

Lexington Augt 18th 1852

My Dear Son

Yours of the 5th inst is just rec'd to which I give you an immediate reply - I fear my Dear Son that I most unintentionally wounded your feelings or gave you some pain - By my effusion to "Dr Orsey" - It was playful on my part not intended to be serious - I have too much respect for your good sense & honor - to think for one moment - that you could adopt so ridiculous a character for any purpose as a model - Far from it - and if I gave a moments pain to you by a effusion of the kind - I hope you will forget it - as nothing was further from my purpose - I am incapable of doing you such injustice -

I am rejoiced to hear of your resolution to assiduously labor - to achieve distinctions - nothing my Son was ever accomplished in any department of life - without labor - stimulated by strong ambition & resolute will - Let your aims be noble & honorable - remember the moral ~~as well~~ as intellectual faculties are to be trained & are indispensable to success - that is solid and permanent success - nothing upon earth will be more cheering to my old age - than to see my only Son

occupy a position and influence among men
such as is alone awarded to virtue & integrity
My prayer is my dear Boy - that you may be
qualified in the fullest measure - for your am-
bitious aspirations

I find myself so fully occupied this fall
in improvements at Bedford - that the trips of your
Mother & little sisters will have to be deferred
until next season, when I hope they will be
able with me to spend much time in N E - your
Sister Mary will return home & spend the month
of September & return again in Oct - she will
come out with Dr Flint - who makes a flying
trip to see his friends & will return about the time
or a few days after Mary's vacation commences
I shall return with her - when I shall make you a
visit in Oct of a few days -

Dr Marshall spent eight before last
with us - on his way to Mason - the first visit
since you left - his leg is not yet well - but
much better - He says he will make you a
visit next summer at Cambridge - The old
fellow seems much attached to you and feels
great anxiety for your success

Lewis is again teasing me to purchase
his remaining 500 acres - which I offer to take
by exchanging other property for - but that
I will not ^{myself} commit to cash payments - I

should like to concentrate my property - much
of which is scattered - if I can do it by converting
it into property around me I will do so

The elections have resulted in the
overwhelming triumph of the American party
a name the K K have adopted here - Here
it is a Union party - Altho I have never joined
them - I voted their ticket - as far better than
the Democrats - and here it is composed of
men I have much more confidence in
than their adversaries

My Cattle are still on hand & I fear
I shall not get a satisfactory market before
fall - I shall have for sale some 230 head &
am preparing to feed about 400 - while I
hope to have ready by next June - my Corn
Crop is 450 acres at Bedford & a splendid
crop it is - most of it will yield at least
15 bushels to the acre - I have sold 12.00 bush.
of wheat of the new crop - for 1200\$ - a far
better return than I have ever had

I omitted to enclose you ^{too} edicated in
my last of the doings of the Subscribers &
the Clay Monument - I put it in this letter
all well & join in much love to you

Yr devoted Father
H. L. Duncan

Sixmonte edgit 9^a 1853-

My dear Son

You are without any letters from you
for the last week - and considering your great pa-
=ctuality - a failure to hear from you - awlays ca-
=casious anxiety and uneasiness

Let me know about what time you expect
to be in Cambridge - and what funds you may need
in making entry into College - Would it not be
better for you to take a room in College - so
you can get a comfortable & are sufficiently
private - As there is more necessity for economy
since my commitment for The berlak & The large
sum I have to pay for him this fall - a most
unlooked for event - and one that has annoyed
much - not so much the loss of money - as to be thus
imposed upon - He has acted most unfaithfully,
indeed - he is without principles - It will prove my
Son a lesson from which you will profit, never
in your career through life - Do you endorse any
paper - or have any transaction with a relative
If you have to give them do so - But never have
a business transaction with any of them - never
place any man under obligations to you - as
it will make him your enemy 8 times out of 10
I received from Dr Flint a letter a day.

on two sides - he which he informs me that
he will make a flying trip to Mass - leaving his
wife at home - that he proposes a visit to
you at Cambridge - while ~~on~~ - But I think
you will hardly have returned from Hopkinsville
and so wrote him as he will be on his way
back home before your return - upon his
return he will bring your Sister out home
who will spend her vacation with us - and
I shall go on with her on her return - at which
time I shall make a visit to you early in
October - Your Mother's visit will be post-
poned until next season I think - This will
suit better my cash liabilities this fall.
(This is for yourself alone)

I have a chance for a news paper con-
troversy with this man Hamilton the Robert
whom disrepute for the Clay movement was
repeated by the Subscribers at their late
meeting - He attributes all to my active influence
and though not named in several news paper
paper paragraphs - evidently alluded to
I shall take no notice of his scribbling though
I may in a few days furnish an editorial
or two placing the facts before the publick
I cut from the Observer & Reporter a short
Editorial I furnished alluding to the principal
facts - yet I may be necessary to prepare one

somewhat fuller & more in detail - His work
was a gaudy gothic structure - much better
adapted for a Turkish mosque - than as a
suitable memorial over the grave of the
great Republican - where we wish as the
most suitable structure - something plain simple
and grand from its imposing magnitude and
appropriateness for the purpose

Dr Jenkins is spending much of his
time at Bedford and I incline as I wrote you
last week - to make some provision for him
here - He will be very useful to me & claim
me much - In my last letter asked you what
you thought of it

We have nothing new here - a little rea
- tremendous gossip - which I suppose some of
your fair correspondents have detailed

I shall go to Louisville in a few days
about the Lumberlake business - I shall settle
the count to take the business & means
out of his hands & appoint another administrator
& thus relieve myself of any future responsibility
for him

Ellen & my Mathews are here - and
Marie still on hand - She will soon be off
indeed - I hope for good, as the children
say - All give you in much love to you

Yr devoted Father
H T Duran

Enclosed in
letter of August 11,
1855

Enclosed in
Letter of August
11, 1855

THE CLAY MONUMENT.

A meeting of the Clay Monument Association was held in this city on Wednesday last, pursuant to previous notice given through the papers of the city for the last three months, to take into consideration the adoption of a plan for the Monument to be erected to the memory of Henry Clay. It will be remembered that a committee, assembled on the 12th of April last, recommended the adoption of the design for the monument offered by Mr. Hamilton, of Cincinnati; but under the Charter of the Association, the assent of the subscribers in public meeting was rendered necessary, in order to give effect to this recommendation of the Committee.

The meeting on Wednesday was organized by the appointment of Edward Oldham as Chairman, and Thomas B. Baxter as Secretary.

The President (H. T. Duncan, Esq.,) made a verbal report of the condition of the Association, in regard to its means, reporting the amount to be about \$50,000; he stated what the action of the board had been in relation to the whole subject; that they had advertised for *three* designs, at a cost of \$50,000, \$75,000, and \$100,000, not knowing the amount they would be enabled to raise; that a committee of *fifty* gentlemen had been appointed (only *ten* of whom attended,) to make choice of the design; that this committee met on the 12th of April, when they were furnished by the Secretary with a report of the means of the Association (*say* \$50,000;) and that they were also instructed not to exceed—in the cost of the design they might recommend—the actual means of the Association; should they, however, agree upon a design at a greater cost than the company expected, they must ascertain from the artist whether the design could be so altered or reduced as to bring it within the actual means as reported. With these instructions, the committee preferred the design presented by Mr. Hamilton, the cost of which was estimated at about \$90,000.—They then, by a resolution offered (by the Hon Garrett Davis) appointed a committee to confer with Mr. Hamilton as to the practicability of so reducing or changing his design as to bring it within the means of the Association to build, and then adjourned. Mr. Hamilton by letter informed the committee, a day or two after, that he could, while retaining the form and characteristics of his design, curtail it easily to \$60,000 or \$65,000, and furnish a handsome monument for that sum; but that it would be by no means the magnificent structure they would have, if left uncrippled by means, to carry out the first grand idea he had formed of it, &c.

After a full consideration and discussion of the whole subject, on motion of Madison C. Johnson, Esq., it was resolved, that the design of the monument recommended by the Committee, exceeding the means of the Association, be not approved, and that the whole subject be referred back to the Directory to report a design not exceeding the cash means of the Association. The meeting then adjourned.

This decision we regard as highly judicious, and meets with general approval, so far as we are advised.

JOSEPH F. MILLER,



MANUFACTURER OF
Copper, Tin & Sheet Iron
WARE,

Main Street, Lexington, Ky.

CONTINUES to manufacture all articles in his line, in a superior manner and of the very materials.

He will give particular attention to all kinds of WORK, including Copper, Tin or Sheet Iron

Ring, Guttering, &c.

also—Copper and Iron Pumps of every

description for drilled or blown Wells of any

size, from Fifty Cents to One Dollar per foot and

ranted.

Copper Work for Engines, &c., and all other

articles pertaining to his business, done on short

time, at the lowest prices.

March 18 1898

DISSOLUTION.

THE undersigned, by mutual consent dissolved Partnership on the 28th of October, 1854. John Lurtry alone is authorized to collect notes and amounts due the firm of Cronly & McMurry, and has assumed the liabilities of the said firm all persons holding accounts against Cronly & McMurry will present to Jno McMurry for adjustment.

EDWARD CRONLY.

JNO. McMURTRY.

The Foundry & Machine Shop

Will be continued at the old stand in all of its branches, and the undersigned solicits a continuance of public patronage.

JNO. McMURTRY



OMNIBUS LINES.

FOR THE
Washington and Louisville Depots.

E undersigned respectfully informs the Travelling public, that he is now running in connection with the above roads, a Line of Omnibuses for the purpose of conveying passengers and baggage to and from either of the Hotels or any part of the city.

Omnibuses will be found at the doors of hotels in sufficient time for every train starting from this point.

Fare 20c per passenger and baggage.

S. WOLVERTON,

B. Residents wishing to go to either of the depots, will be called for at their residences giving their address at either of the Hotels or office on Short street, opposite the Broadway.

S. W.

Washington, feb 24 1898

CLOTHING! CLOTHING!

I. B. MORRISON,

This old stand, the corner of Main street and Jordan's Row, is now opening his Stock of

Spring and Summer Clothing, which is the best selected ever imported by him to market, comprising—

and Col'd Dress Frock and Business

Coats,

Sack Alpaca and Bombazine do

te, Brown, Marseilles and Duck do

American Cassimere Pants of all

colors,

Alpaca and Bombazine do,

Linen Drilling, Duck and Marseilles do,

Fancy Silk, Satin and Worsted Vests,

Col'd Marseilles and Duck of all

qualities,

Stock of Furnishing Goods is large and well

attention.

and Embroidered Shirts, and finest qual-

linen and Cotton Drawers.

Italian Silk and best article of col'd Cra-

large assortment of Silk and Cambric Ties;

atin Stockings and every thing wanted of gen-

's Furnishing Goods.

desirous of quitting the trade, he offers

his Stock of CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

at Cost

just received on consignment between

and \$3000 worth of CLOTHING, which

be closed out by the 1st of July, and which

sold at Eastern Cost.

18 3

THOMAS B. MONROE, JR.,

TORNEY AT LAW.

LEXINGTON, KY.

AMINER TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS IN

AYETTE COUNTY.

OFFICE on Short Street, between Upper

limestone.

2 24

Livingston Augt 18th 1852-

My Dear Son,

I need to say your last & more ~~wel~~
come letter - The matter you make allusion to
of a controversy with the fellow from Cin-
cinnati - amounts to nothing - I prepared a short
Editorial for the observer - which has given
the cue to the facts - and satisfactory to the
publick - that is the stock holders - and no other
have any thing to do with it - I prepared an
article for another & more detailed account
of the matter - But upon reflection the
Board of Directors concluded it was best
to take no further notice of the matter or
of the impudent fellow Hamilton - who I
felt very much like skinning - But the game
was too small - "The play was not worth the
Candle,"

I shall write you in a day or two at
Cambridge and send you a check for
\$300 - which will be there in time for you
this will be my last letter to Hopkins &
my next will be directed to Cambridge

I shall feel great anxiety to hear from
you - The particulars of your examination
and that you have entered as "slick as
a knife,"

as you said in one of your letters - that
is without conditions & with good standing
I should like also to hear from Mr Chase. an
account of your examinations &c

In commencing with your class you take
an even stand - set out with the firm and
resolute purpose of winning & deserving its
first honors - you will be perhaps the only
representative of your State & trust my son
that you will feel a State as well as a
personal pride in distinguishing yourself
I consider the next 4 years of your life
as of the highest importance to you - in
making those attainments & the development of
those traits of character which is mark you
for distinguished and elevated position - For
success your moral must be equal to your
intellectual character - As to those high person
al & moral qualities - which inspire confidence
first of all is an unyielding & inflexible
love of truth - never embellish never egos-
cote, never resort to falsehood or induction
nothing but straight forward unflinching love
of truth - Next to this & going hand in hand
with it is a stern love of justice - perfect
justice to all - in your estimate of their as a
man & conduct. Avoid all prejudice in
the formation of your opinions & judgements

with it to be charitable & forbearing - and
last and of inexpressible importance is, when
you have formed your opinion & taken your
position - adhere to it - not with obstinacy
but inflexible firmness - Cultivate a high
moral courage as well as physical - fear God
but not man , Here now of the man fearing
spirit in you - Do yourself what is right just
true to others & require it of others to yourself
Form the habit of a polite courtesy to all
remember the holy precept & soft words turneth
away wrath, I do not mean by this that
you shall practice deceit or hypocrisy
But an even uniform and habitual politeness
Have deeply engraven upon your heart
Love of truth justice Charity forbearance
a courteous politeness & inflexible resolution
and courage - These are the high moral
qualities that make the man - add to
these the intellectual qualities - and you
have the man - who is as near perfection
as we can become - When you enter
College & you are of its societies - attend closely
to its duties - Cultivate assiduously the habit
of debating & publick speaking - Study & reflect
over what you will say - form the habit
of thinking closely & correctly - & you will
soon speak well - form the habit of

