time
for reading - without being hard pressed as you
would be in the Sophomore Class - which would
require close and hard attention & close ap-
plication to keep up with your class - If there-
fore your own pleasure & comfort - your easy
progress - and standing in the class - your su-
perior scholarship at the close of the term
are considerations worthy of serious reflec-
tion - ^{you should not hesitate} - add to this the fact that you are not
pressed for time - and one year longer is
a matter of no consequence but rather
benefit - as I have no doubt it will result
in your superior scholarship - with much
higher standing in your class - Because ~~you~~
you make an even & fair start with them
My advice then is - that you should prefer
to ~~prefer~~ enter the Freshman class - first
prepare yourself thoroughly for it - If even
you should continue to study during vacation
as you propose - it would still advance you
more and enable you to make a more
thorough preparation in those branches
in which you feel a deficiency - If you
feel any ambition for scholastic honors &
distinction - this is the course - which pro-
ves most successful - One year more on top
is a matter to you of no importance and

certainly very trivial - when compared with the superior advantages of the course we commend - I feel every confidence that the advice of your friends Dr Sparks Mr Seaver Dr Walker & Mr Chase is correct - Then I advise you not to relax in the least in your efforts for the most thorough preparation. I hope you feel a proper pride & ambition for distinction - to omit no proper effort on your part - to go through with credit and entire success.

It may be that I send my cattle to New York for sale instead of disposing of them here. If I do I shall go on about the time they get them - If I do I will advise you & come on & spend a day or two - I have near 200 fine beans now nearly ready - which will weigh from 8 to 900 lbs each - which at the tempting price of 15¢ now given in N Y will produce a handsome sum - I shall feed next winter from 4 to 500 head for which I am now making my preparations - having put in at Bedford 458 acres of corn besides small grain &c.

I wrote you a letter - which you have not yet acknowledged - in relation to your board^{ing} house difficulties &c of which I am anxious to hear particulars - All yours in much love
H. T. Duran

Juvenile Penitentiary

May 19th 1885-

Dearest Brother

I received your welcome letter on Tuesday evening. I am very sorry you are not well yet.

I wish you would come to see me & perhaps you would get ^{well} better.

I have had a headache ~~for~~ every day for two weeks, I was in bed Tuesday Wednesday & half of Monday. It aches quite badly today. I am much obliged to Mrs Sparks for telling you about that Doctor.

I do not think I need a Dr now, my cold is not entirely well yet.

We are going to one of the mountains again today. I wish you & Hannie were

here to go with us. I think
my head will be better after
going to the mountain.

School will be out in
twelve weeks. Mary Lafor
expects her Mother ^{Widow} sister
soon. Mrs Lafor was out
with Mrs Bell to see Mother
a few days ago. she is
to leave home on Monday ^{almost}

Mary Lafor acts very strangely
she knows she has done wrong
& now she is making it
worse by acting as she does,
she has not been into my
room since the first part
of the term. I have been
in to see her several times
& the last time she ^{treated me} so impolitely
I shall not go in soon.

she always looked ~~as if~~ as if she
felt she had been doing
~~something~~ wrong. I think

she tried to influence Mary
Reed against me, for
once I ^{over}heard her say something
it was not much & she said
then, but if she would say
what she did then, she would
say worse. Mary Reed
treated me differently for
a while but now she is
the same as ever.

~~I have not written~~
~~to you for one week~~
I have had but one letter
from you this week. I
am afraid you are sick.

~~Have~~ you
must take care of yourself.
I wish I was with you my
dear Brother, to make you take
care of yourself.

~~Am~~ you must excuse
this letter, I have written in
such a hurry, & have scratched

out so much, that I am
afraid it will be more toil
than pleasure, to make it out.
I wish I had time to copy it.
I received a letter from Mother on
Wednesday, all were well.

Yours well Dearest Brother
with a devoted
Sisters Love,

P.S. Remember me to Mr & Mrs
Gask & Jan & Annie & Phebe
Mr & Mrs Horsford.

P.S. I will send
the other dollars soon.

Lexington May, 20th 1852-

My Dear Son

Yours of the 15th inst is at hand - After speaking of the 4 at your table - you speak of 3 of them as having commenced talking about you to their friend now my son I desire to know what they said - was this talking about you before or after you left the table and changed boarding? Was it any thing derogatory to your character and honor? You say ^{they} looked quite disgruntled & you observing this declined to continue any acquaintance with them - Was it after this change in your disposition - that they talked of you? What did they say of you - My fear has been that the real secret was such - that you probably should have gone further & held them personally responsible that is if you were clearly right - but they offered you personal insult - Was this the case? I desire you to treat others justly & respectfully but never permit yourself to be insulted without promptly resenting it - Forbearance is a virtue, but it may be carried too far, never act so as to produce the impression that you are deficient in proper firmness & personal courage. If you should it will encourage every puppy to mistreat you - as unpleasant as it certainly is to have a personal difficulty - yet it may be

absolutely necessary in defence of your personal honor and character for firmness and proper defence of your general character, never take an insult - If from a respectable quarter without promptly resenting it - much of your comfort through College life depends upon the fact that you are a man of honor & courage and will not submit with impunity to be mistreated & insulted - Another matter you cannot be too guarded in - that is in the formation of intimacies - Do not believe in the professions of every fellow - ^{who} seeks to cultivate an intimacy - you cannot be too cautious & wary - I fear this Weisinger is a scamp - He is a Kentuckian and acting in such a manner - I expect he should have been thrashed - ~~He~~ I fear you have not checked him in time - Write me any way fully & freely - If I could have possibly left home I should have come on upon hearing of the difficulty - All I can say to you in such matters - is to act with prudence perfect coolness & inflexible resolution - This letter you should show to no one of your friends

Courage & firmness are as necessary to form the character of a man as virtue & chastity in a woman - Avoid difficulty - that is give no cause of offence to others - But if mistreated

personally and transpired upon - appeal it with
promptness & resolution -

It is near Church time & I must close
this hasty letter - All well & join in much
love to you - Let me hear from you early
& fully - Conceal nothing - I feel much anxiety
that you sustain your fair reputation - and
to know that you have acted with proper
prudence and becoming firmness - and
that you have not lost any position in
the affair

Your devoted Father

H I Duncan

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper, possibly a letter or document. The text is mirrored across the page, suggesting it may be a scan of a document with bleed-through or a double-sided page.]

Say May 21st 1852-

My Dear Son

In my letter to you of yesterday - I expressed my earnest anxiety to have more the particulars of the Boarding house affair - That I might better judge of your position in it & I made particular enquiry - whether any personal insult had been offered you by any of the parties - and how far you carried your resentment - with some general remarks of the importance ^{of} inflexible firmness & courage in such affairs - And always however bearing yourself with the courtesy of a gentleman - acting with perfect justice & truth - Not doubting my son that you have all these qualities - and believing that should you have been placed in a false position it arose from either error of judgement - injudicious advice or misconception of duty to yourself - persuaded that you will undays endeavour to do right - and act with proper firmness & courage when necessary - There is no greater misfortune to a young man - than to let the impression be produced that he is deficient in any of these manly qualities - It is sure to invite aggression - do not understand me that I wish you to play the bully - far from it - It is a most despicable character - and I never knew one who was not a coward in the hour of trial - never act so as to lose your own self respect & in any personal affair - be in the right - & act your part as becomes a man - all well

Your devoted Father
H. J. Duncan

What is the opinion of your friends
Harrison Melgren & Bennett in
the affair - do they think your
action was such as it should
have been

W. J. D.



Juvenile Penitentiary
Friday May 25th 1855

Dearest Brother

I received both your letters this week, one on Tuesday & the other on Wednesday, & I was so delighted to get them. I have not had any letters from home this week, I do want one so much.

How often do you hear from home? You said the "kinsfolks were swarming at home, that they came 3 a day" flies alwas swarm & come where there is plenty of fruit, that must be the attraction; I wish we had some of the fruit at home. It is summer there, & it is just beginning to look like spring here; the trees are in bloom & are very sweet, it was quite warm & pleasant yesterday & is to day; it rained very hard yesterday afternoon, after school

it ^{also} hailed a little; I have not taken off my winter clothing yet; just to think. I am wearing more ^{here} now in May, than I did at home in winter.

The trees ~~he~~ are beginning to put on their summer dress, & the country begins to look beautiful. I do hope you will, come to see me, I will be so delighted. O! I do want to see you so much. I wish we were together all the time. I think it would be better for us both. I am almost well now. I still have headache, but not so bad as I did, I hope I will be entirely free from it soon. You did not tell me how you were, you must take care of yourself, you need a Doctors ^{& a Brothers} watchful care. I do wish I could be with you. You say your character in some respects has undergone an entire change, since you left home, it is the same case with myself, but I think it is for the better.

I was so confiding, now I have learned to read character & human nature. what an amount of deceitfulness there is in this world. Last term I loved a great many girls, but there are very few (precious few) & whom I love this term, they are so deceitful & always have some end in view.

I have had the "Blews" dreadfully for two weeks. I will be so glad when you come it will cheer me up. Mrs Agnew is not at home now but will be in a few days, she was expected home yesterday, but did not come. Mrs Agnew had a letter from her, yesterday afternoon she ^{was} sick, & could not come. I want her to be here at home when you are here. I am in Mr Colman's recitation room writing, also Fannie Moore, & Annie Offutt. Fannie Moore says give my love to Henry. Annie says tell him

How-de, & says she has a bouquet
& would send it to you if she
could. You remember the
room with the cabinet in
it, that is the one we are
in. When do you enter
College? I suppose Cambridge
looks very beautiful, where
you going to board after you
leave Mrs White's? Did you
get her basket that I left
at Mrs Sparks? I have always
intended to ask you, but have
been always forgotten to, when
I was writing. Give my
love to Mr & Mrs Sparks, Fannie
& Phebe, remember me to Mr
& Mrs Hordford. I think I will
write to Fannie tomorrow.

My paper is full & tea
will be ready soon, & after tea
will be obliged to go into the Parlor.
Farewell Dearest Brother with a Sisters
Love.

Lexington May 27th 1854

My Dear Son

Upon my return home from Bedford on Friday night - I found your ever welcome letter of Just

I was pleased to find you satisfied with entering the Freshman Class - It is far better I have no doubt and will give you a far more comfortable time throughout - affording an ample leisure for ~~study~~ ^{study} and ^{an} occasional trip for recreation & pleasure and enable you to occupy a higher position in your Class and sustain a much better character for scholarship - the benefits of which you will feel throughout life - In forming this determination I hope you will feel stimulated to strive for the very highest position in your Class - which would be to me a source of the greatest happiness - To see you my Dear Son occupy a high position in Society for character & intellect - would be most gratifying to my ambition & pride - Resolve to make your name distinguished among the men of your day & generation - To see you exert an influence for good among your countrymen - would make the evening of

my life most happy - Be not discouraged
with your Greek - But resolve to master
it & even keep it up as a study throughout
your whole course - Do not be satisfied
with a mere smattering knowledge of it
or any thing else - But make yourself
a thorough master of the language, Time
is no object with you - Do not feel desirous to
enter upon the theater of life too early
Let it be at a time of life that you can
sustain yourself fully - Let your learning be
thorough and your store of knowledge ex-
tended and ample - One matter I must
impress upon you - When I saw you at
Pittsfield I was really shocked to see your
figure so crooked & stooped - Your person
and figure (when you left home) was
erect and manly - When I saw you you had
the stoop & droop of an old man - This you
must by all means correct - There is nothing
more impressive than ^{an} elegant physical man
There is much in appearance & manners, both
of which you must particularly attend to
Let your bearing be ever & always manly and
dignified - with due & proper courtesy and
affability with all - But intemperate - with the few
avoid too much familiarity - It often as the
adage runs & breeds contempt, when carried

too far - You should learn much by your recent experience - with your table associates and association you should never have been drawn into - Confidence should be of slow growth - and never bestowed except upon intimate & thorough acquaintance with the character & principles of the man - Indeed there is no necessity - for confidential intimacy with many, scarcely any one to be trusted - Keep your own secrets - you cannot be too cautious and wary

My two last letters are upon the subject of your late difficulty - which has occasioned great anxiety - to know the particulars - and to feel that you are in the right & have borne yourself throughout like a man - I shall continue anxiously to hear from you in reply to them - In your last you speak of giving 3 of them quarter & the fourth one resolved to have no intercourse - which is the man and what is his greater offence - I post me up, fully & particularly - Had I have been in the shocking distance I should have come - I was up to the shocking point, as you may have inferred from my letters - Inform me what means you will need for your trip to W^h with the Chace & square all up before you leave - I approve greatly of the plan - It will be most favorable to health & study - and I hope you will permit

nothing to interfere with your carrying
it out - If I do not sell my cattle here
I shall send them on my own account
shall go on in person - of course I shall visit
you & I think bring Mary home to spend
the vacation