Preparation - and you will learn to speak
Concisebly concisely & concisely - There is no
habit more impervious - by practice
thought & reflection - with due & proper
preparation - The man who thinks ^{is} well
concise & to the point - But of this we
hereafter write you fully - and make
such
suggestions as occurs to us as useful and
as calculated to aid you - in this most
invaluable accomplishment of our Ameri-
can gentleman - Calculated to enlarge
his usefulness - in the counsels of his
country - Should he ever desire to par-
ticipate in them

You enquire about cholera - It
has entirely disappeared - It was bad
in the hospital & scattering cases in the
town & country - Though my family
both white & black never enjoyed
better health - for which we have
great cause of thankfulness - Your
sister will return home next week with
the Fleet & spend her vacation - All well
we were much grieved that ~~to~~ send you word
Agnew did not permit your Sister ~~to~~ love us effectively
To spend the day with Dr & Mrs Shanks ^{was}
vacationing ^{from} their church - where
they shall be Sabbath there ^(Steph) H. J. Davis



My Dear Son

I send you 2 Complimen^{tary} tickets for Mr Sparks & Mr Scars - Intending them to be present at the great fair coming off in Lexington on the 11th Sept

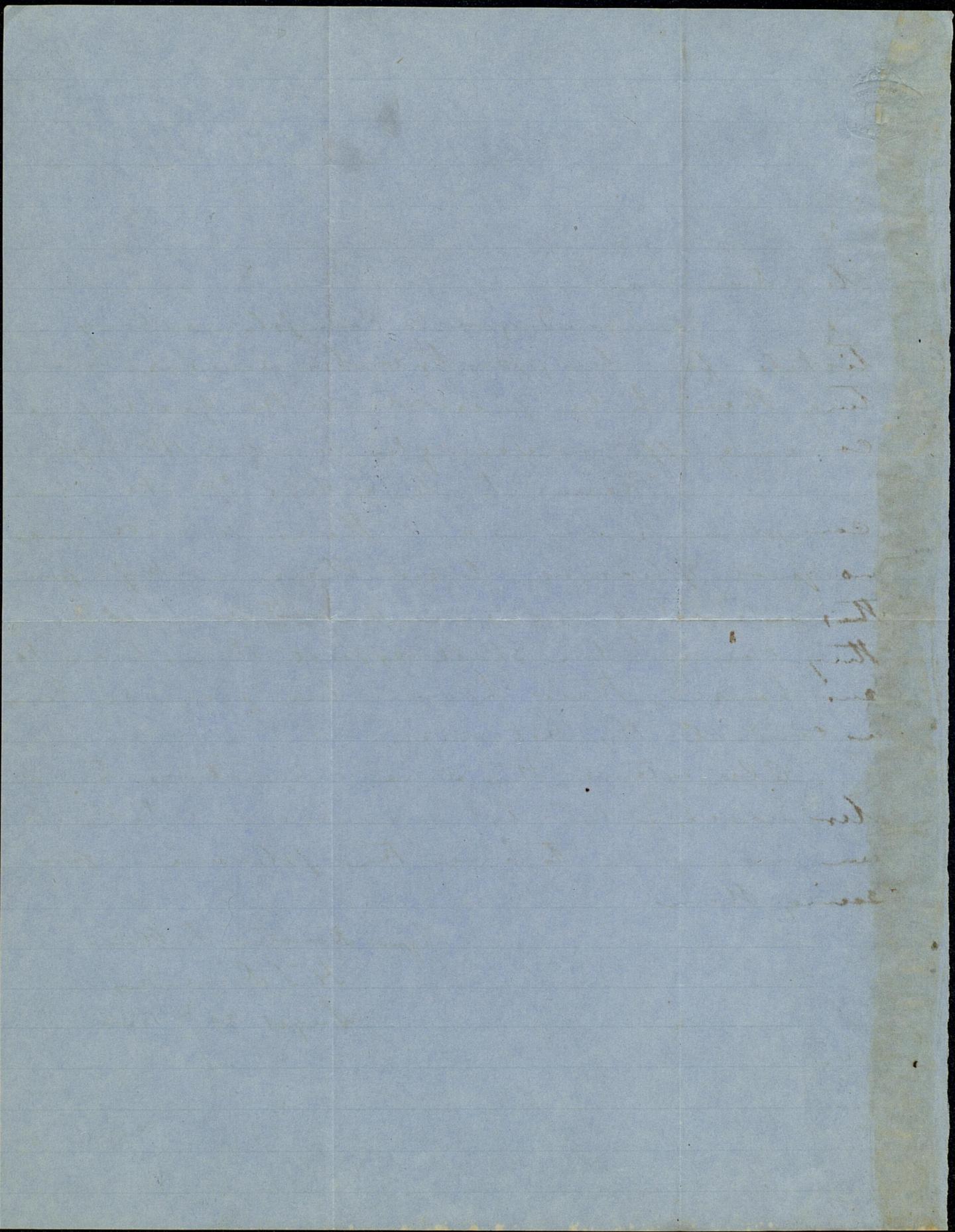
Present to Mr & Mrs Sparks our compliments and say to them - it will give us great pleasure to see them in Ky upon this interesting occasion and that should they come - we shall expect them to make "our house" their home - We promise them a cordial Ky welcome

Also extend the same invitation to Mr Scars - and let me know whether we may hope to have the pleasure of seeing them

Yr devoted Father

H. J. Duncan

Augt 20th 1853-



Sixington Augt 20th 1855-

My Dear Son.

Enclosed I send you a check
for \$300 which I hope will come safely to hand
Nothing new has occurred since my
letter of Yesterday

Robt Ford is on a visit to my
house, spending several days - I expect he
will be married next spring to a young
lady in Charleston

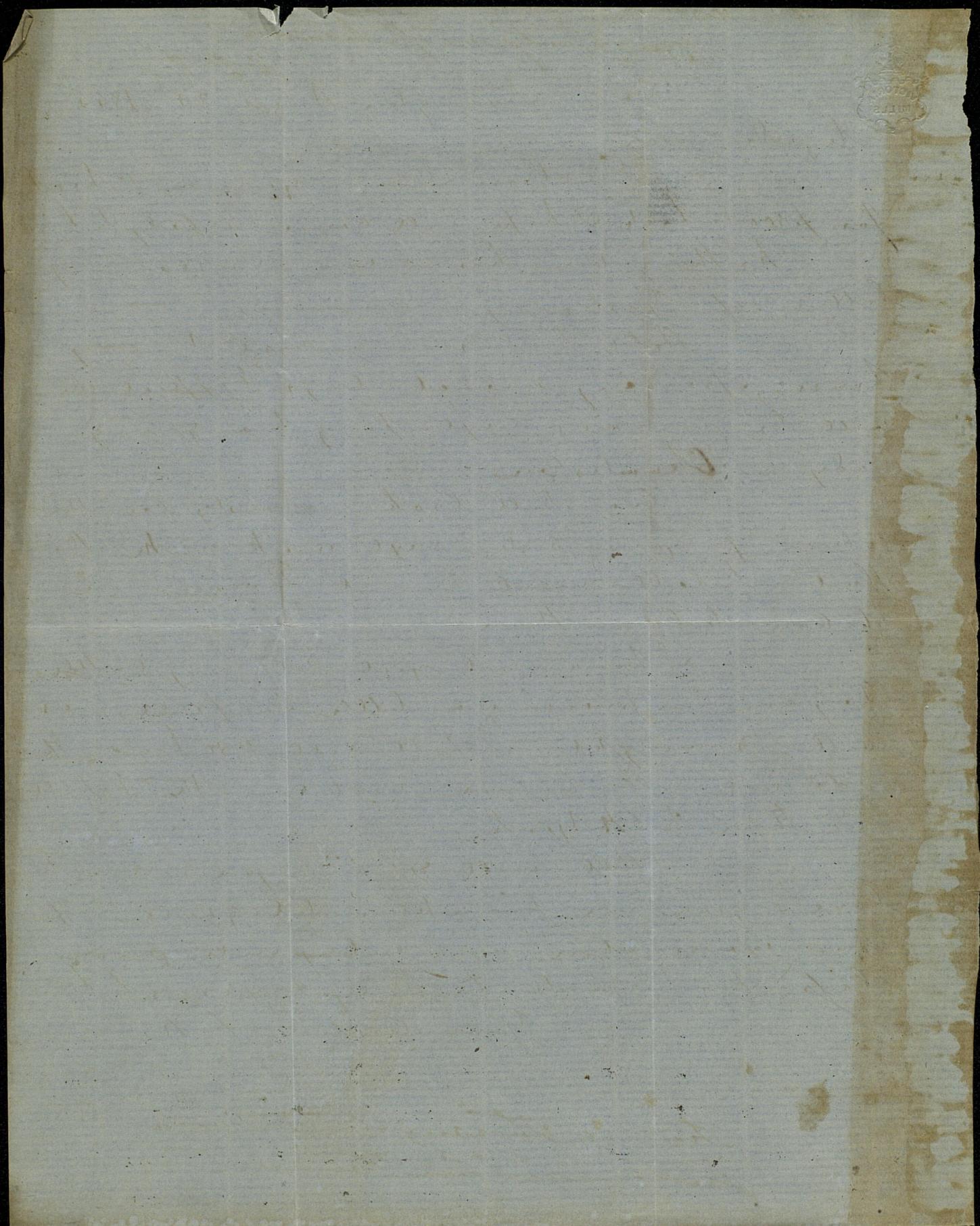
You shall look anxiously for the
return of your sister next week with Dr
Flint - I shall meet her at Paris on a
station below there

I have not yet sold my cattle
they are improving a little in price - as
well as weight - I shall sell 230 head - If
I do not sell before next month I shall
send them to New York

All well & send you much
love - give me prompt intelligence of
your examination and entry into your
class - For I shall be very anxious to hear

Your devoted Father

H. J. Dimock



December 2^d 30th 55

Dear Harry

The length of my last evidently fatigued or bored so, that you determined you would not hastily give me occasion to repeat the fault? Never fear. I do not mean effect to be pleased again under the circumstances that led me to extend my scribbling over such a waste of paper. I was then entirely alone - no books to read - no friends to talk to, no pleasant thoughts to engage my mind - no bright anticipations to beguile the tedious of passing time hanging heavily upon my hands. I hope after this explanation you will pardon my sin against pictorial propriety.

After thus confining my fault I feel somewhat warranted in lessening your accusation - charging that you sin on the opposite extreme - your letter was too short.

You have now passed through the trying ordeal that admits you through the portals of regular college life and you now quietly & smoothly glide down the current that pours the limpid waters into the great ocean of knowledge, at regular steady stroke of the oar is all sufficient, now that you have passed the shoals and rapids of the small tributary streams. To bear you pleasantly

along and afford you leisure and the inclination
to enjoy the picturesque scenery that lines
the shores and the islands of beauty that are
scattered here and there upon the bosom.

Do not forsake these scenes to find illicit
pleasures amid the frivolities of the world &
the wicked crowd. If you have lost your mag-
net as you intimate there is more reason for
you to look closely about you - to watch all
the movements of your bark and turn short
around whenever you see the last danger com-
ing up ahead. Pursue steadily in this
course and my word for it you will not
fail to regain another and as bright a load star
as the one you have lost and that before many
months have passed. Youth is too buoyant, too
hopeful, too joyous for it to be otherwise. Disap-
pointments & defeats are felt more keenly by the
sensitive susceptibilities than more advanced
years but to maturity makes it to rebound &
regain its wonted cheerfulness and be filled
again with hope & prospective happiness.
Disappointment comes with crushing force only
upon those whose repeated dreams of happiness
have been dislodged & dislodged into the im-
pact of despair. You have self respect. The es-
timation of friends. The love and approbation of your
parents and sisters. The respect of society and
besides all this you have the gratifying pleasure

of knowledge and an ~~equalling~~ ^{equalling} concern to ans-
ter you steadily in the paths of virtue and stay
any forward steps in the direction of the whirl-
pool of iniquity in your midst. If these cautions
fail to impress, the danger is fearful & I must
say no additional circumstance in my opinion
can add to the security. I have no fear in
your case that the additional circumstance will
not soon enough be added and the Event wish
return to work with your destiny in happiness
The selfish wish to claim all the benefit you can
for yourself and a disregard for any one besides
I have no doubt creased almost with the time
occupied with writing. But I will here drop
the subject and not again return to it
I could not help relating to the extent I have
your injunction not to write again to you upon
F. Hanmer I shall have no occasion to return
to it unless it is forced upon me.

Now for other matters and these can soon be
despatched. First in interest to you - your sister
Mary reached home yesterday morning
enjoyed the get back and welcomed heartily
she is looking extremely well - she has grown and
fattened. The trials & fatigues encountered in the
rugged ascent up the hill of science & the mid-
night lamp have not impaired her health, nor
checked her growth. though there is no royal
road to knowledge to look at her full and

ruddy cheek'd, her erect form and elastic motion
is the persuasion us that the activity is increased
with flowers and places of refreshment posted
along the route to whom and where.

Had you accompanied her the home circle would
would be again complete & the happiness greatly
enhanced. It is a pity that your vacations do
not correspond

I have no outside news of any interest to give
you. The health of the city is entirely restored
the weather is pleasant. The crops promising -
fruit in great abundance

Mr. Victor, it is said, has become insane
within a day or two past

Merry says that she will write to you this after-
noon. All give me in much love

Yours affectionately
W. D. Jenkins

Duncannon Sunday
September 2nd /55 -

My dearest Brother

All have gone to church except Lily and myself - I had no bonnet to wear, and Lily said she would stay at home with "sis May" - I reached home on Wednesday morning at eleven - and intended writing to you the next day or the day after - but was prevented - Friday evening I was just coming up stairs to write to you when Emma McCaw, Emely & Mrs Brand drove up - Emma looks very well - but has not grown an inch - Emely B. is a little taller than I - Emma joined the Episcopal church in New Haven - and her Father is so provoked about it he thought of not sending her back to Miss Edwards - but she said she would return next spring - Her health has been very bad - and she has just been to the springs and has just returned - Friday evening just after Mrs Brand ~~the~~ came who do you think drove up? Mrs Morrison! she said she had come out to see Mother - & explain about what she said to Father concerning you and Coate - she said Father had treated her, ^{very} coolly ever since - Lily and I have just finished eating some fine peaches - John

brought in a basket of very fine ones - and I could not resist the temptation - I do wish you had some of our nice fruit - there is the greatest abundance of peaches pears grapes and apples - the water melons are almost gone - we have had several since of and then to go out and see the trees breaking down with fruit & returned home - but they were very indifferent ones - the ground covered - I do miss you so much at home, it does not seem right to be here without you - nothing is wanting to complet our happiness - except your presence - I do wish I could have seen you before I left Pittsfield - You have by this time passed through your examination - I hope with credit to yourself - Helen Kelly is to be married on the 6th of this month to Mr. Freeman - and Mollie Brent (who came here once with cousin Caroline Scott-) is to be married on the 12th Bob Borrow is married - it is reported that Ellen Warfield & Daniel Bell are to be married - and Mattie McKee & Mr. Jones - Jones is in Pittsfield - he came to see me before I left - The Fair is over next week - I expect "General" will be home the first of this week - Mrs. L. Zannie, and Umph. came on ~~sixth~~ to Pittsfield - and remained two days - "General" - left on Saturday at 3 - ~~and~~ for New York, - and I left on Monday at 8 - Mary Campbell and Pattie Moore came out with me - Mary Campbell as far as Cinci - and Pattie as far as our own gate - she went on home - and she will perhaps visit me during the fair - and we will go on together - Emily Brand

is going on with us - she is going to Mr. Mack's school
where Mattie - went - I staid all night in
C - coming on - went to captain Culbertson's
Josephine is keeping house - it looks very nice -

I went into Lexington on Friday and Saturday
to get a bonnet - but could not find one that suited
so I am going to have my old one done up
and trimmed Lexington looks the same as
ever - just as dirty - Every thing at home looks
the same - only our house is in a very
desperated condition. Robert Ford bought himself
a large St Bernard dog in New York - gave one
hundred dollars for him - he will carry a basket in
his mouth - having no place in Louisville to keep
him - he was obliged to fasten him up in
the cellar - so he sent him up here to stay until
he went south on his plantation - his Father has
given him a plantation - and he expects to go
there this fall - they say he is certainly to be
married to a lady in Charleston - he has been
there three times - twice they say especially to visit her -
he was here several days before I came - came
on a Saturday and left on Wednesday -

Mr. Brown has had a call to Illinois - and
he and Mrs. Brown have gone out there to spend
five or six weeks there to see how they will like
it - I met them in Cincinnati - at the Burnet
House - I do not think I wrote to you after

our examination — I got along very well —
I will send you a programme — The concert
was very good — I wish you could have been there —
give my love to Mrs. Sharks — and remember me
to Mr. Sharks — Mother Father and all send
much love to you — and wish much that you
were here — as Father is waiting for this
letter. I will close it — I shall write to you ^{again} in
a few days — Write soon and as often as
possible — The servants desired to be remembered
to you — Farewell — dear Brother
Your loving and devoted sister

P.S.

Dearest "Buddie"

Mary —

I wish you were with us all, we
want to see you so much — "Sis May" will write ~~you~~ to
you for me — in a few days — we have so much nice
fruit — I wish you were here to enjoy it with us —
good bye dear "Buddie" your loving little sister Lily —

Great Prairie

Sept 3d 1855-

Dear Henry

You asked me in your last to give a description of Mo. readily can speak, and call it a land of Chills & Fevers.

I commenced shaking one month after I arrived - and I still shake with no expectation of a cessation. - When having the first chill the fever fell in my eyes, and nearly blinded me for a week, and I have been obliged to keep them bound up until one week ago; so you must know I have seen a great deal of Mo.

Before me are ten letters to be answered and as many excuses to be made, for I expect many will think I have slighted them or treated them badly, yet I cannot help it, the fates made it inevitable. I hear from Ky, and the rumor is, that Bob & Miss Kate M. will marry Dick Morrison and Miss M. Hunt of Louisville, will marry also.

I suppose by the time this reaches you
you will have entered the list of Contenders
for academic honors; let me give an auspice
favorable to you, for it would make me
glad to see by your return with the laurel
from that venerable University. With the
gift of nature, helped by application I cannot
doubt that your exit will be crowned with
the honors & greatest in the gift of the
institution.

Mo. has many fine schools & colleges
something for ^{with} I think well of her State government
she has also some beautiful and well cultivated
young ladies; but the most of the young men
are disgusting, as they drap their knees at
the table, set an cheer, and also all
sick thru th. - she consider it criminal
to speak correctly at any time or in any
place. Most of them are what Prof James
B. Ford would ^{call} clever good-hearted good-for-
nothing fellows".

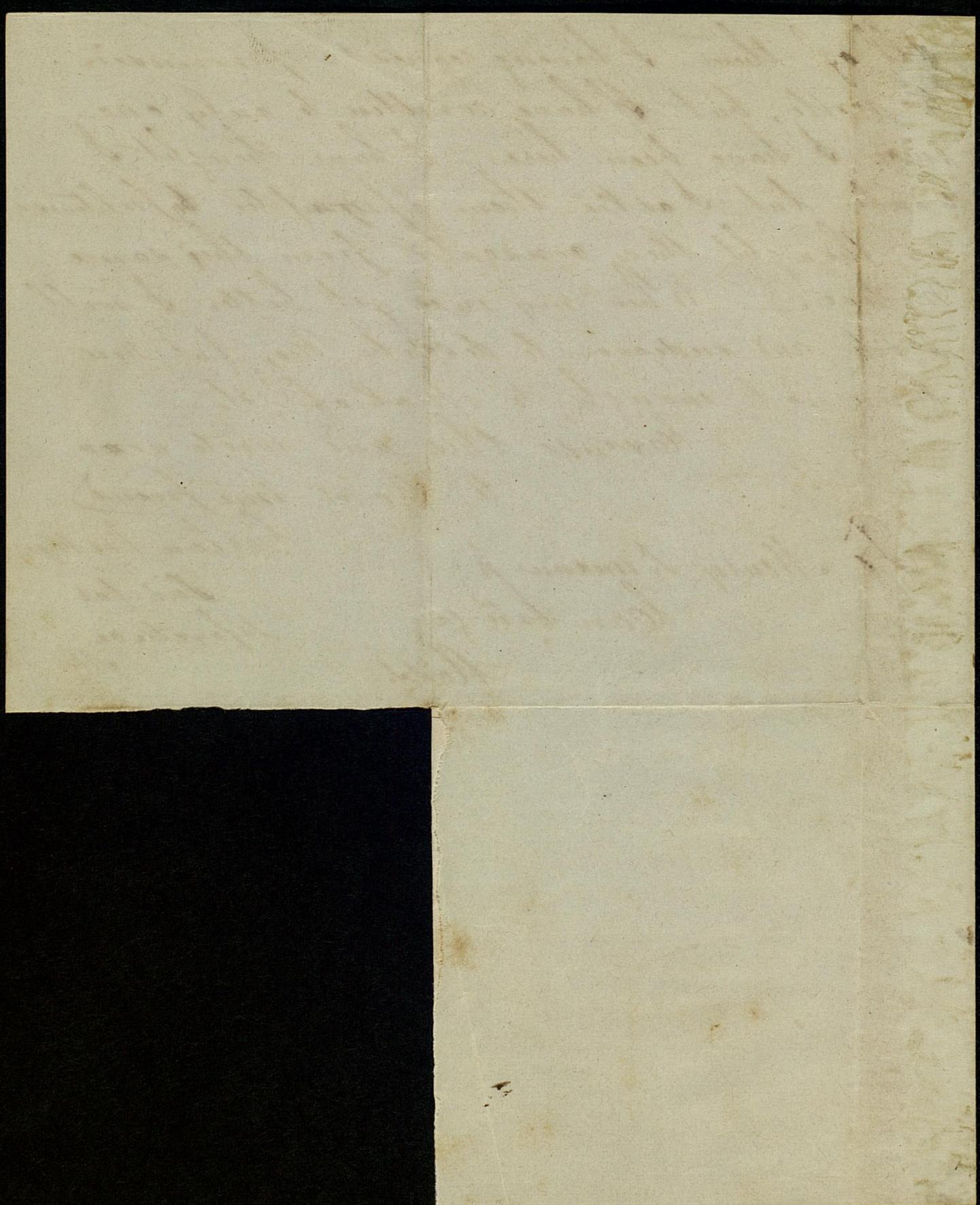
~~You asked me, do I~~
correspond with Miss Mary H? I do not
but correspond with Miss Fannie

All of them - I having request - promised
to write, but I have written to only one
since I have been here - I have thought I
would but I ask'd them ~~for~~ ^{not} promised by solemnity
and thought they consented from the same
motive. — When my eyes get better I will
write, and endeavor to describe this, but now
know not enough, to speak of it.

Excuse this, and write soon
to your true friend

To Henry Duncan Jr
Cambridge
Mass.

Garlan Webb
Tri-bat
Lafayette Co.
Mo



My dear Sir

Boston Sept 6th

1850.

I have received
your Father's kind invitation to
attend the meeting of the Ky. Agric.
Assoc. on 11th inst & have
written to him to say that the
state of my health must prevent

me from accepting it. I
deeply regret that I cannot avail
myself of so favorable an oppor-

tunity to visit Kentucky - I
must wait a little longer.

I have expressed to your Father
a strong hope that he will attend
the great National Agricultural
Society's show to be held here
in Octo. 1st 23 to 26th inclusive.

Wm H. T. Duncan Jr

J

I am glad to hear that
you have been admitted as
a student to the College.

Come & see me when con-
venient. X

Yours truly

Benj. Seaver

X my Counting House is at
Water St. I am living
at Roxbury for the Pres-
ent, but shall return to
the Revue House in Oct.
probably.

Duncanson.

Wednesday September 5th /65 -

My darling Brother

All are about retiring to rest - and I must write to you before I sleep - We received your letter to day, and one yesterday - both of which were joyfully received - I wrote to you on Sunday, & suppose you have received it, or you will at least get it tomorrow, Brother Father and cousin Maria were invited to Helen Woolley's (Mrs Fosman) I suppose she is by this time, ^{from A. S. St Louis} wedding, which takes place or has taken place to night - But it has rained so to day and yesterday that they could not go - Mrs Hart and her daughter Lizzie, are in Lexington staying at Judge Marshall's - They went down to Paris to the wedding yesterday. You received an invitation to a party at Mrs Woolley's to day - they thought you & were at home I enclose it in this letter - Moorehead of Frankfort was inaugurated governor of Kentucky yesterday - a number of people from Lexington went down - The fare down was only half price - which was I suppose an inducement with some Matie McKee went down under the protection of George Pickett

Dr Matthews Uncle Davy and I believe think Mrs Morgan and many others - I am glad you are in college - and ~~worry~~^{are} you were obliged to have conditions - but I know it is dreadful to be examined

The Fair begins next week, I wish you were here to attend. I suppose I shall see everybody there, and perhaps "xxx" among the number - It has been raining for two days and no one has called to see me this week - if I get a chance I shall get "xxx's" daguerreotype for you if you would like to have it. I suppose "General" has reached home by this time - I shall know in a few days Has Ellen written to you about the large dog, "Pus", whom she has to take the place of Queen. I think I ~~told~~ told you about him in my last letter

I shall be so happy when I see you perhaps I shall not go to Pittfield longer than next term, I received a letter ~~two~~ days after my return home from a Miss^{Mary} Brown Scott of Frankfort Ky - inquiring about the Pittfield Institute she said she had seen my name in this ~~last~~ years catalogue - have you received a catalogue and a Berkshire paper with an account of the our examinations in it - from me? I left them at the Institute to be sent to you and I do not know whether they did or not - if you have not received them I will send you some more - It cleared up raining after dinner to day - but it has just commenced raining afresh - It has rained so much this summer

that the place is covered with weeds - there are more than I ever saw - I think our place looks more shabby than I ever saw it. Father spoke to Barnicle and proposed to rent the place to him and furnish him four hands to work for him, he has not yet determined whether or not he will take it - I hope he will. — Would not it be ~~pleasant~~ for us all to board at the Brattle House in Cambridge? I hope you will have a pleasant boarding house - and a pleasant room and roommate - What has become of the little boy, Chase wanted you to go room with, poor little fellow I hope he will not be ruined at college, it is the very place of all others to ruin youth - Take care of yourself my dear brother - I pray you may succeed in all you undertake - You do not know how proud we all ^{especially myself} are of you, how I long for us all to be together, and I pray we may all be an unbroken band in heaven, "where partings are unknown" All join me in ~~the~~ unexpressible love to you - Give my love to Mr and Mrs Sparks, ^{all} the servants desire to be remembered to you.