Since I parted with you I have thought
much of sending Mary to ^{the} Agassiz School in
Cambridge - In which event I should prefer
to go on with your Mother and little Sisters
rent a house (a furnished house) for some
4 years and take up our quarters in Cam-
bridge - where we should have you all
together - The objections are first - The per-
sonal inconvenience to myself and an
objection to raise the girls in a commu-
nity - where there is such a crowd of
youths - unless I was always present - which
could not be - as I should have to spend at least
half my time - in attendance to my business
in N.Y. & of course separated from my family
In passing about - make enquiry of the price
of house rent - without intimating that I have
any thought of carrying out such a pro-
ject - All our well - and send you
much love - My kind regards to Mr and
Mrs Sparks

Your devoted Father

H. J. Duncan

Friday Duncannon May 28th/55

My very dear son

Your very welcome letter was
recd yesterday. also one from your sister Mary
it is perfectly delightful to hear that you
are both restored to health, am glad there
is so eminent a Physician in Pittsfield
as Dr Holmes, Dr Jenkins says he is well
known in the medical world as a distinguish-
ished man in his profession, he is also a
Poet, but he was not aware he resided in
when he (Dr J) was in N.Y. Dr H was in Bos-
ton, I hope Mary will not need a Physician
Mary will be delighted to see you. if
you do not make your visit at the time
as you purposed, you will certainly do so
a short time hence, have a talk about
how & where she would spend her vacation
if she prefers coming home, Dr & Mrs Flint
are going north in August they intend
going to Chassetta on the sea side, near
Boston, Now my dear Hal I do think you
ought to take a little recreation before
you enter College, so that your health &
strength may be firmly established, and

I am sorry you did not like your cake, did the candy
go to sugar?

excursion home or elsewhere is absolutely necessary, think about it,

Your difference with those fellows (for I can't call them any thing else) has made your father just a little thinking you ought to have given them a castigating, I think you took the wisest step, to treat them with silent contempt, which ungentlemanly & vulgar manners merit, and act likewise in such cases, remember 'Birds of a feather fly together,' one is thought of by the company he keeps, & I hope yours will always be such that no evil inference can be drawn,

Burr & Lady have returned, he told your father he sent his card to you but did not hear from you, Wilson the druggist left on Tuesday for the north he promised to hunt you up, Mrs Lafon & her daughter Alice went with him, they are going to D. I sent a small package by her for M & in it your card plate, it being forgotten when your box was sent, the charge on the box was most extortionate,

Mr Curtwright returned from Ill. on Tuesday & on Thursday they went to Bourbon they go to Missouri in three weeks, he says he thinks he will remain there for some time, if not altogether,

Their little daughter is a very pretty child
& smart, she is not quite 2 years old, & is
called Eliza Duncan for her grand mother
Last week we had a house full, Mrs Flint
Mrs Arnold, Mrs Magowan, Mrs Taylor from
Harrisburg, Dr & Mrs Givens of Danville or
near it, Mary Finley that was of Shelbyville,
They all arrived on Wednesday morning
about the same time & remained until
Friday, Mrs F & Mrs A. said they missed you
& Mary so much it is the first visit they
have made me since you left, Robert Ford
has made a visit to Charleston & N. Y. &
returned home, Mrs Scott has almost
recovered her health & is now in St Louis with
her daughter Mrs Shackelford, Mrs Ballard
has returned to Philadelphia her husband
is engaged in a commission house, in the
iron business, Mrs B went on in May with
Dr Flint he went on to the Medical con-
-vention which met in Phil-
"There is no news no excitement," you say.
The Loring case, & the examining committee
were both exciting subjects when they
were agitated, the committee have made
themselves quite ludicrous, I think the
Legislature have not had a very clear
idea of what should be done, is evident

I regret to hear of the illness of Dr Sparks family. Hope they will soon be convalescent. My kind regards to them.

there is no need of inquiry into schools & colleges as they are open to the public. From their very nature & mode of management. But their convents surrounded by high walls whose inmates are not pupils but members founded on the principle of seclusion from the world for life. The case is far otherwise, there are persons in such establishments who desire to quit soon disgust for such a mode of life & are not allowed to go, this state of things ought not to be allowed. all such institutions ought to be subject to the inspection of a competent committee to ascertain whether any persons are kept contrary to their wishes, it is a positive duty of civil government, to see that their subjects have their liberty. Their mistake was in sending one to schools also too large a one, & not discreet enough for so delicate a subject or errand.

The Catholics or Romanists are getting very bold & Protestants must maintain their stand & supremacy against Rome. I am pleased that the N. Y. legislature has taken the stand it has in relation to the church property bill.

Ell & Lily send dear brother more love than tongue can tell, Yours with a Mother's love
E. Duncan

Amherst May 29th 55

Dear Mary

Day before yesterday I received your welcome communication of the 22nd inst. I fear your declaration that I have made "quite an impression on Miss L. W." is entirely a gratuitous assumption on your part and that certain friends in Lexington do not include your humble servant. The poetry of allusion to her is evidently in your own fancy: not the creation of my brain.

I have not yet delivered Lillie's bouquet: but will do so before long. I shall send about the following message: "Miss — You are indebted for this bouquet to a request of W. L. O'Brien made of his sister Lillie that she would send one to some lady friend of his to be designated by myself. Feeling confident that he desired you to be its recipient, but too modest to declare his preference or select the subject of his floral gift I give it this direction with an assurance amounting to certainty that he will be immensely pleased with its disposition." &c &c. How will that do.

Wm. Brand is still in town; but as far as I have heard has not been figuring among

The ladies. He has given no attention to Miss Kate I believe. Horace's latest feat of snuffing that has transpired was his approaching Miss M. E. Dring and saying Miss Mary you are to be married soon: it is not worth while to deny it. Sister Betsey is very anxious to have the Louisville hoop band to play at her wedding and I have no doubt you would like to have it at yours. Now I propose that sister and yourself unite in engaging their services and you will then be able to secure them at a reduced expense. Miss Mary laughed at him and replied that when she married she would not calculate the cost of the music.

You are evidently acquiring decided horticultural tastes. Your frequent pronouncements in the "Gardener" I fear will provoke such fondness for flowers (not of ~~the~~ ^{the} soil) that you will find Greek and mathematics growing up soon in comparison. Don't you think it would be better to postpone the floral department of knowledge for a few years. If you are not on the eve of some of the enterprising girls will outstep you. Apropos of this, are your young friends related to Geo. Gardner. By his firmness and devotion to his whole countryman-ifested by his resisting the larval fanaticism

of the legislature he has acquired a nation-
reputation and particularly endeared
himself to the South. I fear that the course
of the know-nothing party of Mass through its
legislature has given the party South a death
blow. Virginia I have no doubt has been
lost to it by the course of Mass. Its efforts
in Ky I am afraid will be surely felt too.
Your speculations in reference to my condition
4 years hence as an Illinois farmer I hope
you will find fully realized particularly in
relation to the happy companionship of a
beautiful and amiable yf. I am not so de-
sires of the pledges of a pure and true affec-
tion. One or two will fully satisfy me on that
head. Why do you regret that you did not go
to Europe last winter? I think you will derive
infinitely more satisfaction and profit from
abroad when you have completed your collegiate
course than at present. You will have
more time to spend abroad - more ample
opportunities of extensive travel - be better
prepared to observe to advantage - and more
facilities for observation. Every argument it
seems to me favors a postponement.
You have been devoting your time so assiduously
and energetically to study in study and
preparation for entering college since you

have been in Cambridge that you ought
to take at least two months recreation
to recruit both mind and body before
entering college. Twenty months contin-
uous and hard study is too great a tax
both mentally and physically to subject
yourself to without injury. As you in-
tend to enter the 1st class there is no
reason or necessity for your continued
application up to the period of your
entry. As you intend to go into the country
(mountainous I hope) I would advise
you to engage to a considerable extent
in field sports. hunting or fishing or
any thing pleasant that may offer - make
this your study or business and study
your recreation.

The country continues to look beautiful - the
crops encouraging. We are in the midst
of strawberries and cherries are ripening
fast. They are very abundant
all are well and send their love
to you - no news yours affectionately

W. D. Jenkins

To W. D. Jenkins
Cambridge Mass

Lex May 29th 1852

My Dear Son

Yours of the 24th ult is recd - which I
hasten to reply to & express my relief & gratification
upon its receipt - with the clear & satisfactory
detail of the occurrence - which had given me
some apprehension & uneasiness - Your conduct my
Son throughout I entirely approve - you have borne
yourself with patience judgement & proper de-
cision - With the relation you bore to the busi-
ness - being the negotiator for the table with the
Old Lady - the conditions of good behavior she
imposed - your guarantee & voluntary responsi-
bility, that they would act according to the
agreed stipulation - Their violation of the agree-
ment - your previous admonitions & finally the
descent of the Old Lady upon the room - all I
think imposed upon you as an act of self
respect - the immediate abandonment of the
party - whose bearing was that of Blackguards
rather than decent well behaved & well educa-
ted gentlemen - but your refusal to make expla-
nations to them ~~you~~ talked who mentioned the
subject to you was right - For if any party had
cause of offence it was yourself - at the gross
violation of the agreement or conditions upon
which

you had procured the table - which conditions they had accepted and as grossly violated you and not they were the aggrieved party and you treated it in the best way - It should have been treated, by at once - without ifs or ands or explanation abandoned the association.

I understand you have sent your pistol here for sale - This you should not have done unless you wished to do so and have kept it for your amusement until you recd your rifle - which I will send you by first opportunity - The express charged you ^{for your box} \$1.50 more than their agent agreed to take it for - They owe me 4¢ for the lost saddle of Mutton - sent Mr Silsbee - get of Mr Silsbee if he has not lost it - his bill of Lading showing the fact - and collect it on request Mr S to do so. If ~~he has not lost it~~ it is not giving him too much trouble. The Scamps should not be permitted thus to pocket it - I shall have your rifle put in fine order by Milsover and send you soon - And I wish you to practice target shooting - It will be exercise for you & I wish you to be perfect Master of the weapon.

I shall go to Bedford in the morning for the balance of the week - Lewis Castleman who wishes to buy my cattle goes with me to look at them - If he pays me 10¢ cash for Hundred I may sell - In which event I shall not go East.

The Observer & Reporter will give you all
the current news - The Doctor the gossip &c
By the by the Dr - was telling me a little
about your friend Horace - who called
upon young Monro for some alleged
quittance - that he had been talking about
him &c &c young Monro made the usual
honorable - proper explanations - which were
satisfactory & Horace picking up a little
more courage at that state of the case
could not forbear - remarking that it was
well he had made a satisfactory apology
or explanation - That if he had not he should
have thrashed him - At this Monro replied
promptly - I may say Sir all I have said - I take
it back - I intended to insult you - all of
which Horace pocketed & there it ended
How evanescent & dastardly

I have purchased about 300 Cattle for
next winters feeding - & shall add 100 more in
- tending to purchase 400 head for the N Y
market for June 5th - So you see I am
doubling my business & pressing it forward
with all energy - I hope to make over 1000
rods of ^{stone} fence this season - over 3 miles - I
shall have Bedford the Model farm in a
few years - All well & send you much
Love -
Your devoted Father

H T Duncanson

Duncannon Monday

June 4th 1855

My dearly beloved Brother. Your kind letter was received this noon for which I thank you with all my heart, it gives us so much pleasure to hear from you, I am glad you are well & going to see sis Mary she will be so delighted to have make her a visit, & I know my dear Brother will be so too, I would be so happy to see you & sis M & hope father will not disappoint us all in making you a visit this summer, if he does I shall say that's certain, Father started to Paris this morning at 5 O'clock, before I was up or even awake, It is cool weather here we have fire every morning, still every thing grows we have the greatest quantity of cherries the birds do not trouble so much

as they used to, it is thought to be
due ^{owing} to the locust that are so
abundant at this time & affords them
food instead of the cherries, it is
curious to see the holes in the ground
where they come out even in the hard
walks, I gathered a quart of their
shells after they had flew for you
you told me to get all the dry bugs
I could find & keep them for you
but mother said you did not want
so many of one sort, & threw them
away, ^{for} there are oceans of flowers
pinks & roses of all sorts & every
thing sweet, I do wish you could
have some for a flower pot in your
room, you must be careful in
gathering the wild ones they are
sometimes poisonous, but I sup-
pose you are botanist enough to
select such as are innocent, Now
I must tell you about the request

you made of me to send a young
lady a bouquet, & why I have not
done it, I gathered a nice bunch of
roses (not common ones either) & requested
Corry to take them, he said they
were not pretty I must get John to
make a handsome bouquet, & he
would take it, I was so disappointed
after gathering what I thought a nice
one to hear it called not so made
me cry & I have not had courage to
get another, but to please my dear
brother I suppose I must have one
made & sent, Mrs Henry Hall
is here & teaching us music I
like it very much, she gives
sister Ellen lessons in arithmetic
cousin Fanny as we call her
is a very nice lady & we love
her very much, She & Dr F are
all we have with us at present, I do
wish you & sis M could be here

with us, it seems such a long
long time since you went away
but I hope to see you before a great
while, dear brother I did think
that I should be able to write to
you with my own hand by this
time, but it is so hard & I get
discouraged if I can't do it at
once, but I will keep trying, I
will learn after awhile, going
up hill is not very easy work
at least to me, You must tell us
all about sister Mary, if she looks
like an invalid, or needed a
Dr. also tell us about Mary &
how she likes the north, her
health & if she remains an
other term, I have said all
that I can at this time, so good
bye my dear good brother, Mother
Ellen & Lily send you an unfat-
athomable amount of love, Your
ever affectionate sister L.D.