Good Night my dear brother.
God bless you - Your loving and devoted Sister
Mary D

Sep 5 -

-Incomplete-

Lex Sept 1st 1852-

My Dear Son

Yours of — date on the Bond enclosed
for my signatures — was sent on yesterday at
my office when much engaged — so that I had
not time to write you — I signed the Bond and
remailed it to you immediately — by the return
mail — In looking over your letter again
you say that — One of the blanks must be
filled by the payment of the person — the
other by a resident of Mass — Instead of
the word payment — you intended to say
Signature I presume — If there is any thing
more for me to do or more money
to be paid or I have misapprehended your
meaning let me know

You request me to write Mr Seaver
a letter requesting him to act as your Guar-
dian &c — now as Mr Seaver lives in Boston
where you would have to go to see him and
he absent frequently — would it not be better
to appoint Mr Sparks he is on the ground
more convenient to you & it would be still
further confirming an intimacy between
you and him — which promises to be very
useful to you through life — I consider the

intimate friendship & association with such
a man as beyond all price. But this matter
is with yourself - I will write such a letter
as you request either to Mr Garrison or Mr
Sparks or yourself as you may prefer
which inform me by return

I am gratified that you have joined
your class & become a regular & I should
have presumed that it had been without
conditions but this I presume very few
succeed in doing - the four points of deficiency
you can manage easily and
make up all together I hope you are
satisfied with your examination - the very
fact of the importance of conditions, suggests
to you the necessity of study - never miss
a recitation & never fail to prepare
well for it, whether you are asked a question
or not - prepare yourself in each recitation
as if you were to recite the entire upon
alone yourself - In this way by being always
ready, you will soon have character
with your class & teachers

Your Sister I suppose will give
you all the news - I will write you
in a day or two a full letter upon the
subject of your new position with a class
and give you such advice and suggestions

Sixty two Sept 1st 1853-

My dear Son

Yours of the 1st rec'd to day - and
shall reply in full to its various topics - First
as to the appointment of Mr Seaver as your pro-
-fessor - I wrote you this morning suggesting Mr
Sparks as more convenient as he was on the
ground and less frequently from home - And so
soon as you reply - I will write to the person
you may make choice of - The Board I sign'd
and return'd on yesterday - You say Chase says
told you entered very well & by application you
will succeed so this is all very well - I expect
that you have had so much trouble in getting
a room - You speak of taking a room mate
if you do I hope it will be a clever and
honorable youth - If he should not be, you will
find him a miser & a pest,

You say Mr Chase will teach my lessons for
a week or so each day just before I go to accepta-
tion - this will be expensive, But will enable me
to have an equal footing with the good scholars
30 in number - which entered without conditions
I have also to make up my conditions with
him - How long will this arrangement be necessary?
to enable you to keep your position

It will temporary only, I presume - In the
choice of a room make you cannot be too
particular - That he should be one of studious
habits, good principles, and exemplary habits
Now that you have been for some days
associated with your Class - How do you feel
that you get along with them - Are you sat-
isfied with your own recitations - Do you
feel that you are equal to the average of
the 30 you speak of - Do you get on to your
own satisfaction - Do you find that your
case go on with your class with less labor
than you have had, the past year. How long
will it take you to make up your conditons;
Do you not find this class associations more agree-
able than being alone - I shall be most
happy to hear that you keep up your position
in your class and fairly sustain the reputa-
tion of your own State - What are your
impressions of the character of your class;
give me at your leisure a full account &c

I sent by our young friend Mr Anderson
an ^{one} taken from the building at Ashland
I hope he has rec'd it - I wrote him on the
occasion a letter and took the occasion to
express my deep sense of his kindness to
you

Your Sister is enjoying her visit very

much home - the impression seems to have
got out that you had returned home with her
as an invitation to each of you was received
to a party at Mrs Woolley's on to Morrow evening
your Sister said she would enclose yours to
you - Mary will not go - as it is rather soon
for her to attend parties given to young ladies

I shall endeavour to write you once
a week - you must keep up your regular
and constant correspondence with home - As
it is a source of great pleasure & happiness
to hear from you frequently & in your letters
I will suggest a little more care in your
spelling evidently the result of too much haste

All joins in much love to you

Your devoted Father
H Z Duncan

Inform me when the great National Cattle Show
comes off in Boston so I may attend to

Sep 6



Mrs H. T. Duncan Jr
Cambridge
Massachusetts

Sept 8th 1855

Dear Henry

I read your last letter yesterday receive my thanks therefor you complain of the shortness of mine and the scarcity of news they contain. I to some extent am answerable for their deficient length, but for the want of news I do not hold myself responsible - I always give you all I have that is of a character not likely to reach you through the public prints. Could I suppose elongate them indefinitely by dint of strenuous effort, but by any such process they would lose in quality what they gained in quantity and become tiresome in the perusal. When my material is abundant and good I shall construct for you a lengthy epistolary fabric, but when scanty and indifferent you may expect me to contract my powers in a just & brief manner and stop short of the moraling point.

I may go to New York during the fall the last of this month or the first of next, and I will go hard with me if I do not get time to see you. If I should I will remind you of the points connected with the rising within the horizon of your

amatory heavens, of several North stars To direct your bark over the tempestuous ocean of love. I fear that you will get swalloed up among them - lose your course and either be dashed against Sylla or swallowed up in Garybis. The first understand to be the rock upon which old bachelors are split and latter the ~~sugnypking~~ whirlpool of matrimony. But it may be that one of these North (northern) stars is so dazzlingly brilliant & exceeding in brightness all the rest that they will sink soon again beneath the horizon or cease to attract your admiring gaze.

Sam'l Webster you say was overcome in Hopkinton and ask why you may not follow his illustrious example. Of mental intellectual greatness determined the correctness and propriety of all the steps of its progress then their example would be warrant sufficient for imitation of others. But this I am inclined to believe is far from being the case and great men are just as big fools in love as other folks and just as oft to be mistaken in the qualities their friends confer upon their favorites. Indeed it seems to be the general impression that men of superior minds in the majority of instances only

themselves with decidedly male women. Why
this is the case I have never heard satisfactorily explained - but I presume that
it is the law of antagonism that seems to rule generally in the affairs of the
sexes. That is opposite attractions similar
rule as is the case with the different states
of electricity. If there is any truth in the
supposed fact and the explanatory hypothesis
is Daniel Webster's example is worthy of in-
spection upon the ground that he was a
great man - but rather to be depreciated
and avoided. Ropkinian will have to seek
some other basis to give character to its
leaders.

The instant you speak of coming back
into the entrance of the freshman class
at College it will be to me a very ob-
ject one - not at all followed by time &
that it would be greatly more ~~dangerous~~
in the break than the observance your
mother is more disposed to command. The
absentee of the freshman class than those
that were present and participated in
the games. We hope that you will not en-
gage in a second game, if another
should come off.

Your sister Mary appears to be generally
quite happy in her temporary release

from the duties of school and in being
surrounded by kind and at home
At times however there comes over the
"spirit of her dream" of happiness a pro-
found abstraction from things around
that leaves a doubt upon our minds
whether she is entirely happy and that
she has not left behind some object
or object ~~from~~ which reparation has
created a void

The fair begins on the 11th inst. The occasi-
on will probably be usual interest & least
and be well attended. Strangers are
beginning to come in. There are also
a ladies from Louisville here ~~who~~
are creating somewhat of a sensation.
They are Misses Johnson - Nicholas and
Rutherford. To the two former a party
was given last night by Miss Mary Wood-
ley. I was not there for the list of re-
sponds. Fred Garrison married as daugh-
ter of Abby Bent of Law. several days
since. Fred Garrison is also married to
a Miss Morris of Indianapolis.
I have no gopt to give you - if there
is any stirring it has not reached my
ear - all are very well and give me
love to you - Yours affectionately

P.D. Johnson

Duncannon
Sept 11th 1855

My dearest Brother

I have spent a day at the fair, and am a little fatigued. There was not half so many persons as there was last year, and the display of quilts was very poor - I have never seen such an inferior show; the flowers were poor - there was one or two bunches, John thought the flowers were shown tomorrow, and made a sofa - the inside made of boxcorn and the back of fine flowers - and after we came home he had it made - and had his work for nothing - he was ~~over~~ disappointed - there is to be a ball at the Hotel tonight, and he is going to make the flowers up into bouquets to sell - You remember Mrs Taylor - "cousin George Ann" you remember her two daughters she had here with her - well, the eldest of these is to be married on the 20th to Alexander F. Compton - perhaps we shall go to the wedding I did not see "xxxx" to day or any of the family - she is certainly to be married very soon.

to Robert Breckinridge - they say Willie is
very much pleased with Mattie Mc Kee
but I am afraid Mr Jones will cut him
out - I saw Willie to day he has raised a
pair of whiskers - they say he is very dissipated,
somebody else is to be married, but I do not
remember who the parties are - ^{concerned} Mr Morrison
is broke he made an assignment yesterday.

I saw "General" to day - she was at
the fair - perhaps he will stay one night
with me during the fair - and if not then, at
some other time - Pattie Moore will stay one
night with me during the fair, I expect to
bring her home with me tomorrow evening -

I will not write any more to
night - but will finish my letter ⁱⁿ
the morning - ^{desks her love to you and} Mother says she will
write to you as soon as she gets time -
The "darkies" or some thing is always worrying
Mother - I think it would be better for her to
board in Cambridge - Good Night,
pleasant dreams!

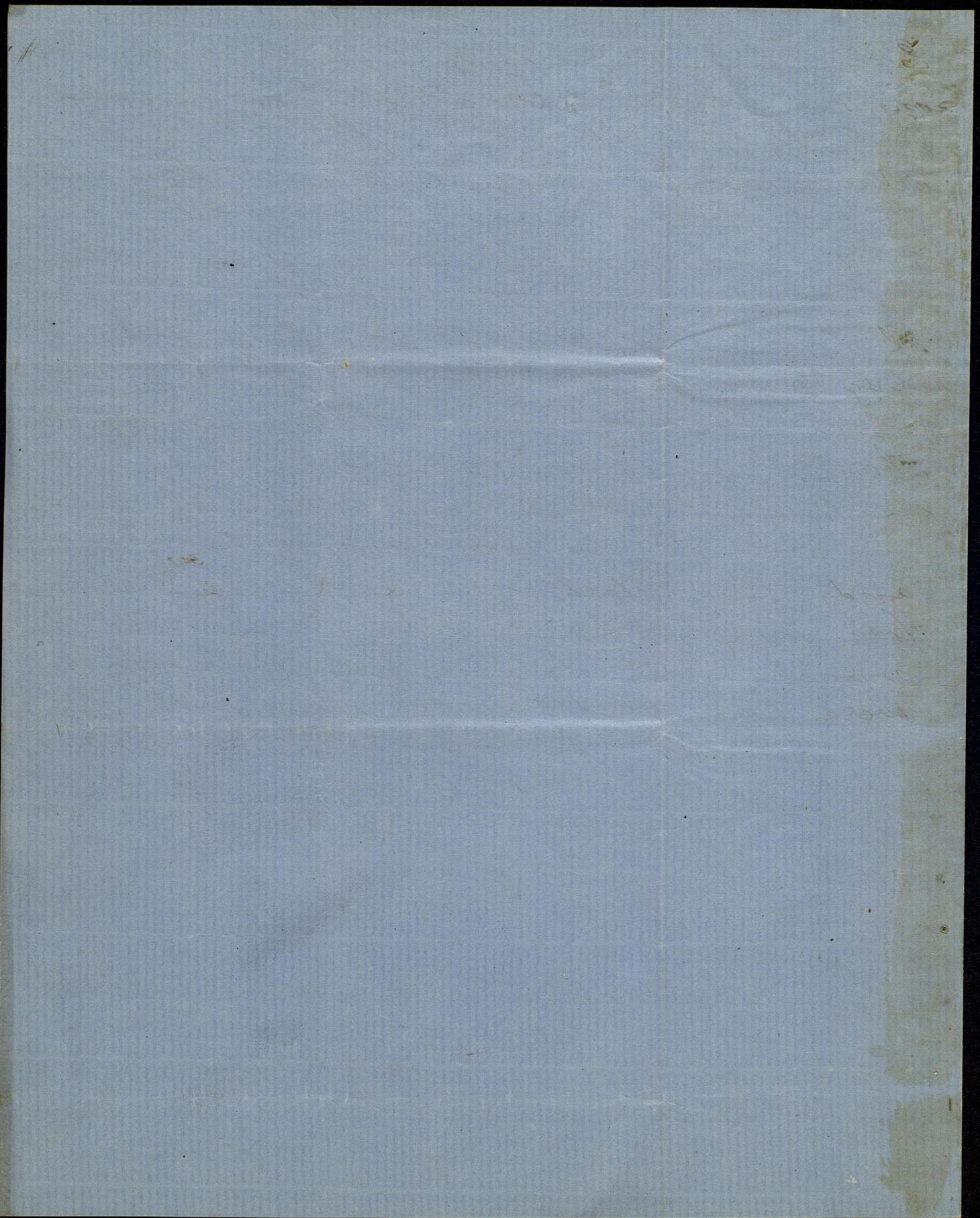
Good Morning Brother!
Mother is packing us our ~~breakfast~~ dinner to
take to the fair - I have just finished mine -
perhaps I shall go on to Pittsfield throug
after neyt with Mr. Coffett and his daughter
I do not know certainly yet.

Ellen and Lily each have a pair of mocking birds. They were caught at Bedford, and Dr. Perkins caught a pair for Miss Mary Ellen — My face is blistered by the sun of yesterday. Do not buy any winter socks — I shall bring you on some

I shall write to Mrs. Sparks next week if I get time, I am very busy getting ready for winter. Give my love to her and the Drs. Are you straiter than you were when you came to see me? When you write tell me.

As we are going to the fair and will start six & soon. I must close my scribble — All join me in much love to you, and wish you were here to attend the fair with us. Farewell my dear Brother — with a sister's love.

Mary



My 1st Copy to Prof S
My Copy of Prof & Mrs D

Lexington Sept 15th 1855-

My Dear Son

Yours of the 10th is at hand & contents noted -

Perhaps some explanation is due to Dr Walker in relation to subscribing your name - You should have told him - that I had directed you to drop your middle name, having done it myself - For personal reasons this individual after whom I was named having been guilty of such dereliction of principle that I discarded the name, retaining the T only, as I had become so well known by the signature of H T and to distinguish me from several other gentlemen bearing the name of Henry Duncan - You are named after myself - and not for the individual after whom I was named

I regret that your expectations are not equal to your expectations - This is probably due to your nervousness when called upon - and I hope you will soon recover from - The effect no doubt of your never having been in a school before or been associated with ~~you~~ a class - I hope you will not permit yourself to be disengaged by it but rather let it make you more diligent and studious - overcome this difficulty & take

a position in the class - never my son be
content with a position of inferiority - cause
yourself to more vigorous exertions - cultivate
feeling of more confidence and self reliance
and relax not in your habits of study - rally your-
self for a more vigorous effort - resolve to over-
come all difficulties & the work is more than half
done

There was no difficulty about your boarding
at the Brattle house - There was no necessity
for the charge to have a dollar a week when
the boarding was so much better - If your pro-
posed Chene, was not what you expected you done
right in not taking him in - Better to ^{be} alone
than have a disagreeable room mate - Though I
think you pay a high price for a room & those
Yankees are making out of all they can, learn
to guard against & practice a proper Economy

I shall enclose in this letter one for
Mr Sparks - which you will have the goodness
to hand him - appointing him your guardian
& this I think more convenient

Here are your money matters - did I send
you enough - remember to make no accounts
from this habit & do without - If you have not
the cash to pay - the law had a crowded and
pleasant fair - all well & send you much love

Your devoted Father
H J Duncan

Duncannon
Sept 16th 186-

Dear Brother

I did not write to you but once last week, I intended to have written several times, but when I would get home from the fair I would be so much fatigued that I would have to rest. There were not half as many persons at the fair as there was ~~last~~^{last} year & "XXX" was their and her affianced - the band played "Cathy Darling" for Robert B.^{'s} sake - she looks ♀ more beautiful than ever.

I received your letter on Wednesday in it you said perhaps I would receive it at the fair, and it was even so. You enquired particularly about Emma "Me" She is sicker than ever.

But ♀ in earnest, she has been in very bad health, and is very thin, she is not going North this winter, but will remain at home it is said her sister Carrie is to be married to Bill Scott - I saw them both at the fair (that is Emma & Carrie) Carrie is a very pretty

You remember in my last letter I told you
somebody else beside "~~xxxx~~" was to be married
and that I could not think who it was. It is
Mug Combs - I have forgotten who the fortunate
individual is, who is soon to claim the fair
girl as his bride ~~J G~~ Mattie, her
Mother, and Aunt, are coming out to see
me tomorrow - They were at church to day
and said they were coming out yesterday
but it rained - Mrs. said I must come
and spend the day with them.

Dr Marshall came home from the fair
with us on Thursday, and remained until
Saturday, when we sent him ^{to his son} back
in the little carriage. He intended
to go to his son Alexander's in the stage
but Father said he must go in the carriage,
as the stage was so crowded with persons leaving the fair
he would have remained longer but his
leg was very painful and he wanted something
to put on it, he is very well with the
exception of that - Thursday at the fair
when I was getting a seat, almost the first person
I ~~saw~~ came across, with whom I was aquain-
tied, was the Dr., he was sitting among the
crowd - the same as if nothing was the
matter with him. He gave me this ~~copy~~ copy
of Miss Edgeworth which is here.
Mr Carter is very ill, and is not

expected to live. He has been very sick for several weeks and he employed Dr. Darby - who did not know what was the matter with him. He now has Dr. Bush and Darby - Father went to see him to day. He will be a great loss to his family.

I do not know any thing of interest that is going on now - there have been a number of persons up from Louisville to the fair two of whom, Miss Ponson and Miss Nicholas, ^{whom} you and I were invited to meet at Mrs. Volley's where they have been visiting. I did not go having no escort - Miss Nicholas is said to be very handsome - Dick Garrison is married to a Miss Ponson of ~~of~~ ^{the} Hunt of Louisville - I do not know of anything else tho in the shape of news - What has become of the Gardners? I will write to you in a few days - all send much love to you dear Brother - good night

Your loving & devoted
sister

Mary -

P.S. You must not be discouraged about your studies - you will soon overcome your embarrassment - it was the same case with myself when I first went to Pittsfield, that it is with you.

Sept. 16

P

Princeton

Wednesday Night Sept 19th /55-

My dearest Brother

I received your letter of the 13th to day. & this as did also Father, too, and Dr Perkins, one, all of which were most welcome, as you know. You say "There is very little, or no news in Cambridge and Boston", which is pretty much the case here. You say "Barnum's Baby shore is in full blast" or as Dr Perkins says the "babys are in full blast" you said you intended visiting it, & I suppose by this time you have, did you ever leave. ~~XXXX~~ I better friend of babys than you were before you went, I presume you do not visit Boston as often as you did before you entered college.

You are reading Livy, you have gone ahead of me - I could not read the name of your Greek book - I hope Greek will soon become easy to you, You asked me if I saw "XXX" at the Fair. I did, but told you all about it in my last letter. I have not a very

high opinion of Mr. Mack's school - although it was on a very high situation. I do not think E. B. will like it ^{as} much after she has been there as she thinks she will. Do you think E. B. would be a pleasant girl to visit? I thought you did not like her much - she has grown very much - is taller than I. I have an abundance of bakagones and will send you one by this mail - so that you may "read my name in print" - I have not seen or heard "hair nor hide" of Williken, if he has been in the Athens of the west he has not let any of us know it of his whereabouts - By the way he did not make his ^{promised} ~~intended~~ visit to Pittsfield -

Mother & Perkins and myself went to Lexington this morning - Mother and I went to see Mrs. McKee Mattie & wife Wilson they and staid about an hour and a half - they wanted me to stay all day and night - They were out here yesterday afternoon, and the reason of my returning their call so soon was this Mattie expected to leave home for the Penna moth eve to day at two o'clock but a short time before I went there ~~she~~ received a Telegraphic despatch from Franklin

saying that one of the ladies who expected
to go with them was sick, so she had
to postpone her trip, she looked quite dis-
appointed - perhaps I shall spend one
night with her before I leave which will
be on next Wednesday morning - you
need not direct any more letters to
~~at home~~ me, after you receive this -

your day you will be at home in
14 weeks, I am glad I wish I could
be at home with you - Are you
any better, you must hold yourself
strait I am so sleepy - there are
crumbs in my eyes and the "dusty
man is throwing dust in my eyes"
so I will have to say Good Night -
With my warmest love and that of all
The servants all desire to be respectfully
remembered to you Tom says he had
rather see "Mrs. Henry" than any ~~one~~
^{one} else he knows"

Good Night
Your affect sister
Mary

Sept 20th 1853

Dear Henry

I received your letter
yesterday and will reply in a
day or two

yours affectionately

H. D. J.

Sex Sept 20th 1853-

My Dear Son

Your 3 letters of the 12 13 & 14th all came to hand last evening - One to your Sister & 2 to myself - I shall reply more fully in a day or two - I am much gratified to learn that you are getting over your embarrasment & exciting more to your satisfaction Nothing my Son like resolutions & promptness personified - And I will answer for the result

Enclosed I send you a check for \$100 - which I hope will answer your present purposes Do not get in the habit of contracting debts - pay as you go & do without If you have not the money to pay

I think of sending on Dr. Lankins to N.Y. to superintend my cattle sales of course I send Robinson with him - whose experience he will need

I shall write you at length in a few days

My Affectionate Father

H. T. Lincoln

This is payable to your own order

Lymington Sept 26th

Dear Henry

I have delayed three or four days to reply to your last letter. I did so because your father and Mary wrote on the receipt of their letters, which came at the same time that mine did, and I thought it would be more agreeable to you to receive your letters from home somewhat regularly distributed, rather than have them all come in a batch. The main subject I despatched in my recent epistles is becoming quite distasteful to you if the references to them in those to your pa and Mary are to be received as an index of your feelings on the subject. I shall not open the intimacy thus afforded, and shall not in future tread upon borders of the subject. One knowing no better might suppose from your allusion to your pa and sister in the matter that I had been grounding into your scared ear tales of love in which I was chief actor or sufferer and that you, ignorant of or incapable of the unities of the Tudor epoch, could not tolerate them with any degree of allowance in others, found the subject interesting in the extreme. But does this opposition comport with the very particular inquiries made by you of

your sister concerning a certain "XXXX" after
having me now again to allude to that
united name under penalty of your son's
displeasure. Such turbulent and peevish dis-
turbing thoughts were thereby excited in
your breast. But I have done - no longer
shall you have cause of complaint on this
head against me. For any thing that I may
do or say you shall not be disturbed in
the quiet and peaceful course of your way
along the pleasant paths of knowledge.
No thought owing its origin to any inference
or allusion of mine shall offend
itself unbidden to distract your mind
while engaged in solving some difficult propo-
sitions in Geometry or reading a tough papa-
ge of Greek Mathematics and Metamorphosis;
Nor do Latin, Ladies and Logic are wholly
incompatible - can not dwell healthfully
together in the same sense of Thought; for
either you will hate the one and love the
other, or else you will hold to the one and
despise the other. You cannot serve Baal
and Minerva.

I am very glad to hear that you are soon
coming your exertions during meditation
and that your nervousness is subsiding to
affect your memory, or rather to complete
it when called upon to recite. This was

doubtless due to the fact that you had never
been in the habit of meeting in a cap.

Your sister I suppose gave you a full
account of the fair at Lexington. I have
no idea that I could add any thing of in-
terest concerning it. I think that interest
in it is beginning to decline, this is mani-
fested not so much by diminished attendance
as by great falling off in competition in
all the departments. The goods and indeed
none of the fabrics of fair lands were neither
so numerous nor as beautiful as in former
years. The falling off in the number of horses
and cattle was probably due to the want
of material to fatten them.

Your sister Mr and myself attended a
party last Thursday evening given by Miss
McBraig the wife of Mr. Atkinson of Louisville.
She says she enjoyed herself very pleasant-
ly. Her enjoyment did not fall short of
the amount I usually receive on such occasions.
Mary is enthusiastic in her admiration of
"Sister dear". She thinks she is the sweetest
lady she ever knew & I of course do
not contradict her opinion.

One of my chief amusements at the party con-
sisted in observing the deportment of certain
couple that rumor says are far from being
indifferent to each other. Will tell Mr. & Mrs.

Carrie McLean, Mr. Buckbridge & Miss —
Tom Moore & Melior Buckbridge were inseparable during the entire evening. Miss
McLean was not present, but Mr. Jones did
not seem to have been rendered inconsolable
by her absence. I have heard it intimated
that the former is broken.

I met Miss Lucy Webb at the party - She told
me that she was indebted to your letter and
would no longer delay to reply.
Mr. Ward B. Morrison is insolent and
made an affidavit of his effects.
If the cattle should not be sold before
Tuesday they will then be started to New
York - drive as far as Cincinnati and
thence to N.Y. by the cars. They will
leave Cincinnati on a Monday night. On
the same day your father sister and
myself will leave here. Your father &
sister to go to Pittsfield and I to go to the
cattle in Cincinnati and follow them for
two days if suspended up. You may depend
upon seeing me in Cambridge before
Wednesday. You will also have a visit
from your father and sister too perhaps
all are well. You will have time to write
me again before I leave.