Pittsfield

June 9th/55

My Dearest Brother

I have just come from riding. we left here at two & now it is there, we have been back about ten minutes. O! it is delightful

After I had written the few lines above, I went ^{to ride} on the second load, & I enjoyed it more than any rides I have ever taken in Pittsfield, our ^{sleigh} ride to the Mountain being excepted, we rode past Dr Oliver Holmes house it is on a beautiful situation, but I do not like the house, then we rode to Lake Ontario, the next in size to Pontonac, it is a beautiful sheet of water, there was a little

boat tied to the shore. A Mr
Ellen or Allen, ^{from N.Y.} I expect his name
is, ^{the} Irishman said it was
Ellen, but I never heard of such
a surname ^{as Ellen}. Well, I was going to say
he is building a very handsome
residence upon a kind of Mountain
he has quite a large tract of
land to be enclosed around the
house ^{& they are making}, a large carriage way,
it will be a lovely spot, when
completted improved. Mrs Lefan
Gen. Cass ⁱⁿ did not go, the
first time load, but she did in
the last & was delighted. she
sends her love to you & told me
to tell you she wrote ten pages
to Father this morning, & she
says she expects he will not
speak to her again for inflicting
such a punishment upon
him. Mrs Lefan came
up here last night, & I saw

her. Alice is a quater of an inch
taller than Mary Lefan, Mrs
Lefan brought me that package
she lost her trunk, & did not
find it for several days so
I did not get receive my
package for two or three days.
your card plate was in it
that was all that was for
you. I will send it to you
if you want it now.
You must excuse the
above, for I wrote it
without a light, & could
not see a line. I have not
had time to write to Mrs
^{Sparks} to day. I will write next
week & get permission to
send it. Give my to Mr &
Mrs Sparks. Did you tell
Minor Milliken about
General Cass? ^{& what did he say}, did you tell
him to come here on
the fourth of July if he could?

Grudy Cross received a letter
from her Brother William
to night. You remember
I told you that Eva had twelve
bad Marks. well, Mr. & Prof
reprimanded her publicly in
Chapel, & said if she ever
had as many again she
would be expelled. Ev
was hot. I wish the
weather had been as
beautiful when you were
here, as it is now.

How are you getting
along now? I received two
letters in my package one
from Father & one from
Mother. Mother says she
thinks of getting Mrs Hall
to teach Ellen & Lily.

Good bye my dear
Brother. with ~~your~~ love
of your Sister Mary D.

Lexington June 11th 1855-

My Dear Son

I duly recd your two letters from
Pittsfield - I am glad you visited your Sister
For I do not doubt she was much annoyed by
the changed relations - between herself Lapon &
Reed & needed advice - the conduct of the latter
has surprised me not a little - But I attri-
bute it to the tales of the first - Many unfor-
tunately confided to her - the affair with Mat-
tie - which she should never have done - This
confidence she has betrayed - which she could
easily magnify - and as she is unscrupulous
has done it - I do not doubt - and Reed has thus
become her duppe & when it answers her purpose
she will make an open breach between Henry
& Mattie - But let it all be - it will teach her
a useful lesson - and make her through life
more cautious of bestowing her confidence
When I go to Pittsfield I will unravel the affair
I have written to Henry a long letter of ad-
vice & urged upon him a prudent course and
urged her to discontinue her visits - to Lapon's
room as they are not returned & leave herself
with the independence and as becomes a Lady
and if they treat her disrespectfully to cut
them all together - She now has a little
fame last

of the utter falsehood and insincerity of this world - and that things are not always to be judged of by appearances - She must expect to meet much counterfeit coin -

When you were at Pittsfield I hope you called upon both Luford & Reed - McKean & Co. If so what was their bearing?

My Cattle are not yet in as complete order as I had hoped for - But soon will be when I shall start them for N.Y. and follow on myself - I suppose within 15 or 20 days the first lot of 100 will be off.

I have been much occupied at Bedford this season ~~with~~ the improvements - Building stone fencing - enlarging pastures - pulling fencing & rebuilding - I hope to ^{have} the place in splendid fix in another year - I spend about $\frac{1}{3}$ of my own time there.

I wrote you in relation to the price of house rent at Cambridge - that is furnished establishments - It may be better for the children that I adopt this plan - It is of some personal inconvenience to me - As I should have to be separated from them $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ the year.

I shall make you a remittance in due time before you go to N.Y. with Chase on arrangement I like very much - You feel

I hope every confidence that you will enter
with ease & credit - I hope upon your
return to Cambridge

I am not satisfied with your Sisters re-
maining at Pittsfield another term - I think
of the arrangement, ^{at} Cambridge ^{or} at New-
bury - with Miss Edwards - as the change - I
am rather disgusted with Agnew & dissatis-
fied with those girls or some of them with
whom she has been thrown into association
with

In your diary to your Mother, your ac-
count of your attendance at the Prager mee-
ting of the Society of young Students is most
interesting indeed - Cultivate my son the highest
moral & religious principles - It will bear
you triumphantly through life - Genl Wash-
ington - owed more to his exalted moral &
religious principles - his pure integrity
his great love of truth & perfect justice
for his great influence & moral position
by far than to exalted talents - To all these
high attributes he added great personal
firmness - Take him all in all he is one
of the best models of history

All are well & send you much

love

Yr Devoted Father

A. J. Duncan

[The text on this page is extremely faint and illegible, appearing as light grey smudges and ghosting of handwriting. It seems to be a continuation of a letter or document.]

Lex June 11th 1853-

My Dear Son

Enclosed I send you
a check upon Bank of
America for \$200 which I
have endorsed payable to your
order - This understood is the
sum you would need

The pistol you sent Gyiser
has not been sold & upon
seeing it - I determined to
keep it for you - There was
no necessity for your selling
it - It is a splendid pistol

I shall write you on
tomorrow again more
fully - fearing that I might
not be in time for the mail

Your devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is mirrored across the lines.]

Young Ladies Institute
June 18th /66-

My Dear Brother

I received your letter day
before yesterday, & one from Father
yesterday. Father will be on very
soon; he says I am going to the sea
shore with cousin Hannie & hint;
I hope we will be together in
vacation; it will soon be here --
ten weeks more. Mary Castleman
is not coming back next term, her
throat has been very sore ever since
she came here; it is not like
summer weather yet. & seemed
as if it will never be. we had
fires two days ago - & they do not
give us fires unless it is very cold -
so you will know it was very
cold. the ground seemed frozen.
It is very pleasant to day.

You said you received my "little letter".
the paper was small size, but I think
I crammed ^{on} it pretty full. and you know
I ~~had~~ wrote in a great hurry, & part of the
time in the dark. Now don't you
think I wrote as much as you?

You say we "think to much about
Willikin" to attend to our books"; you
judge us by yourself; you think we
think as much about him as you
do ^{about} I do not think of him
unless I hear something about him.
if he was as little thought of by
others as by me, his name and
himself would be lost in oblivion.

I only wanted to know what he
thought of M. L. as I knew you
would give ^{him} a glowing description
of her, and make him think
her the pink of perfection.

No indeed; we have something
else to think about, besides Willikin.

I neither wrote to Mrs Sparks

or Fannie last Saturday, I
could not resist the temptation to side,
as it is only every other week, ^{tho we can} (I not
always then), that we get to take
such a delightful side. Miss Lotie
came in a few moments ago
and brought me as I supposed a
letter. it was mailed at Paris,
upon opening it, I found an
invitation to Amelia Gimberlake's
wedding, she is to be married ^{at St. Peter's} on
^{church one of July} The 21st Sunday, ^{evening 6 o'clock} to Rev D. A.
Merrick. But I suppose you have
received an invitation. Now all
will be married except cousin
Maria and Dick, I believe. I wish
some wealthy gentleman would
marry cousin Maria. wouldn't
she "cut a dash" — "dash?"

Indeed I have quite an idea
of bundling up & jumping aboard
the Telegraph & going to the wedding.
what do you think of it?

I am going to write to Emma to-
day. I wish I could see her...

Mrs Lafon had been very kind & polite
she seemed very glad to see me and
invited me to come often to see her. she
told Mary to bring me over one evening
but I had a headache & did not feel
well, so I did not go. I will go to
see her soon, perhaps tomorrow.

Miss Waters has the Mumps,
but she is better to day.

The Mountains look so
beautiful to day, I can scarcely
keep from looking at them. I went

to the Concert the Tuesday after you
left. I forgot to tell you about it in
my last letter. ^{the music} it was very good &

I enjoyed it very much. Have
you received a letter from —

lately. Mary Lafon has a ham
& other things she told me to come

in & see her, that she had them &
that I must come & get some, like
she thought I was going in after she

she had things
told me
had

she sends her love
to you
I am going to write to Emma to-
day. I wish I could see her...

Lexington

June 17th

1855

I do hope my dear
friend - you have not erased
my name from the list of
your friends - if you have
please let me know what
I can do to regain your favor.
Did you think I intended
never to write to you again
to y or probably you did not
allow one thought to be wasted
on it? Your letter has been

lying unanswered for so
long a time - that really - I
fear to write to you again - but
my conscience has been hurting
me - for not having written
sooner - and I believe this is
the only ^{letter} which I have suf-
fered to remain unanswered
for so long a time that you
have ever written - I think
I have never allowed more
than a week to pass without
answering you - you will par-
don me more readily it
being my first offence won't
you? Then when you hear my
good reason for the omission
I know you will pardon me

June 17 = 1855?

week - and I promise you
the best one shall be yours.
My brother has just returned
from Santa Fe - which
he has made his home for
the past two years - and will
return in a month.