Yours affectionately
H. J. Jackson

Cambridge Sept 28th/55

Dear Sir.

At a meeting of a
special committee of the Amo-
yna held Sept. 27th you were
elected into that Society.

You will become
a member by attending the
next meeting to be held on Thursday
evening Oct 4^d at 7^½ o'clock
and signing the
constitution. The place of meeting
is on Church Street in the hall
of the Henneman Engine House

This being a
strictly secret society you will
make no mention of it. A
list of those elected from your
Class is enclosed.

W. F. Lee Pres. W. H. Denny Secy.

C. W. Home
F. S. Huntington
J. Richardson
F. L. Abbot
G. B. Merrill
R. T. Duncan
W. L. Lamb
H. Cutting
J. Fay
A. M. McKenzie
C. S. Bradford
W. W. Swan
J. C. Gray
J. A. Remond
D. Mr. Hayden

Duncannon
Sept 28th/56

My dear brother

It has been just one week since I received your last letter, I had nothing to tell you save we were ^{all} well, so I thought I would wait a few days and the few days have lengthened to a week.

You said you had of late received intimations concerning your orthography - and that I had mentioned it in one of my letters. I do not remember it - I noticed you frequently left out words and spelt wrong ~~deficiencies~~ but I knew it was from want of time and that you did not read them over. No doubt in many of my letters you have found the same faults - owing to the same causes. but I never would say anything about yours for I was willing to have them ~~any~~ way - and I could always fill up the elipses you need not cease writing to me so often for that cause - perhaps you were thinking of one of Brother's letters. You asked me how old Bettie Taylor or now Mrs Compton is - she is just the age of myself - her parents had to let her get married as they were afraid she would "run

"off" her most intimate friend ran off last fall
she was only sixteen. William Breckinridge
ran off with them. he waited on Mr Compton

You asked me if I was sure Robert B —
marries? "xxxx"; it is a fact — ^{father says he is glad} they have been engaged
for five or six months. I went to Mary Ellen Craig's
party they were both there ^{they came together} and
were in company with each other most of the
evening. Bob's little brother told "General" they
were to be married in the spring — there
were several other parties at the party — who
it is reported are to be married — and who seemed
as devoted as the first parties mentioned —
they were (Carrie McCaw, & Will Scott,) (Dan
Bell, and Ellen Warfield) ^{They say} Mary
Ellen C. is to marry Mr Atkinson of
Louisville — who married Miss Pope — he gave
her a diamond cross, it was an anonymous
present. P. S. Miss Offutt who sent "How
d' do" to you and ^{not} Miss Moore. You do not
want me to go to Pittsfield again, I want to
go there this winter and then to Agassiz — father
says he wishes ^{now} he had sent me to Agassiz school
I wrote to Mrs Sparks a few days since — perhaps
I shall visit you & with father before I commence
school. — You say you will get Harding to
visit Mattie next summer, perhaps she will
be married by that time they say sh & Jones will

make a match, she has gone to the Mammoth
Cave to spend a week. I went in to spend a
Monday night with her but ~~but~~ she had left. Yesterday
we all went to Bedford and spent the day, and
enjoyed ourselves very much. only one thing was
wanting and that was your company. We
had a saddle of Mutton, chickens ~~fried~~ ^{roast} Mutton stake
irish potatoes sweet-potatoes, tomatoes, ^{cabbage} corn bread
litebread ^{butter} Milk water and all together
quite a fine dinner, we carried litebread down
with us. Ving is at the doore and I am
in Mammy's room I asked Ving what word
she had to send us, - she says "give my love to
"M^s" Henry, and tell him I hope to hear of
his being well." We expected to leave home
next Monday, but father postponed it until 1st
Monday week which will be the 7th of Oct. when
I must leave my dear home parents, sisters again,
I hope soon to see you. I have asked you
in several letters if you were straiter, then
you must told yourself straiter. Is your
"Chum" a well behaved fellow, & do you still con-
-tinue to like him as much as you did at first,
you must keep an eye over him and not let
him be "shot in the neck". You spoke of
Miss ~~Greene~~ Sarah Greene, and said you
believe you had never mentioned her name
before, you are mistaken, you have mentioned

her name several times, if she is as nice as Miss M. C. - she is a very nice young lady, is she pretty? "Pallie is the gal for me"! I should like to become acquainted with Miss Greene. You wish to know how every think looks at home just the same as ever, & Tom is as great a rascal as ever - if I were Mother I would not keep him, he is constantly stealing - and the rest of the "Darkies" are as lazy as ever. You wish to know if Dr P. is much of a ladies man, really I do not know, but did I have only seen him in company with ladies once (at Miss C's) and there he did not seem to enjoy himself much, ^{he would} he said not walk into ~~society~~ with any lady. He said he enjoyed it as much as he ever does. I told him what you said about his writing about love - and he said if anyone was to see some of your letters they might think the same. He reads to me sometimes snatches from different ~~old~~ articles and it is most always on love, he is like a love sick swain you remember that don't you?

Wednesday evening, Mother, Dr P. and myself, went to see "General" at seven left home at five and reached there Mr. Castlemans at six. ~~that~~ it had been raining and the roads were very muddy.

Poly has just let one of Dely's Mocking Birds go, and John, Tom, & Mary

Sept. 28 '55

are looking for it. They were very gentle, and would let us feed them. I do not think the one that is gone will be found. The country is looking beautiful - and we have a great many flowers in bloom. I wish you had some.

Ellen brought me in a large bunch of Ayerburg roses - I forgot to tell you about our ride. A few mornings since Dr Perkins, Ellen, and myself, went riding before breakfast. We started ~~at~~ little past six and went to see "General" we reached home at ten. Dr. & Ellen took breakfast, but I did not get off my horse. I thought I could write you a long letter when I commenced but I believe I have given out.

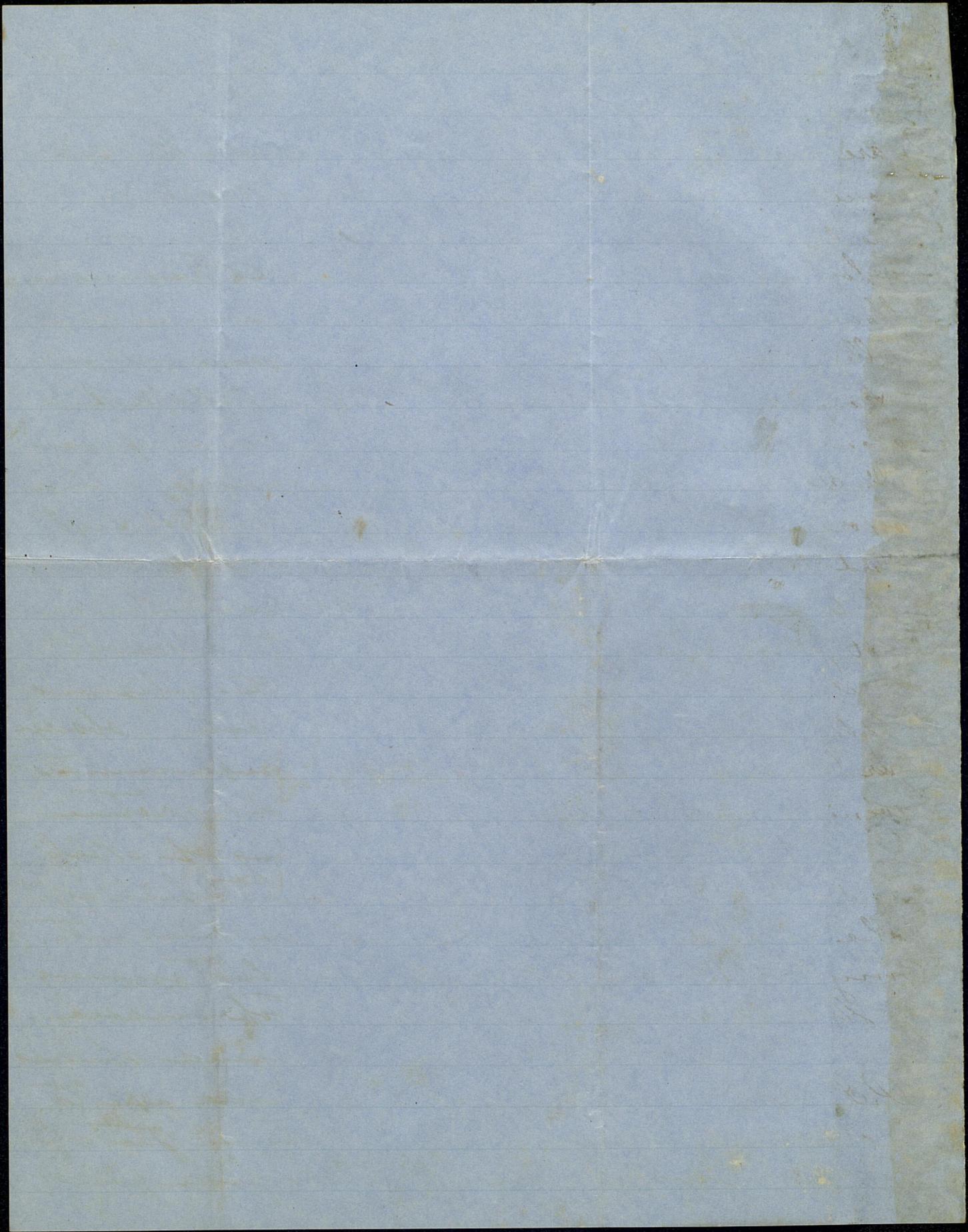
Dr Marshall and his grandson came here last evening and staid all night and left this morning.

Father has just returned home from Lexington and has brought me a letter from "cousin" Ovy" she is quite well. I must now close my letter and dress for dinner.

Write soon - Farewell with asister's love

Mary.

P.S. All join me in love to you.



4
Oct. 1855

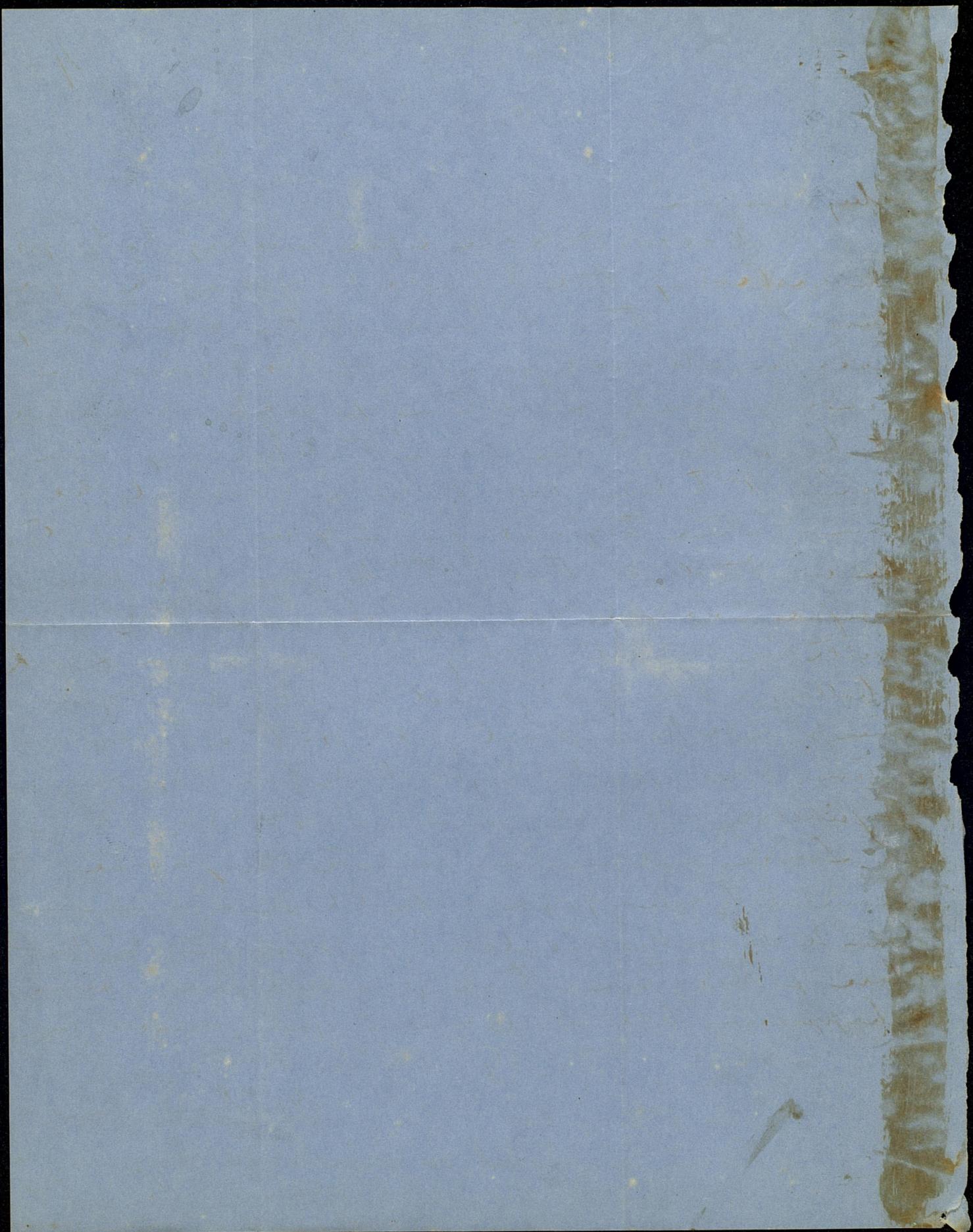
My Dear Son

It occurred to me upon meeting Mr. George on yesterday, that it might be agreeable to you during your stay at home at the approaching vacation to avail yourself of his services in reading Greek a portion of each week while at home - Should you desire it upon my mentioning it to him - he said as a personal accommodation to yourself - if you wished it he would do so - this I think you will find useful - So you see my Dear Son that I am quite in earnest in trying to make you a Greek Scholar - I have my heart so set upon your complete & triumphant success - that I would intermit no opportunity - which can by any possibility advance your views & aspirations

Spent not an hour - devote every spare moment to your Greek with Chase - inform me how it does - Matriculate if possible at the close of this term - Then you will feel easier & happier - all well & send you much love

Yr devoted Father

H. T. Allen



Duncannon

Sept 3rd/66

My dear brother

It is night and all are retiring to rest, but I must steal a few minutes to write to you, it will not be much of a letter but still it will be a few words from home.

Mrs Swinney, Mr Barnes daughter is with us she came this morning and will spend several days with us. I went into town this morning and while I was at the Mrs Beach's the Milliners I saw "xxx" but not to speak to her, Mother Ellen Lily and myself went into town yesterday and made several visits although it rained a little, we went to see Mrs Carter and family ~~they were all~~ well. Robert was out this afternoon. We also went to see Poison's house which Mr Sayer purchased for a school - we went from garret to cellar, it was the dirtiest house I ever saw.

Dr Pennington went to Bedford this afternoon. will be back tomorrow. he will leave on Monday with us - I do not like to think of the time when I must leave -

Father will go to see you - I do hope

You will come to see me in November
I shall not have time to make you a visit.
How are you getting along with your
Studies &c; Emma "Me" was out
yesterday afternoon and her sister Mrs
Allen but we did not see them as
we were not at home. Emily Brand
is going on with father. Lily has just
kissed me good night - and has kissed
me for you and sends her love to you,
every night she kisses Mother for you.
Cousin Maria has been quite sick today
with a headache. "General" rode over to
see me on horse back a few days ago
last Friday - she left at six in the next
morning to breakfast with Mrs Doest, where
Ellen Dr. P. and myself accompanied
her her little brother Punie was along
it was ten miles we rode before breakfast five miles back
I must close now hoping that you
will can make out this scroll and will
excuse it - all join me in love to you
I send you a kiss -

Good night, God bless you
Your devoted sister
Marge

Lex Oct 5th 1852-

My dear Son

I have been so full of occupation within the last ten days that I have not written to you as I promised myself, when I wrote you last and made a commitment.

I have started one lot of 96 cattle last Saturday & shall start another on To-morrow of 96 head more & the residue I shall probably sell at home (of the fat cattle) some 50 more.

On Monday the 8th inst I shall start with your sister for Pittsfield - I should greatly prefer that she could have gone to the school of Prof Agassiz in Cambridge - All things could have suited & she could have got such boarding as was desirable - If however a satisfactory arrangement of this sort ^{can} ~~can~~ ~~has been~~ made - I shall place her in Cambridge

Dr Lenkins will go on with the cattle or wait at Buffalo for them - going that far with us.

If we get to Pittsfield on Wednesday I shall run down to Boston on Thursday (with Miss Brand for Macks school) & spend one day with you (Friday) & return to Albany on Saturday where I shall meet the cattle on their stay & hope to sell them at that point.

I should like to have spent some days with
you - But I have not the time - I am ^{ed.} required
at home -

I shall endeavour to so arrange my
affairs after this year so as to have more
time - But I shall see you a day or two
after you receive this - And we shall talk
over all these things

Yr devoted Father
H. F. Stevens

Duncannon
Sunday Oct 17th/66

My dear brother

I scribble you a few lines before I leave home. We leave at five in the morning, and I shall mail this letter and a catalogue in the cars - and you will get them sooner. Father says if we accidents he will be in Cambridge on Thursday. Dr. Perkins left yesterday afternoon he is now in Cincinnati - and will leave on Tuesday morning with father & myself - perhaps he will not be in Boston at all, and as to his coming to Pittsfield - I have given up all hope - perhaps he will not go farther than Buffalo if the cattle are sold there. It is quite cold here.

Mary brought in some ice this morning. I shudder to think of next winter.

Cousin Maria talks of leaving for Cincinnati soon, Mrs Warfield is going to Mo. and she expects

to go with her. I received a letter from
Mrs. Sparks yesterday. She deems very
much pleased with Agassiz School.

I think father is quite in the
notion of taking me there - but I think
I shall go to Pittsfield this winter - and
then we will see how his school
flourishes... I am very sorry I cannot
go to see you - but school commenced
on the 27th of Sept. and it will be
two weeks I have lost when I get there.

You must stand straight and hold
yourself straight. I imagine I see
you straiten yourself. I shall not
be able to write to you so often when
I commence school as I have since
I have been ^{at} home - although I have
not written very often during vacation.
I hope to hear from you as often
next winter as I did last.

I must close, as I have a good deal
to do - and mother has sent for me.
- all from me in love to yo
Good Night

Your devoted
sister
Mary A.

Most affectionately rememb'r'd
by your affec't son

Duncannon Oct 8th /55

My very dear Son

It is truly too bad
that I have not written to you
more often of late, but there
were so many writing to you
I concluded you would hear
as often you could find time
to reply, I thank you for your
remembrance by letters & papers
Dr Lenkins left on Saturday last
to go on with the cattle for the
eastern market, I do hope he
will be able to see you,

Your Father & sister, left this
in the 6 o'clock train A. M.
for Pittsfield, it has been a sad
day indeed I feel like a bird
robbed of her nestlings, Your
letter of the 3rd was rec'd. to day
which has in a measure dis-

spelled the anxiety I have,
To hear that you are well,
Do take care of yourself, & not
Kill yourself with study, you
may as well take it patiently,
It is distressing to hear that you
are something of the form of a
wagon whip, I trust it is not
so confirmed that there is no
remedy, do let me beseech you to
correct it if practicable;
I am pleased to hear you are
getting along in your recitations
more satisfactorily to yourself
the embarrassment you labor
under is not a slight affair
You must have confidence in yourself
& try to speak as if you were alone,
Robert F. Ford made his debut at
public speaking, in an opening address
to the mechanical Institute of Louisville
the composition was said to be very
good, there was nothing of the orator -

in it, he is said to have been
perfectly possessed, shewed no em-
barassment whatever the house was
crowded to overflowing,
^{in my correspondence} as to Mary's returning to Pittsfield I
think it the best of its kind, the
only inducement to send to the
classical school would be to be
near you, something must be done
in regard to Ell & Lily they have
not been to school now near two years,
I can't make up my mind if it
would be best to go to Cambridge
for a term of years, at least until
you & Mary have finished your
education, I am getting very tired
at being separated from my dear
children, it is really at times so
depressing that I can scarcely
endure it, it will be a joyful
day to this household when you
return, in vacation, I hope no-
thing will prevent it,

Emely Brand went on with
your Father to go to Mack's school
near Boston, I wish she had gone
to Pittsfield, it would be to her ad-
vantage in every respect, They have
charming weather for their trip, If
you have any of your summer
clothing to send home, it will be
a good opportunity to put them in
your Father's trunk, & also Dr Jenkins
if he should make you a visit
I expect they have been more in the
way than good to you, I have
often wished they had remained
at home, I wish you had some of
the abundance of fruit, grapes &
apples, the orchard is literally paved
with apples, the trees are broken down
some by the roots, being so laden
with fruit, Mary took a basket of
grapes with her, God bless you my
dear son may heaven's richest bless-
ings be yours, Your affet, Mother E. D.

PARIS

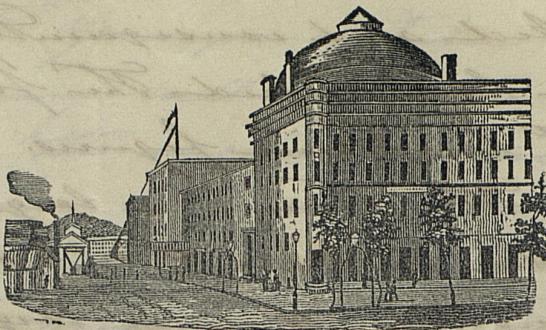
STANWIX HALL,

FRONTING ON

Broadway and Maiden Lane.

OPPOSITE THE

New York Central Rail Road.



L. L. BRITTON, PROPRIETOR.

ALBANY, Oct 9th 1855.

Dear Henry

Your last letter reached me a day or two before leaving home, as it contained nothing that demanded a reply; as I had nothing of interest to communicate to you that you could not derive from your father, as as I hoped and expected soon to see you I thought I would omit replying for the present. But as I am now in your close vicinity when the time necessary to reach Boston from this point is considered I can not refrain from dropping you a line or so just to say that I pleasantly anticipate the period now close at hand when I shall be permitted to see you Providence willing. I am impatient for the time to arrive when I shall be disengaged and ^{at} liberty to run over to Boston. I presume it will be one day next week, but of this I can not be very positive. We have reached this place without accident and therefore in good condition. But I fear from the no. coming over the central road from the West that the market

JAH XIWIAHTS

will be unstocked and consequently dull. I greatly fear that we have missed the fortunate chance for selling at handsome figures. Among the no of Western cattle there is a large portion of them of superior grades. There are 4 or 5 hundred from Bourbon and Henry Co. A much larger no. than usual and most of them first rate. Had we been two weeks in advance we would have hit the thing exactly. On the trip no incident of interest has occurred. I have had a pleasant time with the exception of last night from Rochester to this point. I came from Buffalo to the former place with the stock, separated from them there and got into the passenger cars which I found very much crowded, and had to stand up for a considerable time. The night was cold. It rained, it blew, it sleeted and it snowed and the fire was allowed to go out. Although it was as comfortable and sleepless night as I ever spent. Considering the arrival of the stock I have not been able to make up the loss of sleep during the day and I am now sitting, expecting the arrival of your father. It is now about half past nine and the cars do not get in till half past ten.

You may expect to see me some time during the last of my work, when exactly I can not tell yet till then good bye

Yours affectionately

H D Jenkins

P.S. 14th A.M. your pm got in at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock
last evening very well and goes down to the N
y city in the morning. I will not go till the
afternoon. In looking over my letter I see
that I have twice alluded to my going to
Boston. The reason of it is that several hours
elapsed between the writing of the first and
last and I had forgotten having mentioned it.
The weather to day is uncomfortably cold is cloudy
and looks very much like rain; very little
indeed like ~~the~~^{the} weather in N.Y.
on the heights around I observed snow on yesterday

H.D.Y.

had all day my self & the
whole time I was here I
was busy writing you &
writing to the people I
met here & I have
written to you & the
people I met here &
I have written to you &
the people I met here &
I have written to you &
the people I met here &
I have written to you &

My best regards
to all

Pittsfield
Saturday Oct. 19th/53

My precious brother

Father has left. he slept to see me and goes to night in the eight o'clock train. There! I hear the whistle now. he has a very bad cold I wish I was going home with him, or to Albany with him so that I could nurse him. I hope he will not be sick. - Mrs Agnew is quite sick. Mrs Agnew is not at home - she is in Canada at some springs trying what effects its waters will have upon her health. I room with the Offutt's, we have a very nice room. if Mrs Starr will let me I will show it to you when you come. I am glad you are getting along so well with your studies. I have vacation in February and March. just as yours closes. I wish it was at the same time and I might return home with you. I commence Algebra this term, and if I stay here next will commence Geometry. I intend to study very hard this term. Father says he does not think Dr Perkins

can go to see you or me. I know
he and yourself will be very much disap-
pointed as well as myself. Father said
you thought of coming to see me today
but that the weather was so inclement
you gave up the idea as you intend
visiting me in November. I look forward
to your visit with much pleasure, we are
to have some kind of performances on
Thanksgiving day and I hope you will be
here at that time. C. B. came on with
us and we had a very pleasant trip, she is a
very dependent and quiet girl.

I must close my letter as the retiring
bell has rung and the Monitress will
be around in a few minutes. Write
soon to your devoted and affec. sister
Good Night my love and a kiss to you Margt.

Albany Oct 14th 1855-

My Dear Son

Upon my arrival at Pittsfield about 8 o'clock yesterday evening - I felt so much better that I determined to stop & wait for the evening train - and spend 2 or 3 hours more with your sister. I found her well & cheerful - But not as well satisfied as she was last time - I do not fancy her arrangement for room mates the elder Miss' offer I think decidedly coarse in every particular - owing to Agnew's sickness I did not see him - but shall write to him to make a change - I must make a different arrangement for having myself next term - Upon my arrival here I found the Dr & Robinson with the College - Their are several British men here - to some one of whom I hope to make sale - in which event the Dr will go to Boston to collect the funds & from thence to New York where I shall go early in the morning to make the arrangements for their sale on Wednesday should we fail of a sale to a British man here - in which place I will stay until Thursday & then leave for home where I hope to arrive by the close of this week.