So you
have turned Yankee at
"guessing" - I see you have
adopted some of their pecu-
liar expressions - but it can
not be expected - that a
person as intimately asso-
ciated with them as you
have necessarily - and for so
great a length of time as

you have - would not use -
some of their Gankerism's -
some of them very expressive.
I hope Miss Lucy Webb is a
great friend of mine - she is
one on whom you can rely -
she is one of the truest girls
I have ever met - she is a
noble woman. She goes to
Missouri in the Fall - her
Father has already bought a
farm there. She will be up
this week to a party - given
by Ellen Warfield to Mrs
Burr. Would you believe it -
Lexington has quite revived -
they have been very gay here

- six parties in three weeks.
Another one of the girls have
deserted us - Miss Polly Morgan
married to a cousin of her's
Mr Calvin McClung, of St Louis.
Your friend Miss Emma McLean
will spend her vacation here
this summer - will not that
be inducement enough for
you to come too? Miss Louisa
Sutton will be married in the
Fall - are you not surprised?
Your Father I met this morn-
ing - he seems perfectly
well -

Will you not write
to me very soon - and con-

vince me in this way - of the
continuance of your kind feel-
ings to me - if you are not satis-
fied with my excuse - Tell me
what reparation I can make
Give my love to your sister
and will you have the
kindest wishes of

Your best friend
Kate

[Morrison]

May I not feel already as-
sured of your forgiveness?
I have been very sick - almost
ever since you wrote me - and
let me assure you now - that
nothing but sickness - would
prevent my writing to you.
During my sickness - I felt
a little reproachfully - towards
you for being so extremely
ceremonious with me - I had
hoped you knew and liked
me well enough to waive
all ceremony with me - per-
haps I have flattered myself too
much - been too vain in think-
ing you liked me so well.
And have you thought

me a great promise-breaker.
I expect you will place lit-
erance on my word hereafter
but let me explain why I ha-
not sent you the daguerre.
I could not get a satisfactory
one. I went down and had
six taken - neither of which
at all pleased the family -
and thinking you would ra-
ther have more than an in-
different one - I determined to
wait - until the artist or his
instrument - whichever was a
fault - would prove more suc-
cessful - I intend having one
taken for my brother Edwin
who is now with us. This



Lexington June 17th 1855

My Dear Son

I wrote you a line on yesterday & enclosed you a check for \$200 - and upon thinking the matter over - I am apprehensive that I failed to endorse it - payable to your order - If this is the fact I fear you may not be able to use it - without either returning it for my endorsement - or endorsing it yourself as my atty or agent, for which purpose I appended my letter of atty authorizing you to endorse it for me and in my name - If you ascertain that this will answer - you had better make the endorsement direct to the Bank Cashier or Banker to whom you may make the sale - I shall write to Mr Pennell - who I know very well - He is the Cashier of the Bank of America N.Y. - and explain the inadvertence to him - which with my power of atty and authorizing you to sign it for me, will enable you to cash it

All well, I will write you again in a day or two - prospects of crops very good

Your Devoted Father
H T Duncan



Duncannon June 21st 1855

My very dear Son

One of my greatest pleasures is to hear from my dear absent children & to know that they are well & doing well, your reduction in flesh filled me with apprehensions about your health, but Mr & Mrs Wilson tell me you look in perfect health, your excursion to the mountains will I hope invigorate and enable you to go on in the prosecution of your studies. Should you at any time perceive the least indication towards ill health attend to it. For without health life is a weariness, there is the health of the soul which is of infinitely greater moment. The collegiate life a student is one of great hazard both in morals & religion, I early taught you the Westminster Catechism, the principles of moral & religious truth contained in it, enlarge, sustain, & illuminate the mind for all time, I recommend an occasional review, it will I trust be a pleasant & profitable employment. You have not forgotten the book which contains it.

I regret that the weather was so unpleasant during your visit to Pittsfield, but altogether it seems to have been an agreeable one. Mary writes in an ecstasy of joy that you had been to see her, she thinks that she could not remain there if you were not so near her, I regret Mary C. will not remain another term, there is not another in the Institute that I would select for a room mate, they are an ordinary set, the conduct of Miss Lafon is no more than I would expect after what Mary told me in March, what I said to Mary then I say still treat her politely, but stop there, any one that could be influenced by La. to treat Mr. Amis, should be served in the same manner, it will be a lesson to Mary, not to trust too much, but find out the character first, opinions previously entertained respecting this matter, have been greatly strengthened, have in fact been fully confirmed by the experience of the last few months. The thought of you & Mary being so many years away from home

is almost unendurable, ^{the} idea of your father going north to live is next to impossible, the advertising for a house is useless, he did not tell me the project until your letter came yesterday saying something of the matter, his business is such as to make that change rather difficult. In regard to your father going to Illinois is one of those uncertain things, if he does not go very soon it will runnig considerable risk of taking 'chills & fever', or bilious fever. It is really so pleasant at home, that the thought of making a pilgrimage through a summers heat & dust seems out of the question, but then the thought of meeting our dear children will overcome all difficulty, altho' your father says he will not. I guess we will if life & health permits.

Your father rec'd your letter, R-R glasses & catalogue all of which pleased him very much, he went to Bedford this morning at 5 o'clock.

Miss Amelia A. Timberlake is to be married on next sunday at the Episcopal church ^{Paris} to the

Minister stationed there, Mr Merrick, your M^r
& Dr J. are going down on the occasion.
Lily is beginning to write words, her word
this morning was "manner" she is pleased
with it but still makes slow progress.
The other day she asked me, "Mother is Father
going to see Brother Henry & sister Mary?" I said
to her no for a moment there was silence &
she could hold no longer broke out in a
distressing cry, I could scarcely quiet her.
she cried herself to sleep, entirely exhausted.
Dr J. was in the Library came up stairs &
asked, What was the matter with Lily?
I think if her father was to hear her he
could not have it in his heart to say no.
Ellen & Lily send you a most affectionate
sisters love - also a large portion from your
ever affect Mother E. D.

P.S It is very gratifying to hear that you are
improving yourself in Penmanship.
You requested to tell anyone going to Cambridge
or Boston how to address you, I supposed all your
acquaintance knew your address.

Pittsfield

June 22nd /55-

My Dearest Brother

I received your letter on Thursday evening; it was a great source of pleasure for me to hear from you. I wrote to Hannie Gardiner to day; I hope she will get it before she leaves Cambridge - the same evening I received your letter - I received one from Mrs Cassius May - it was nothing but questions - she wanted to know the faults of the school - I answered all her enquiries and think she will ~~be~~ be pleased with the school - Mrs Agnew came home this afternoon - she is very sorry she was not at home when you

were here. Mary L. — and I
went to call on Dr. Humphrey's
family this afternoon — Miss Sarah
was not at home; she left ~~home~~
yesterday morning to visit her sister
who is sick — Annie Offutt
sends her kind regards to you, she
told me to tell you she had your
daguerreotype in her room.

Whick Breckenridge is it that
xxx has taken a fancy to?

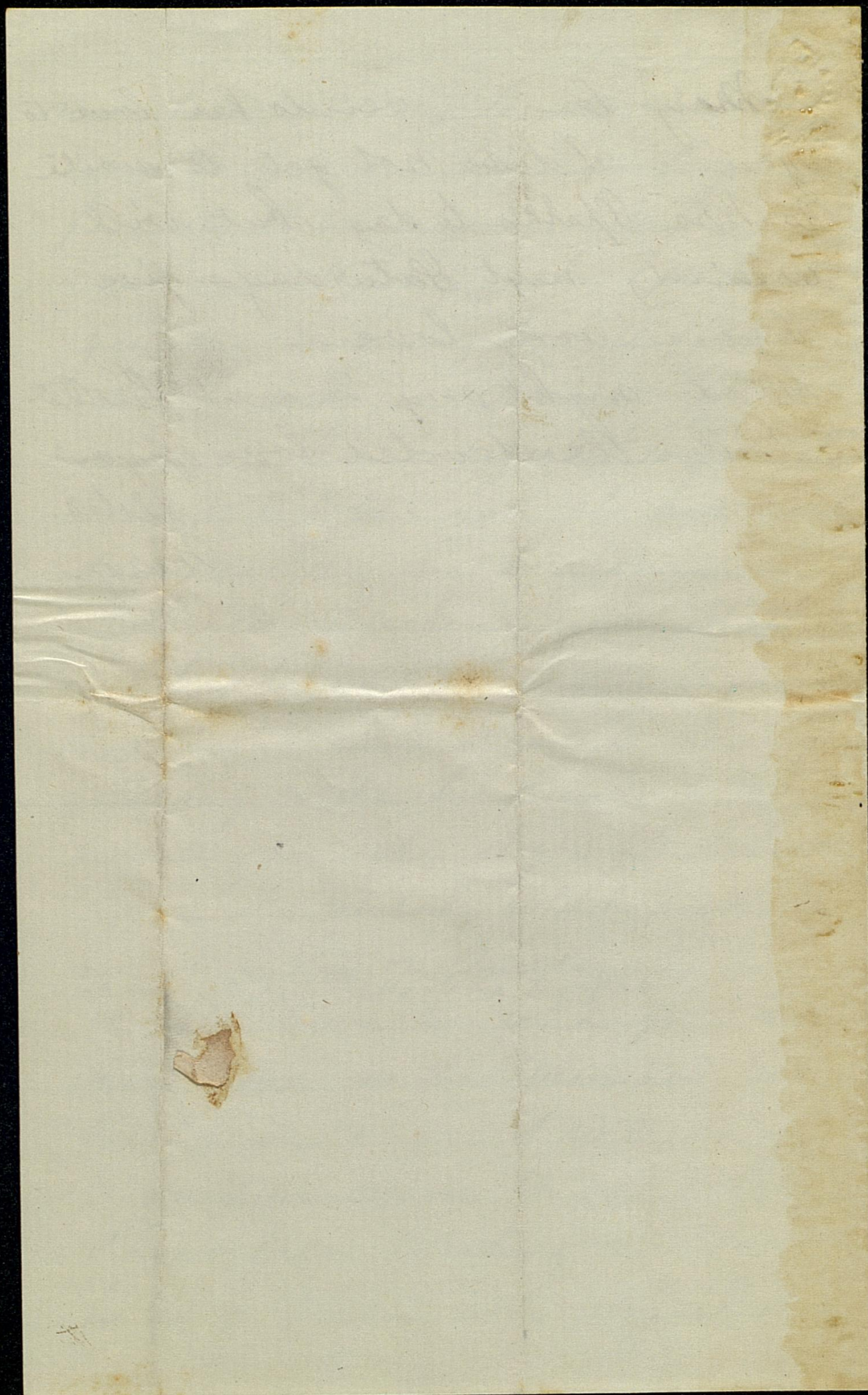
Guss Waters went to Lenox
yesterday with her friends who were
visiting her; she is going to Lebanon
before she returns, which will be
on Monday or Tuesday.

so Mary & I are left alone together

I will have to send you this
short letter as the Monitor has
been around and I will have
to get permission to send this —
I have been writing until I
have a pain in my chest —

Mary C. sends her love to
you -- I did not get to write
to Mrs Sparks to day - but will
certainly next Saturday - give
them my love -

Good night my Dearest Brother
With the devoted love of your
sister
Mary.



Lex June 23rd 1853-

My dear Son

I wrote you this day
a week ago & committed you
a check for 200^{rs} & fearing I
had omitted to endorse it pay-
able - I wrote the following
day & sent you a power of
att'y - to sign my name all
of which I hope has come
safely to hand

Upon my return from
Bedford last evening - I saw
your welcome journal to
your Mother - also your
advertisement in the paper
for a house - This latter
my Son was unnecessary - I did
not wish to make any pub-
lick profession of a desire
to

go to Cambridge - my letter
to you was one of enquiring on-
ly as to the rent of a house
or - which was to be one of
^{the} considerations entering into
a calculation of the probable
cost & expence of such a
movement - On this ac-
count I prefer that you
had omitted an advertise-
ment - unless it had been
anonymous - or have referred
persons to an enquiring of the
editor for information &c

Your Mother has
got into rather a scrape
in inviting Henry Halls wife
to her house to teach the
children - a great mistake
she has neither the qual-
ifications or manners to

To put her as an associate
in the family & we are tired
of her - Both your
Mother & I I told her her
band that this morning
that it would not suit

The jury in the case
of ~~Francis~~ Mrs. Francis
& Gigg for murder re-
sulted in a verdict, this
morning of "Not guilty."

Owing to my cattle not
being in prime order I have
sent them yet to N York
& shall not until some
time in July - So that I
shall not be able to see
you before that time
I will
see you on then & see
you in N H in your re-
treat - Have you any news

giving up not entering
college in Sept? I hope
not -

We are all well
and send you much love
Yours devotedly
H. T. Duncan

All send their love your mother
will write tomorrow { You cannot June 23rd
yours affectionately
1855

Dr Henry

I pursued your pleasant
puzzle to day and sit down to reply
to night. The first topic discussed by
you reflects a singular association of
ideas. What connection is there in the
modesty of disclaiming having made an
impression upon a young lady and
my bashfulness or inability to "look a
lady in the face without blushing".
Modesty and bashfulness are essentially
different and may or may not be associated.
As I acknowledge the propensities of an trouble-
some amount of the latter I may be excused
the expression of a hope that the former
quality is not wholly wanting in my own
total composition. I should like to exchange
the excess of one for a sufficiency of the
other to supply any deficiency that may exist.
My political property I will pass over with-
out further remark in this letter.
You were entirely incorrect in your inference
drawn from my allusion to H. Brand
that I disliked him. I have no such feel-
ing towards him and no reason for such.
Horace is a little simple and perhaps

estimates himself a little more exalted
than he ought. I met with ^{him} several nights
ago at Mr Craig's. There was another gentle-
man there besides. A few minutes after
he came in he remarked to Miss Mary
that the inclemency of the weather had
given him reason to hope that he would
find an empty parlour and a fair field.
I replied that if Mr Hagan the other
gentleman would ask me he should
enjoy from our generosity what the rain
had not accomplished for him and then
proposed to Mr H to retire - he spending
we left the field to Horace. Properly appre-
ciating our kindness he thanked us politely.
Horace disclaims any desire to marry - says
that his means are inadequate to support a wife
in the style he should like to. He adds more-
over, that the lady he marries must ^{be} uniformly
beautiful and exceedingly intellectual. I
fear this difficently will prove a more in-
surmountable obstacle than the first.
Such a wife when he gets her will desire
to live in style surpassing his present means
to afford and I do not blame him for wishing
to amass a fortune first.
You say that you would take my advice
in reference to abandoning ⁱⁿ the society of ladies

were you not aware that I could not
speak from experience. You are laboring
under a great error. Few persons of my
age have had more prolonged opportunity
of becoming acquainted with the good or
evil effects of seclusion from female so-
ciety than myself. It is just such expe-
rience as I suppose that you require. You are
informed upon the good and evil effects
of association with ladies by experience. By
experience I understand the effects of non-
association. A comparison of my knowledge
with your own will enable you to decide
in which case the evil or good preponderates
and to act judiciously I, G. D.
I entertain no fears that the rustling of calico
will ever madden you. Calico has lost its
charm. Nothing less than the rustling of silk
can disturb the cardiac composure of the
men of the present day.

Had you given me the number of vol-
ume from Emerson from which you extract
I might have been able by reference to
Moore's Translation to ascertain your sentiments
in such matters. As it is they must con-
tinue "Greek" to me.

I wish very much that you would come
to my instead of going to it & to spend

the summer. I should like to see
you in your present spare state of
body. Independently of that it would
be very pleasant to have your company.
Can't you alter your determination &
come West?

For two weeks past the weather has been
very cool and a good deal of rain has
fallen. The crops are very promising. The cher-
ries are in perfection and great abundance.
We are feasting gloriously upon them.
Miss Betty Morgan marries Mr. McClung
in Church tomorrow and start immedi-
ately on a tour. Miss Victoria Paine
gave a debut blow out two days ago - a
large party. Miss Kate Morrison was
present. I understand and young Beck-
mudge (son of R. J.) was very devoted. They
say that they are very fond of each other.
Cousin Amelia Timberlake will be mar-
ried to the Rev. Mr. Merrick on the
24th inst in Church. Your father has
bought your pistol and will remit the price
to you. Nell and Timberlake have deposited
Carrie Anderson dead in child bed about
10 days ago. Sumner of Mass is on a
visit to Lex. Clay, Brand and Co are
hounding him around.

June 26th 1855

Dear Henry

I received your letter yesterday for which receive my thanks to day. The first item in it seeming to require notice at my hands is your apprehension that I may be attacked by the marriage mania at present devastating the ranks of single blessedness in these parts. Dispel your fears: There is no danger that I will be carried off by the disorder unless it attacks me in its most virulent form. I do, and I think, however, operating upon my weak susceptibilities might be an exciting cause too strong to be resisted by my constitution even steeled as it is against the approaches of the tender passion. But there is no danger that it will present itself in so powerful a form. You make inquiries of me concerning young Bruckmudge that I am unable to satisfy. I know nothing about him. I presume however from the absence of all detrimental reports to his character that he is a very clever young man. It is thought that the old folks on both sides are pleased

your father is at Bedford; as soon as he returns I presume he will start off your sister. It will be a very pleasant companion for you among the White Mountain hills. I hope that you will get through your examination like a knife. However I wish you may find it so.
There is a death of news just now. The only item of interest is that Gregg and Mrs. Frasier have been acquitted very properly in my opinion.
Your pa and myself went down on Sunday evening to witness the marriage of Cousin Amelia. The ceremony was very solemn and impressive. Afterwards we went out to Mr. Davis and took tea with the bride and groom. They seemed very happy. Mr. Merrick is a very fine looking gentleman - is younger than cousin A. Monday morning they started on a tour to the distant Blue Licks expecting to return to Paris after a week's absence by the way of Mount Sterling. A visit to the Springs and mountains is very nice and appropriate for a bridal tour. The weather has been not so cool for several weeks past. If a continuance of such could be obtained

And now you might very safely visit
by without suffering from the change.
A good deal of fire has been enter-
tained. That the wheat crop would
suffer with rust but it has escaped
and is so far matured that I suppose
there is very little danger now. The
harvest has commenced.

The cherry season has about closed
at great many still hang drying up &
rotting upon the trees. I suppose
that they are scarcely ripe with you.
I thought to ask you several times,
but it has always escaped me; to
ask you if a young Hickman
from Newport has been connected
with the Law school of Cambridge
since you have been there and whether
you knew him. He is a brother you
know of an old friend of mine.
All are well - excuse this dry letter.
I am within the right spirit for writ-
ting to day. The next letter I shall get
from you I suppose will hail from
Buxton and will breathe of the
mountain air and sunny

Yours affectionately
W. J. Phelps

To W. T. Duncan Jr

Revere sends his best respects and
says he hopes you will send to him
something more valuable than his
respects to you. W.D.G.

W.D.G.
Mr. W.D.G.

Dear Ansel
W.D.G.

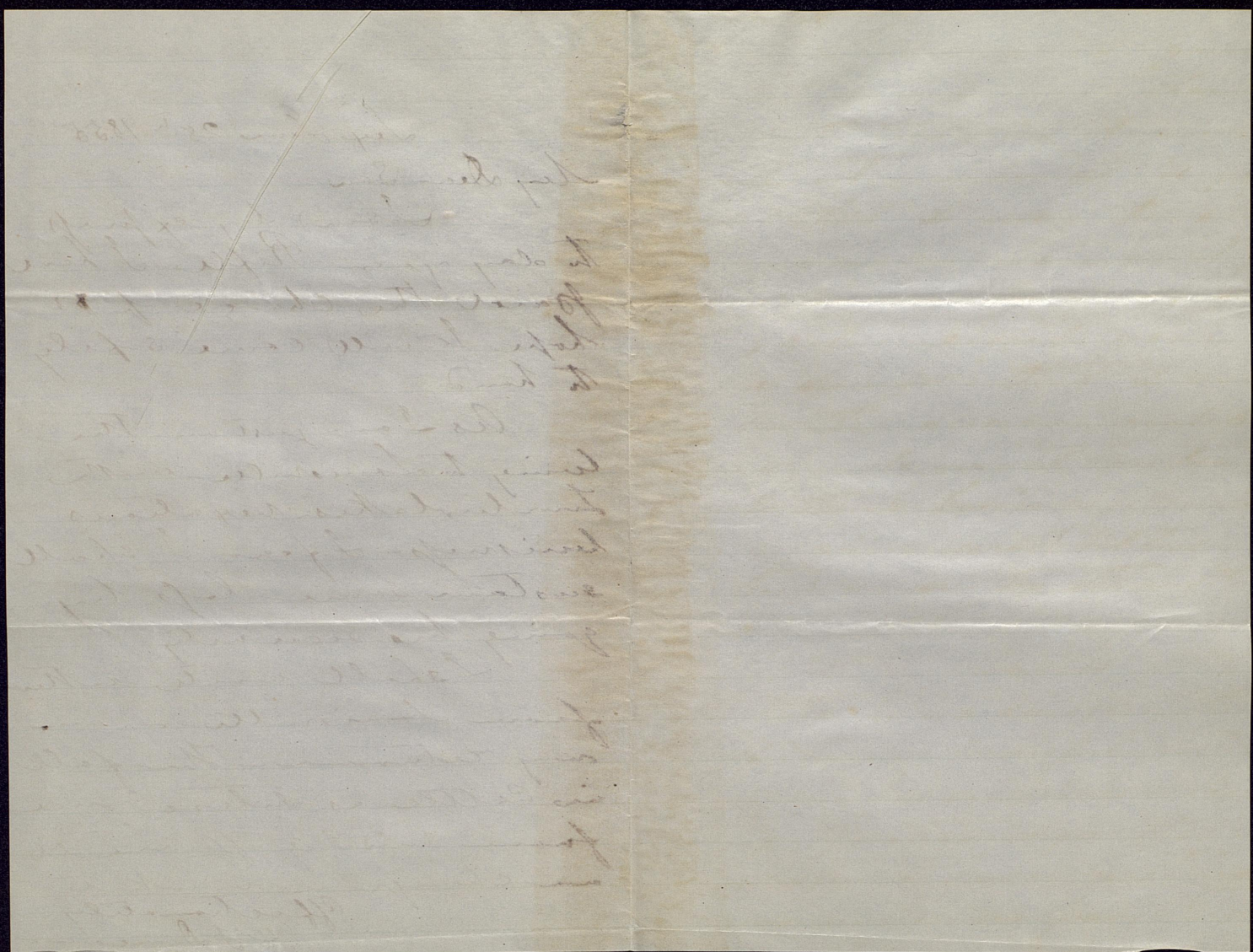
Lex June 28th 1854

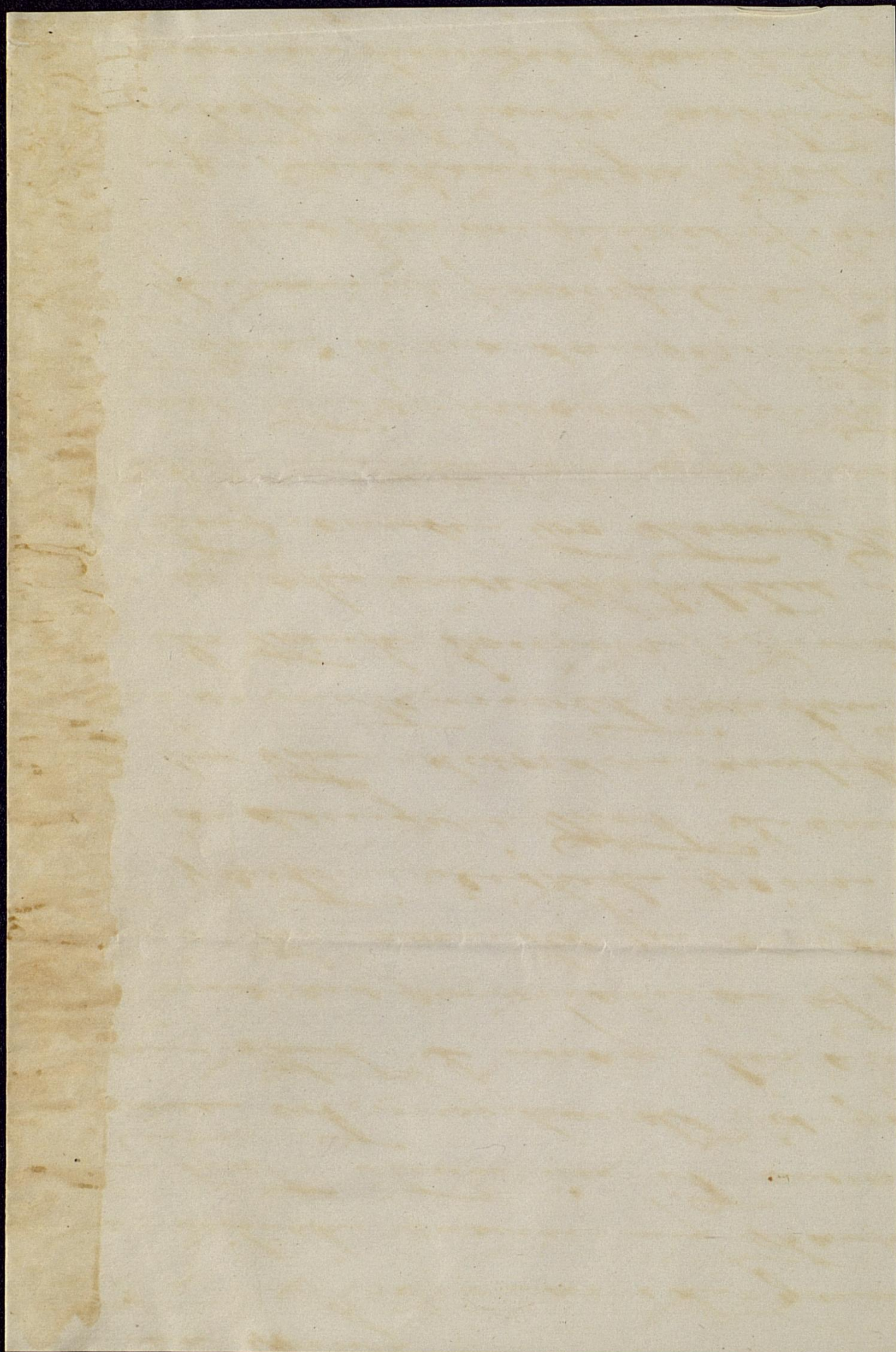
My Dear Son

I send by express
to day your Rifle - I have
paid the charge of \$3
hope it will come safely
to hand

As I am just on the
way to Louisville - with
Lumberlakes - vexatious
business - I fear I shall
sustain some loss by
going his security

I shall write either
from Louisville or on
my return - The fall
in Cattle is deterring me
from sending off until
a change in market
Affectionately
H J Dineen





June 29th 1855

My very dear Son

Your kind missives which some of us are almost daily receiving are exceedingly gratifying & pleasant to us, we also hear of M often through you, as you can write at any time she has a stated time & no other unless it is very important, it would be just as well to permit them to write whenever they had leisure, & then the letters could be more lengthy & satisfactory, as it is they are hurried being pressed for time, not even time to read & correct after writing, which causes many blunders & mistakes, Mary will feel quite sad at your remove to Kingston N. H. - altho' it is not so very much further & you can write often, she will feel that you can not come to see her so conveniently, if necessary, Your father came home in haste yesterday noon to get his satchel & a few shirts & hurry off to Louisville on business you will be amused to hear the dialogue he & Mrs Morrison had on the street, he intends

writing to you on his return home, she
charged him with having some design
in sending you off to Cambridge, to
interrupt any intercourse between you & Kate,
& a great deal he had not time till me
so you see there must have been some expec-
tations raised from your attentions, you are
turning out a young coquette, as the gossip
went you were Mattie's beau, so you
will be more guarded in your messages
in particular to Miss M. - as every one who
has seen you has something to tell her
from you, Mrs Wilson said you had
given her a message to Kate at least I
judged so, she did ^{not} tell ^{me} it was her nor
did she tell me the message, but said
you had sent one to a young lady & told
it to her alone & she must not tell it &c &c
"The word to the wise is sufficient," (Be sure
to take your Bible & Hymn Book with you
to the mountains, I beg of you -

It is presumed there is a commodious means
of conveyance to Kingston or you could not
take your rifle gun with you, it is very heavy
the case & all is more than I can raise,

The exercise with your gun will sharpen the
appetite, I hope you will find a good
boarding house, the improvement in
health seems to be perfected as you are
gaining flesh, pay strict regard to health
the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is
worth a pound of cure", do not learn this
by experience, but take heed to good advice
This has been an oppressively hot day, a storm
of wind & rain has blown up, & promises a
rainy night, this is very bad ^{for} the harvest, I
expect the sheaves of wheat will be blown
all about, the wheat promises to be very fine
if it does not get injured by rain, Ellen
was up this morning at 4 o'clock had a
horse saddled for herself & one for Dr J
called him up, & rode to the meadow

near the house & then down to the one
opposite Mrs Morgan & back again long
before breakfast, she can do any thing
she wants to do, she is very fond of
arithmetic, contray to my expectations,
she is reading the History of England &
really seems very much interested in it
you can scarcely make her leave it for
other things, if she could be placed in the
right school with the proper teachers, she
would become quite a student something
must be done with El & Lil soon it will
never do for them to go on this way longer.
If the summer should pass without our
seeing you, the Autumn will not.

I read a very interesting letter of Horace Greely
written in prison in Paris, it was very much
so, perhaps you have read it, it is worth reading
now I must say good bye God bless you,
El & Lily join me in much love to son
& brother ever your aff^d Mother

Pittsfield
Saturday June 30th 1855

My Dearest Brother

You ought to see me now - you would say I had fattened considerably since you saw me - I have the bumps - I thought I had had bumps on one side, but it seems I had not, as I now have them on both -

Yesterday morning when I woke up I touched my jaw - and found it was swollen and a little sore - I knew then I had the bumps - it was on the my right jaw - but last night the other side commenced swelling - it is not painful - but I cannot eat - so I suppose I shall have to fast - until I get well - I am afraid I cannot go to the picnic, ^{which we are to} on the 4th of July - but perhaps I can -
Professor Gayot has just finished

a course of lectures Thursday afternoon on Physical Geography - they were very interesting - his first lecture was on Monday evening - and we had two each day - one in the morning and one in the afternoon until Thursday - when he completed the course - Yesterday, Friday, we were examined on the lectures - I had the Mumps - and escaped it.

I wrote to Fannie Gardiner last Saturday - but I suppose she had left before ^{my letter} it reached Cambridge - I suppose they will forward it to her - I received ^{two} letters from home this week - one from Mother and the other from Father -

Laura came home - the day before Mother wrote - in a very destitute condition - You know Mrs Hall - was engaged to teach Ellen and Lily - she does not suit; and is going away - which I

am very glad of - as she worried
Mother very much - and is a very
careless woman Mother says -

I suppose you leave Cambridge in
a few days for Vermont - When does
your examination come off? I ^{do} hope
you will acquit yourself honorably -

Mary Eastman received two
letters this morning - one from
her Mother - and the other from
her sister Fannie - I am going
to room with Fannie and
Mary Offutt next term -

We went into the
parlor last night - Sue Galespie
was on the committee to receive
company - she looked very handsome -
although I had the mumps and
my face was swollen ^a little I
went in - There were several
fancy characters - the Indian (who
was Dale Street) whom you saw
Thanksgiving night - and Annie

Bonney who was dressed as an old woman - and played her character off to perfection - Laura Towner was a sentiment girl - we spent a very pleasant evening - chumooer has come at last - we have both our windows open - it is delightful weather - Where has Mr^x and Mrs Sparks - gone? I will not write to ~~her~~ ^{Mrs Sparks} to day as she is not at home and I have the Crumbs.

Will you please ask Walter Glenister - for his Sisters direction, I lost the one she gave me, and have not written to her yet - I have nothing interesting to tell you - so I will bring my scribble to a close -
I write soon - to your loving
and devoted sister

P.S. Mary Castelman Mary.
sends you her love, and says she is most
dead with scarletina.

Exington

July 1st

1855

How shall I repay you
my dear friend - for your kind-
ness in replying to my letter
so soon - you don't know how
much pleasure it gave me
to know that you were not
offended with me - that you
cherished no feelings of re-
venge towards me for my ap-
parent neglect of you. I will
attempt to retrieve, and char-
acter in a measure, by writ-
ting to you immediately. I
have just this moment receiv-

red your letter - it is Sunday
morning - and not being well
enough to go to church - I will
devote that morning to you.

Now my friend - did you really
credit my rumor you may
have heard - and won't you
tell me who was your informant
it must be some one who feels
great interest in my welfare -
Did I not tell you I would
confide in you if I ever had
anything of so much importance?
And won't you believe me in
earnest - or do you think I am
so deceitful? That there is no
confidence to be placed
in me. May I not expect

July 1st 1855

was extremely in you to wait
each time for an answer to
your letters - why did you not
write to me during the four
weeks you were without a
letter from me? It was only
in your "guessing" that I
thought you at all Parker.
I have heard of the great
change which has taken
place in your appearance
the bearer of the "tender messages"
said she would not have re-
cognized you as the same. Mr
Duncan who left Lexington
last November, I think thought
your friends could not have
seen you before you left us on

She would not have expected
to have seen a boy either in
feeling - in action or in sleep.

July 11th

My letter has been lying at
home for two days on account
of the illness of my brother
Edwin - whom we thought
dying with cholera. He is not
yet sick and while I was out
of the room I thought I would
finish my letter to you.

My love to your sister when
you see her.

— Kate Morrison —

the same confidence from
you? Mr. Breckinridge and
I are friends - or I trust he is
a friend of mine - I think he
is a perfect gentleman and
deserving the friendship of
everyone. I promise you that
should anything of the kind
ever occur - an invitation
shall not be the first in-
timation you have of it.
Your young friend Mr. Wil-
liam Breckinridge has
just received his diploma
and is quite a lady's man
I would use the plural -
ladies - except that he I
think would object - as

there is only one to whom
he confines his attentions
- you I know will think
he has evidenced great
taste in the selection of
a lady-love - it is your friend
Miss Mattie McKee. I have
dreaded disclosing this to
you - for I feared you would
suffer beyond endurance -
having heard that the tender
messages you sent her were
so delicate - so frail - that they
would not bear repetition.
You misunderstood me - I
did not mean - that the
contents of your letters were
so circumstantial - but that it

Lexington July 3rd 1845

My Dear Son

I recd your last letter when on the
wing to Louisville - to look into the secretarieship
I had placed myself for a time but look as
Executor of Worsely - my worst fears were rea-
lized - I find that he has wasted in his own
affairs the assets of the Estate - and I fear he
will cost me some 8 thousand dollars before
I am through to (this is all a confidential
matter for yourself) I have never been
so taken by surprise - with all his follies I
had thought him honest - He may yet be so
but supposed that he had reserved means
enough & hoped to make enough - to meet
all demands & wind up the Estate fairly - But
to me the effect is the same - whether from
fraud or mismanagement he has acted

This affair my Son will prevent entirely
I think our talk of residence in N E
I now not only have my own affairs to at-
tend to - But sit about to have this business
closed up - which will take a year or two
& pay out of my own pocket any deficiency
I have this only further to suggest to you - that
you must admonish your to proper economy
in

your own personal expenditures - Though
I do not mean to hold out the idea - that I
am to be seriously injured by W - But shall be
subjected to much inconvenience and change
of plans - dispose of some property - & practice
economy for a few years - At this time W
is a great interference with my plans - One
for instance - I was in negotiation with E. P. Loh
- son for his town residence in Lion Stone Street
near Macalisters & Monivons, By the by this
brings to my mind a very curious street con-
-versation - the other day with Mrs. Monivon - What
do you think the crazy woman said to me?
No more or less - than I had sent you abroad to
school - to put you out of the way of her
daughter Kate - This is rich - Her conversation
became such, that I made my bow and
left her - I mention it to you to show you, that
that you have been the object of some design
in that quarter - And I do hope you will drop
all further correspondence - altho only a
friendly one in that quarter - as advantage
may be taken of it to create an impression
that you are a sister, of the young lady

Your suggested arrangement about Boarding
at The Brattle House is much better than
their House keeping - and I think we shall
take quarters there - some time hence

when you have entered College and got
under way more advanced - & I have
wound up my matters and paid off my
liabilities - for Timberlake & the remaining
land payment - when thus at ease - I shall spend
much of the latter portion of your ~~residence~~
at Cambridge with you - say your junior and
senior years - I think it will take two years
to place my affairs in a situation to leave
me again with I by security & ship on an
adventurous place my self in a situation to
then losses & annoyances - Here now in ^{the} years
course of a very few years - within four
I have lost by the Insurance Co endorsement
& Timberlake & Magowan's - some 23000\$ - and
I hope - this dear experience will not be
lost upon you - and that you will never waste
your name for another or endorse any paper
& have no transactions with a relation, or do
any act to place another under obligations
to you - If you do you make him an
enemy - you must not interrupt your
frequent letters - Again I hope you will be
able to enter your Class easily - what do you
and Mr Chase think on this subject

All will & join in much love to you

Your devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Simmons

July 9th 1855

Dear Henry

I received your
letter several days since &
have delayed to answer
it rather on account of
the want of material to
construct a letter than
either the want of time or
inclination to write.

I see that your father has
been gently reproving you
for your fondness for gam-
bling, and that you ac-
cuse me of being the cause
of the reproof. I admit
that he did see the letter
in which you playfully re-
fer to the gaming ladies. I
was influenced to show it
to him for two reasons. 1st
because in your diaries to your
mother you referred to your
visits to those ladies and your
occasionally meeting them
your grandmother. 2nd because

your father not becoming
suspicious that there were
some very important secrets
between us. He always asks
to see your letters and on several
occasions I have passed over
the pages that I thought
you did not care to have
him see. The ambition to read
all I saw created the impres-
sion that you communicated
secrets to me about yourself
that you desired to withhold
from him and I perceived
that his alarms were thereby
awakened. He is evidently very
much afraid that you will
fall in love with some body
and that your literary progress
will thereby be retarded, if you
do not get into some scrape
for the above reasons I have
made it a point to show your
letters whenever I could do
so safely.

If you do not take care you
will get the reputation of being
a great flirt. Yours per L

July 9, 1855

4

that cause. None of your
acquaintances have died. Ed
Warren had a very severe
cold but has recovered. There
seemed to be but little alarm
or excitement created by
it. It has about ceased.

Cousin Maria speaks of going
to Indiana in a few days.

Uncle Sam Hay died in Vin-
land a few days since.

The weather continues cool
and delightful. The white
mountains can not give more
delightful weather than we
have had thus far, excepting
a few hot days. By this time
I suppose you are amidst
the hills and find the
change from 98° of heat
very refreshing and breezing.

Will you have any trout fish-
ing in the mountain streams?

Beware of the mountain mail
I have mentioned to you in

any of my preceding letters
that it is currently reported &
believed that Dr. Matthews

is going to marry Mrs Garrison
Ellen & Lizzie are out here
spending their vacation.
They have both grown very
rapidly. Ellen is about as
large as your sister Mary
and Lizzie is a half a head
taller than your sister Ellen.
She will make a very handsome
woman. She says I
must send her love and
a kiss to you. Ellen is not
by or I presume she would
send her respects. She is
now so much of a lady that
she doubtless deems it improper
to send her love to young men.
All are well & their best
love Yours affectionately

H. O. Jenkins

To H. T. Dummer Jr

I suppose has communicated
to you. The very singular com-
munication he had with Mrs
Morrison about yourself and
her daughter Kate. If you
made the same impression
upon the latter that you did
upon the mother I fear she
regards you as a gay young de-
ceiver. Prizing garb, jimmie
hannum. Sending messages
too to Miss Mattie that can
only be delivered to her own
private ear. Who would
have thought it. Mrs McKee
told your father yesterday that
she had seen Mrs Wilson
a few days since and that
she told her she had a
message to Mattie from
you that could only be de-
livered to herself in person.
The old lady your father
thinks was mightily pleased
at the idea. But Miss McKee
was not so eager to receive the
tender words as to hasten
off to receive them on the
spot. But then she had

a bait upon her face. This
may explain the non exhibition
of misfortune. There is some
talk of James and herself mar-
rying. Miss Southam was mar-
ried to Rev. Mr. Norton last
week and they left immedi-
ately for the North. It has
been suggested that he will
go so far North that he will
contract Bronchitis, and
become unable to preach
and require to be pensioned
off by his father in law. This
is an ingenious suggestion,
is it not? Your father goes
again to Bedford to day and
will spend the week there.
He spends more than half
the time there. The wheat
harvest has been completed
your father is hastening to get it out
and sell immediately, as he thinks
it will bring a better price now
than in a few weeks as the
crop is very abundant.
For 10 days past there has been
cholera in Lexington. About
30 deaths have occurred from

Pittsfield
Wednesday Morning
July 11th 1858

My very dear Brother

I did not get to write to you on Saturday as usual. Mr Agnew has given me permission to write to you and to Father. A week ago I received a letter from Father, and he said I had better come home in vacation, that it was uncertain about Mrs Flint's coming on, and to day I received one from Mother, and she said she thought she would come on, and that I had better not come home as you were not coming.

I think it is better for me not to go home. after Father wrote to me I could think of nothing but going

home, for two or three nights I did not get to sleep ^{until very late} for thinking of about it.

I suppose you are now enjoying yourself in Hopkinton, I wish I was with you. Last night we went to a concert, given by our music teachers, some of the music was very fine, and we enjoyed it very much. I am now well of the mumps - and I am very glad, it seemed to me as if I had stayed in the house a month.

Mary Eastman had the slightly & she had scarletina at the same time; Miss Waters had the scarletina, and these we three were sick all in the same room for several days, we carried on at a great rate; I have not been to church for two Sundays.

Mrs Hall has left our house - they are going to have teach school in Paduca, Amelia Gimberlake

is married. Father says her husband is a very nice and handsome gentleman. Mary Reed talks of going home next week, but she is not certain, she has dyspepsia.

Mrs Eastman is coming north after school is out and she and Mary Ann, are going to visit their relations north. I will be

so glad when school is out, I wish I knew what is to become of me in vacation.

The weather now is very pleasant, we walk about the grounds a great deal —

I am so sorry Mary Eastman is not coming back next term,

but she could not, this climate is very bad for her throat, I love her so much, better than any girl I ever saw, don't you?

Miss Waters sends her respects to you, and Mary C. — sends her love;

I wish I had something

interesting to tell you; but I
never see anything, and therefore
have nothing worth telling you.
Guss Waters moved out of our
room last Friday; we were
very sorry to have her go on some
accounts, but it was very much
crowded in our little room for
three, there had never been more
than two in it before; Mary L
and I wanted to be alone the
rest of the term; Guss has moved
to the West building and rooms
with Lizzie Arnold - who is a
very nice girl - Write to me
soon and tell me all.

about yourself - I am going to
write to Mrs Sparks on Saturday
and I can write so as not to
make her think I want her
to invite me to spend my vaca-
-tion with her.

Sharewell with the
love of your devoted
sister
Mary

Pittsfield
Saturday Night
July 14th/55-

My darling Brother

I received your letter
just before Tea and it makes me
so sad to hear you have been sick again.
I wish I had been with you; it makes
me more anxious to go to school in
Cambridge to Prof. Agassiz, than
ever - do take care of yourself.

I hope you are entirely well now -

I did not get to write to you on
last Saturday, the retiring bell rang
before I could write; I had to put
off writing until night & did not
get time to write. Mr. Agnew
gave me permission to write to
you on Monday, but I did not

get to write until Tuesday — and
I sent the letter on Friday morning.
I hope you have received it before
this time. perhaps if I had sent
it before you would not have
received it, as I was directed to
Hopkinton, and you would not
have been there. I think Mrs

Morrison is really crazy now, to say
such a thing as she did, when I
told Mary C — she laughed —
and Mrs Wilson had to make
up a pack of " " who told you
about it? I had not heard a word
of it until I received your
letter — as soon as I looked at
the direction of your letter I thought
you must have been sick —

Do write to me soon and let
me know how you are — tell
Mr^r Chase I say he must take
good care of you. I hope Father
Mother Ellen and Laily will

come on in vacation —

I had a Lexington paper the other day with a notice of the "Sayer Institute" in it but I presume you have had it in the paper you take — I have been very well — There! that hateful retiring bell has rung —

They are making more rules ^{here} than an Elephant could pack.

The teachers say the "girls do as they please this term, that they will not next". I think they are as strict this term as is possible to be, if they are any stricter next term it will be terrible — I will have to close this short letter —

Mary C — sends her love to you — Now do take ~~care~~ care of yourself, write soon,

Good Night My dearest Brother
with the love of your devoted
sister
Mary.

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher.]

Lexington July 14th 1853-

My Dear Son

~~Dear Son~~

I recd your letter a day or two since informing me of the loss of some articles in your gun box - with the safe arrival of your gun - when I carried in the gun to have it cleaned - I examined its contents and found the screw drivers missing - which I suppose either Mr Taylor or Tom had hooked. If there is any thing else - let me know - as it must have been taken out at the gun Smiths.

This is either the 2 or 3 letter I have written you at Hopkinton & should I occasionally fall off a little - you must not intermit in the least in your correspondence - your journal which has been prepared for your Mother we have regularly read until lately - This you must resume - as ^{it} was looked for regularly & all felt the disappointment, when it failed to come to hand.

In view of my late letters to you - I am for a day or two of my probable loss by my folly in mismanaging Mr Timberlakes security as Executor of Worsely - a matter that is giving me much trouble before I see the end of it & subject me to much inconvenience.

The suggestions of your letter about taking

boarding at the Brattle House - is far better than renting property - and so soon as my business will allow & I get this Lincolne affair straightened up a little - we shall in all probability spend most of our time at Cambridge in the next 3 or 4 years - When you have regularly entered college - it will be time enough to determine definitely - I shall labor hard to place my business in a condition in the next 12 months - to suit this movement.

In a late letter I gave you an account of a strange conversation with a certain rather crazy lady - about yourself and her daughter - The old adage is - that "either fools (that will mean crazy folks) or children will let out the truth," I believe there has been a regularly concerted purpose to entangle you in an affair of this sort & I rejoice at your absence on account of it - And now I admonish not to permit yourself to be drawn into any correspondence further with any of ladies of this connection or any person else on this subject - Your mother & myself - are the only persons - you should ever communicate with upon the subject.

The prospect of heavy crosses are very

fine - the wheat crop is the best ever raised
in the state - I have sold my crop at \$1 per
bushel of 60 - which will be equal \$1.10 - for the
measured bushel as it weighs about 66 lb to the
bushel - 2 more rains will make the corn
crop - now as promising as I ever saw it - From
some cause my fat cattle has not done as
well as usual - most probably the inferior qual-
ity of the corn last winter & sometimes star-
ved in quantity - They will soon though be in
prime order when I shall send them
off and I trust that I shall get a good price
though much less than in the spring - If the
corn turns out well - I shall feed not less
than 300 perhaps 400 head - for the next spring
and summer market - We have been very
active in improvements this spring - we have
built over 300 rods of fence this season so
far & hope to build from 4 to 500 more I shall
make Bedford a model farm

I trust my son that your pride of Character
& position will stimulate you to continued ex-
ertion & diligence in the prosecution of
your studies - make yourself a scholar and
a man - Be ambitious of position & influence
and do not relax in your efforts - To your dis-
tinction - All yours in much love to you
Your devoted Father

H. L. Duncan

Revere House Boston July 16th 55

My dear Duncanson

I regret to say that I did not receive your letter until this morning as I was going to Boston, en route home and therefore did not have time to comply with your desire. I am exceedingly sorry, but could not help it as I had bought my tickets. I saw the miserable Freshmen this morning; they looked distressed. I did not expect to return home so soon, but Home is not going directly home and as I am desirous of seeing friends once more I hasten off. I will send the Post as directed. Good bye. I am very sorry about that gun. Yrs in haste
H. L. Anderson

Handwritten text on lined paper, likely a letter or document. The text is written in cursive and is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. The paper is aged and shows signs of wear, including a vertical crease down the center and a horizontal tear near the bottom edge.

Your ever afft Mother E.D.



Duncannon Friday
July 19th 1855

My very dear Son

Your pardon is freely granted, as I am so often a transgressor in the same way, & ask for clemency, & besides some of us are constantly receiving a missive from you, which is a source of great comfort, & reconciles me in a measure to your absence. It is a great comfort to know that you had kind friends in the hour of need, let me beg of you not to expose yourself in any way to sudden changes such as becoming heated by exercise & sitting in a draught or cooling too rapidly, take regular, moderate, daily exercise, I fear that your constitution is becoming weakened from the disposition to chills. I would most gladly adopt the proposed plan of yours to take up our boarding at the

Mr Brattle House & all be together
at least make a trial of it,

It is very important that Ellen & Lily
should be at school as it is we
are scattered east & west, after Mary
leaves Pittsfield there will not be
one in the Institute that would
render Mary's situation a pleasant
& happy one, & it is greatly desirable
to be altogether, which I sincerely
hope will soon be the case,
Dr Jenkins felt hurt that you
should charge him with betraying
your confidence, You know that
your father is always curious to
hear every thing, & the Dr can not
refuse (without appearing unde) to read
part of your letters, to his uncle,
He has never shewn me any of them
is very close with what he writes
& receives, Your father & I are
at present both at Bedford attend-
ing to the harvest, which is very





bountiful, which will gladden
many hearts, if it can be secured
the frequent storms of wind & rain
make it necessary to use great activity
& energy. In your next letter you will
be able to let us know the advantages
of your change of place, so far.
I perceive none. Is there a church
about it? & is the sabbath regarded?
In this week's Observer is a letter to
Hon Charles Sumner, from the Rev Geo F
Buckenridge, which you will find
worthy of reading more than once.
This abolition question portends great
trouble & agitation, before a great while.
You wished to know my opinion of
Miss H. M., she is a very nice young
lady & certainly a beautiful one, it
is really a pity she has a crazy mama.
as to your correspondence there is no
impropriety save so far as it may
lead to some expectations, which putting

small things together, leads
me to say the less of it the better,
Ellen Matthews tells me that Lilla
M. told her it was reported that
you & H. were to be married, now
take this & the conversation between
Mrs M & your father, it looks very
much like they had made unwarrant-
able conclusions, from this friendship
so you will perceive the importance
of abstaining from the appearance of
such a conclusion, The family
have had several cases of Cholera one
of the son's was considered dying but
has recovered, Kate was attacked
slightly, & the servant boy, died.
Every thing is going on here very much
the same, Tom is as great a rascal
as ever, no one being here to control or
correct him, he is never in place &
his work undone, he is a great plague.
Mother sisters & cousin Maria send
you much love God bless you my
dear son with his richest blessings.

Pittsfield Saturday July 21st/65

My Dearest Brother

I received your letter on Tuesday, and one from Father — it was a lucky day for me, to receive a letter from you and one from home ~~for~~ at the same ~~xxx~~ ^{time} was indeed unspeakable joy. Father and Mother are coming on in vacation, isn't that nice? — Then I hope we will, ^{all} together — will you be in Hopkinton or Cambridge in vacation? I am sorry you have such a dull time — I wish I could be with you — That was great in Mrs. Morrison — I think she must certainly be crazy now — Mary C — says she knows you are in love with Kate — and that if you are not — you were — she says you know how to sympathize

with Mr Chase — or some message like that — she told me this afternoon, but I have forgotten — I would ask her if she was here, but she is not and I will have to let it go.

She has gone out to spend the evening with Mrs Allen — ~~and~~ ^{and} who resides in Pittsfield — ~~she~~ ^{she} has to sisters visiting her from St. Louis Mrs O'Sullivan — and Miss Allen — Mary — was acquainted with Mr O'Sullivan in St. Louis — she went just as tea was ready ~~here~~ ^{there} — at six — and now it is a quarter of eight, tea ~~and~~ prayers and prayer-meeting are over, and I am alone in my room — sitting on my trunk writing to my dear absent Brother.

It has been raining to day — and it rained last night — everything seems so still and quiet — school will be out in ~~five~~ five weeks I am

homesick — Sallie Mc Law is to be married in a few days to Pim Allen — I have not heard from Emma for sometime —

Mary Reed heard of the death of her little Brother on Monday — he was her half Brother, she has no own Brother or sister, he was five years old —

Mary Reed is going home next week — Mrs Agnew is quite sick yet — to day she is very sick — Mary Agnew has not returned home yet, but is expected ~~next~~ soon — Annie Offutt is in very bad health, and thinks of returning home after this term — so I suppose Mary Offutt and I will ~~be~~ ^{room} alone next term — Annie Offutt has several times, sent messages to you, but I have always forgotten to write them, or else

have not had time. Guss Waters
sends her kind regards to you
last night being our usual
night for going home. The parlor; we
went in ~~to see~~ ^{to see} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~company~~ ^{company} that is the
upper hall in the west building;
they had ~~there~~ ^{there} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~best~~ ^{best}
and they were excellent
we all enjoyed ourselves very
much, my
There was an
man came here to day
after dinner, with some oil paint-
ings to sell I bought one and
bought four - one
was a large one - which she gave
Mrs Starr - it was ~~also~~ ^{also} very
like Heater, I wanted
much, I would have given
you, so that you would

Leopington July 23^d 1855

My dear Son

I duly received your last most affectionate letter - In which you inform us of your arrival at Hopkinton - And also of your attack of fever & ague - which we deeply regretted to hear - ~~It~~ ^{It} has given us much anxiety - I hope my dear Son that by this time you are entirely relieved from the effects of the attack - And able to pursue your studies - and will be able to enter your class with credit & position -

I hope to be in Cambridge early in Sept - after you have got under way regularly - The occurrence in Timberlake's business which I mentioned to you in a former letter will prevent us I think for this year carrying out your scheme - For boarding at the Brattle House I shall have to pay on that account - I fear several thousand Dollars - This with my necessary attention - to a suit in Chancery that I shall institute to close up his Executorship and relieve my commitment as surety - will require much of my attention - This fall

In order to carry out your plan which
is better than House keeping - I shall have
to make arrangements by disposing of or
hiring out our Lane Negroes - and renting
out our residence with the garden & grounds
reserving all the Grap Land - Then two Stems
ought to pay our Board and Cambridge - we
shall however not be able to make all
needful arrangements for the change until
next year - But all these things keep to your-
self

I have not in consequence of the decline
in beef Cattle - in price - sent on one sold
my lot - I have concluded to wait for a
better market - and shall not sell probably
before fall - when they will be more
splendid fix & continue to improve in
weight & I hope in price - I have a fine
lot to put this coming winter about 300 -
& shall, if my crop equals its present promise
add 100 more to the lot - If I can get them
at a fair price - which will give me 4000
for market next summer - My Corn crop
promises to be the best & largest I have
ever raised - Oats very good - wheat by
far the best I ever raised - which I have
sold

at One Dollar for bushel taken at the house
we are now getting to and I think we shall
have from 12 to 1400 Bushel - which added
to my sale of old wheat left on hand
for which I got some 500\$ & 140\$ worth of
Barley & 300\$ for hemp seed - makes my receipt
from grain & seed some 2400\$ - An item that
has heretofore been wasted & stolen this
is one of the fruits of my personal atten-
tion to my business - How Rankin has
permitted such waste I cannot tell - I shall
upon the estate save at least 3000\$ a year
by saving that which heretofore has been
wasted & stolen & by economising the expenses
of the establishment - I have built this sea-
son over 300 Rods of Stone fence on the
road in front of the Lewis House to the cor-
ner next to Hendalls over a mile - a splen-
-did fence and ^{to} has improved the looks of
things greatly - I am now in Lexington (having sent
Mr Jenkins to Bedford to look after things
this week) to prepare for the meeting of
the next Association on day after tomorrow
All our well & send you much love
give us particulars of your health
Your devoted Father
H. J. Duncan

To the Hon. Secy of the Interior
 Washington D.C.
 Dear Sir
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the application of the Board of Commissioners of the General Land Office for a grant of land for the purpose of establishing a reservation for the use of the Indians of the tribe of the same name in the State of California. I am sorry to hear that the Board of Commissioners have not been able to obtain the necessary information for the purpose of making a report to the Secretary of the Interior. I am, however, confident that the Board will be able to do so in the near future. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours very truly,
 Wm. B. Ewing

Thursday July 26th /55

My very dear Son

Your friend Mr Anderson
has just left us, he arrived in ~~sex~~
yesterday, & came out with your Father
to dinner, we could not prevail on
him to remain longer, he says that
he must return home tomorrow, he
spends this evening at Mr T. Warfield's
he is anxious to take something to
you from home, I cannot think of
any thing save your night-shirts &
from what you said to me they will
be very acceptable, Your friend has
made a very good impression, I think
from what I see of him, he is an
exceedingly clever & intelligent youth
He seems quite elated with the suc-
cess of the boat race, between Harvard
& Yale, he is in ecstasies that ^{Yale} he
has beaten them so handsomely, he
was surprised you had not mentioned it

It is very delightful to hear that you are quite well, & hope you will continue so, we recd a letter from Mary to day, she writes in good spirits & requests we will not go on until after the examination, that our presence would intimidate her more than all Pittsfield, Miss Reed has lost a brother about five years of age, & returns home immediately, she says Miss R makes professions of love to her & that she is not changed, & all that, it shews ^{that} she desires to be reinstated in Mary's favor again, I would let her remain where she has placed herself, it was uncalled for & unprovoked, & almost unpardonable, it was very unlady like to say the least of it,

Miss Lallie McCaw & Mr James Allen were married on Tuesday at 1 o'clock & went off at 3 o'clock on their bridal tour.

First to Niagara, etc,

In the evening of the same there was a very large party at E. Warfield's where they danced until 4 o'clock in the morning, it rained so that none of us went, I tried to persuade Doc to go but did not succeed,

I hope you will find your location more pleasant than at first it seemed to promise, the quiet & retirement are conducive to study, & the sport of hunting & fishing will give you exercise, I would suppose there will be an opportunity afforded you for trout fishing, as the streams in that region are said to abound with trout,

When leaving Cambridge I hope you did not forget your Bible the book of books, & let it be a fixed rule to read a portion daily, it is an unfailing fountain of wisdom & remember the sabbath is a day of

rest, because God has commanded
us to keep it holy, On that day
we are to omit labor & worldly employ-
ments, & devote the time to religious
duties, & the gaining of religious
knowledge, which is the most impor-
tant of all,

Your sisters desire
to see you very much, Lily almost
daily, asks if father is not going
to see brother & sister, I must go &
see Mary comfortably fixed for the
winter, the second will not be
so severe, as they are seasoned to it
Now my dear son I must say good
bye God bless you

Your ever affet
Mother E. D.

All desire an abundance
of love Father Mother & sisters

Duncan non July 31st 1855

My dear Brother

Your welcome letter
of 23rd has just come to hand I was very glad to
hear from you but am very glad to hear from
I am very sorry to hear ~~from~~ that you are home
sick but I hope we shall soon meet again
you must beg father to bring us to see you
and sister Mary O! but do beg him to bring
us to see you and sister Mary but you don't
know how bad I want to see you and
sister. We have had a ^{grate deal of} ~~very hard~~ rain
we had a very hard shower yester
day evening but the sun is quite ~~to~~ bright now
Father has not got all the hay cut yet we want
the sun more than we want rain.
we have a quantity of fruit the peaches

are very fine had a great ^{many} apples ~~pears~~
~~part~~ of the grapes are ripe and gone the others are
nearly ripe sister wrote how much they sold for at
the Institute I do wish you and sister had been
here though they were not of the best we have
ever raised for they were very small.

I have three mocking birds or jinkers caught
them at Bedford he spends most of his
time there which saves father the trouble
of going there so often.

Ellen and Lizzie Matthews went to church
on Sunday and staid in all night they
expect to stay all night ~~two~~ or three days
if not the whole week Lizzie was running
a bout on the street and skinned her face nearly
all over. Beed you must not go ^{with those} out, boys
you spoke of and get shot for they might
get tired of shooting and get to playing
some more pranks with their gun
powder and you might get hurt.
You said that every where you

went that you were accused of take
ing young Ladies hearts if you dont
murder some of them will take yours
and then you would be ^{in a} ~~terribly~~ sad
fix. All join in much love to you
Goodby dear brother

Your affectionate
sister Ellen

My dear Hal Ellie has written you
miserable scrawl but the messenger is
waiting for the letter, & there is not
time for her to copy, it is certainly the
worst I have ever seen her write,
I am really sorry to hear of your indisposi-
tion, but suppose the bright faces of the
beautiful bellies of the village will in
a measure perform a cure, Your friend
Eric Anderson, wished for you very much
when here & said he would write to you
as soon as he returned home, there are
but a few weeks now before, you will

meet again, & I hope it will not be many
weeks after that we shall see you
I wish I could fill this page but must
stop so that it will go in the mail. good
bye with an abundance of love from
Your Mother

Longington July 31st 1855

My dear Son,

Since my last letter to you nothing of interest has occurred - A meeting of the Clay Monument Association took place - to decide upon the plan of Hamilton recommended by the Committee to the Association (a plan which was extravagantly puff'd in the Boston Post and other papers) all evidently originating from a common source - and designed to manufacture public opinion in its favor - These accounts were very extravagant of its merits - At the Association meeting it was rejected with great unanimity only 2 votes for it - And the whole subject referred back to the Directors to select a design - or have one prepared - This has produced with Hamilton and some of his friends some excitement & an effort is made to throw upon me the responsibility of its rejection - This I have no objection to - as the thing was very objectionable - and for one of reach of our means or any that we might hope to raise - which in the absence of any ^{other} reason was sufficient cause for its rejection I refer you to an editorial in the Observer giving an account of the meeting

One day last week we had a visit from your friend Anderson - We gave him a Saddle of Mutton for his dinner - which he thought very fine as it really was - I regretted that his visit was so hurried - We hoped that he would spend several days with us - But he hurried home

Ellen recd your letter on yesterday and is now preparing an answer - which she may finish in a day or two - From your account to Ed the girls give you, not a little trouble - I hope you will be able to bear it all that really my son - I think it best to have as little to do with them as you can - Let your feet and last thoughts be upon your studies never lose sight for one moment of what you have before you - To enter your class with credit, and take a high position for scholarships - Let this be your ambition - your sole ambition for the present - And so far as the girls are concerned - do not permit them to engross your thoughts - And never seek - now or hereafter - to become a general beam - a sort of Count de Orsay - whose whole thoughts were of woman fashion & dress - Let your ambition be more manly & elevated - never in your intercourse with them do or say any thing that could make you ridiculous in the eyes of others - Beware of cultivating

belits of too much familiarity with others -
and may obscure a becoming reserve - shyness
and self respect -

Dr Jenkins is spending much of his time
at Bedford and making himself useful - I am
almost tempted to place him in charge of
my business & give him a good salary on an
interest - He will be very useful to me - He is
forthright & industrious & he relieves me much
while he is at Bedford - That ^{is} make it his inter-
est to stay in N.Y. - instead of going to Illinois, what
do you think of it?

I met Miss Lucy Webb on the street on
Sunday with Miss Ellen Warfield & Miss Lucy said
to me that she had rec'd a letter recently from
you - and that you had made particular
enquiry about Miss Kate going to be married
she done it - laughingly and pleasantly, by
her manner insinuating that it was a
subject about which you felt some interest
Now my son, do not by letter or word - make any
impression - That you have more than ordina-
ry concern for this young lady - do not write
to these young people - letters that make an im-
pression that you are sincere in your feelings
towards her - Lilly desires me particularly
to give her love to her Brother - in which
I all join
Your devoted Father
H. T. Duncan

Dear Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter of the ... and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. Smith