Since my visit to you my dear son I have felt much anxiety for you

Greek, the only Thing you are deficient in
on that gives you trouble - The more I think
of it - the more I am satisfied of the advan-
tage & the relief it will give you to read
Homer (I think it is) with char the balance
of your term (present term) on so long as it
necessary for you, to secure your materia-
tion beyond all question on doubt - From
all that Chare said to me, I feel sum that
is every Thing else you are safe, and have
a high standing in this then that you are
deficient in - Resolve like a man, to over-
come it - Remember that a strong will and
perseverance will accomplish any thing
even to read Homer & pass it well, this
will make the balance of your Greek
course comparatively easy - devote this
additional hour to the work and all will
be well - Improve I entreat you the oppor-
tunity you have to make a thorough and
accomplished scholar - and aim for the
highest honours of your class - with whom
I understand you are now so popular and
have made so favourable an impression

Persevere my dear Bay in ^{that} course of han-
orable & manly bearing - Perseverance justice
truth & Courtesy fixes & maintains your char-
acter and influence with your class and
persevered

you will receive all the fond hopes of your family
and friends - Nothing ^{very} earthly I suppose you could
contribute more to happiness - than to see you take
such a position in Society - as is only awarded to
high merit intellect & strictly honorable bearing
make a man of unblemished integrity & unsullied
honor - Cultivate all the manly virtues of which
firmness & personal courage are indispensable
in life - It is to a man what Chastity is to a woman
these with the moral perfections - make a
complete man of Character

Now as I have all leisure - I cannot be more
agreeably employed than in writing letters to your
Dear Mother your Sister & yourself - to your
mother I have just written a long letter, and
I shall write one to many after I close this, ^{there} is
one topic I must introduce to you - and give
you some news the result of long and particular
observation - It is upon the subject of proper attach-
ments between the sexes - which lead to matrimo-
nal connections - No young man or lady should
ever form a connection below themselves, by this
I mean Social position fortune & family, with
equality in these things the connection is com-
plete - provided temper & disposition are suit-
& secures happiness - If in these particulars
there should be inequality - It is oft to be ^a source
of discord - And in every instance - The mother of
the young lady - should be the exemplar

Lady-in mind manners and character-not
one of your querulous half crazy dissatis-
fied beings we sometimes meet without dignity
or discretion ~~as~~ & ~~so~~ I speak of family
where the Boys are a sort of loafers-out of
employment and unfit for it & they had it &
a train of Sister in Laws-not half raised which
there is every chance of becoming a tax upon
you, and all are a drawback instead of giving
you strength and support-upon this account
a proper amount of estate upon the other
side should come into the concern - Now
my son - These hints are for future use
not necessary for the present - as I am sure
you have not & will not have any affairs
on hand of this sort-until you have
finished your Education & in business to
support a wife - For at the proper
time I want you to marry not before
and at the proper time look out a
suitable one - But not think of it until
the proper time & you have attained the
proper age - There are hasty hints-will do
no harm - Upon my arrival here I found that
Mr & Mrs Anderson had left - that their little
boy was much better - Give to them my warmest
regards - I write to you my son without reserve
you are my hope, & I fondly anticipate many days
of happiness in your society.

A. J. Dunham

New York Oct 19th

Dear Henry

I had anticipated before this
to have had the pleasure of seeing you;
circumstances have deferred it a week
on this day next if nothing intervenes to
prevent I shall start by the earliest train
for Boston and shall count the moments
till I am brought into your presence
your father has prepared me to see in
you great alterations. From an overgrown
youth of 17 or 18 constantly growing too
large for his breeches I am prepared to
see you a tall, spare and elegant gen-
tleman &c &c

I had set apart Thursday to go over to
Boston, but have postponed it to Friday
at the suggestion of your father, who
thought that an earlier visit would very
seriously interfere with your other du-
ties and be the means of giving you
several marks. Your father left for home
in the 9 o'clock train this morning
unfortunately the cattle of the first lot
came into one of the hardest markets
that has occurred in several months

and brought several hundred dollars less
than was reasonably expected. It is to be
hoped that the lot coming on will meet
with a better market.

I shall defer every thing else I have to
say to you till I see you; tell them
I remain your affectionate cousin

W D Jr Kins

Duncannon Oct 15th /55-

My very dear Son

A week to day your dear father & sister left us, & Saturday a week since the Dr took his departure, it seems lonely & solitary, I feel as if I were in a dreamy bewildered state of existence scarcely knowing what to do with myself, but I am frequently aroused from my reverie by the presence of Tom & score of others, that call for more vigilance to keep regulated than I can command, I am indebted the Dr for intelligence from the travelers, from Cincinnati & Cie, at the latter place they parted, should the Dr make you a visit give my warmest love & thanks to him, for his kind letters they were a great comfort & satisfaction to me, I would write to him but do not know where to address them, The weather here has been & is still most bright & beautiful, the air is balmy and delightful, the few frosty mornings or rather evenings has made some change in the appearance of the foliage making a very gorgeous picture, just as I am sit at my window I can look upon the the beautiful Maple in their Autumnal tints of dark green ground, the bright red, orange, & yellow, is exceedingly gay & brilliant or rather splendid, I wish this were the season

for your vacation, the flight of pigeons would have afforded you fine sport, your college duties are such that I suppose you have very little time for recreation with your rifle, do not let the weight of the studies press you down, that when the string is loose the bow will have no elasticity or spring left in it,

I hope your Father made you a visit & allowed himself more time than this time last year for we are all doing well & the weather is so fine, he might take his time to see & attend to any thing he wishes, but he said when he left home that the matter with W. H. Timberlake required his attention, it is quite provoking that your Father should be so ~~plastered~~ & cheated by that man, after sustaining & befriending him as he has he deserves to be put in penitentiary, & work for life. There is nothing of interest in the line of news that I know of to relate to you, John Rhodes comes over every evening to guard us, he rises at 4 in the morning & goes home to breakfast he is aideing Sheriff, we enquire of him for the news but he is as much at fault as we are. You still take the Observer which gives you the changes about Lex - Good bye my dear son. God bless you Your affectionate Mother Ellie & Emily send so much love to you I can't measure it, Miss Maria comes with her best love & good wishes for your success

Texas. Prairie
Oct. 20th 1855-

Dear Henry

I am aware that you are my debtor, but notwithstanding, I am going to give you this as a box for perhaps to minutes of your precious existence, for being alone, and weary of mining continually in those deep cells of the Past, numbering centuries, until hard it is, doubly hard for youth, with feeble hand to turn the key and grasp the treasure there - yes tired - sickened, I sit down to hasten the pleasure in the living Present, and feel the joyous communion with a distant ^{friend}. Perhaps you are wondering why this unexpected - I hope not unwelcome for letter It is this, I have been cursed with Chills & Fevers and while I was sick my Hunks came that contained my letters; and until this evening I have not had a fit opportunity to look over them, and in reading yours I felt like one that even in some deserted spot, could say "I am not alone"; ~~and~~ though there was

breathe
such a natural and life like style, and
such a friendly air, that I now cannot resist
the temptation of troubling you, ~~now~~ that
I may the sooner receive another.
I am afraid that I will not be what
you so kindly prophesied - a good farmer
for young America never as yet ~~was~~ ^{made} a good
old ~~fogy~~ - especially such as no. affords
for if I thought my life would take such
a peculiar cast I don't know but that
~~I might do something awful and disolor~~
~~it very soon.~~ — My house has rec'd. the
name of Webb's Hermitage and it is
perfectly applicable, as it is situated
off from the publick road, on the edge
of a thick wood, which surrounds two
sides, and the remaining two are shut
in by two high hills. No one - a second
person is hardly ever seen approaching
the hermitage. — And the house ~~affords~~ too
groans deeply at the painful remembrance
of the ~~disguise~~ held a long time since
by three fun-loving individuals of whom

the first enjoys a "sit-to" while the other
drew exquisitely (painfully sweet notes
from a tormented triangle) the other made
ready the feast. Mo. is a splendid
country - for Chills & fevers, and it - and
rascals - called Mo. sharpless, A fine country
for little praising of children for the am
to do it is no trouble to raise ^{them} (especially the
girls) ~~than~~ 250 & 300 lbs, and the boy in perfect
ignorance except of 'Wa Be Hh --

I have
fun poking the old-peopile and flattering
the girls, they have it hear that I am
to marry before long a Mo.-back-woods
fairy - whose form is so slight that she
can with but one grunt get through to
a common sized door. What do you
think of the delight the contemplation
of such a defense against the freezing
blasts of a Mo. winter, would give a cold
blooded person.

I recd a very kind and kindly
epistle from Miss Mag-Woolley. it did not
be lie the sweetnes of her expression

countenance over other manners.

My friends in Ky are not as punctual
as they promised, for I have not rec'd
a letter for two weeks.

I am about to
commence skating, so I must bid
you good-bye half & may not give
you any more than a Pump-handle shake

Write soon

I remain your

dear friend.

H. A. Wmson Jr

Cambridge

Mass

G. Webb Jr

Now I am going it at the rate of two
forty.-

3

Pittsfield
Saturday night Oct. 20/55

My dearest Brother

It is late - at least late for us "Institute girls" and I have been as "busy as a bee" at least if I cannot tell what I have been doing. I know I have been very busy. Now! The bell has rung - please take it, I will write tomorrow and send it privately. Mary Offut is writing her composition the plague of the school girl, and Annie is wallowing on my bed.

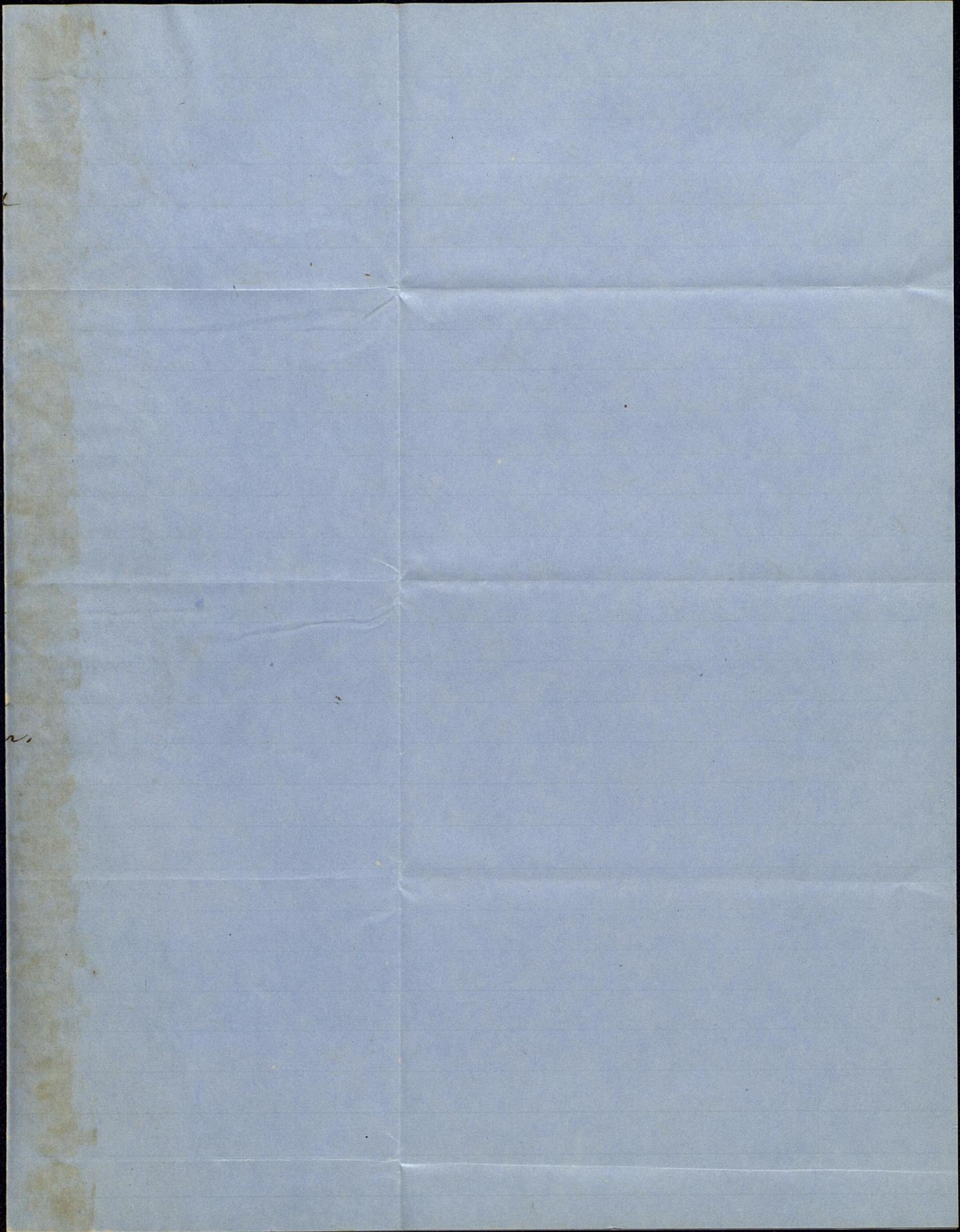
Thursday evening

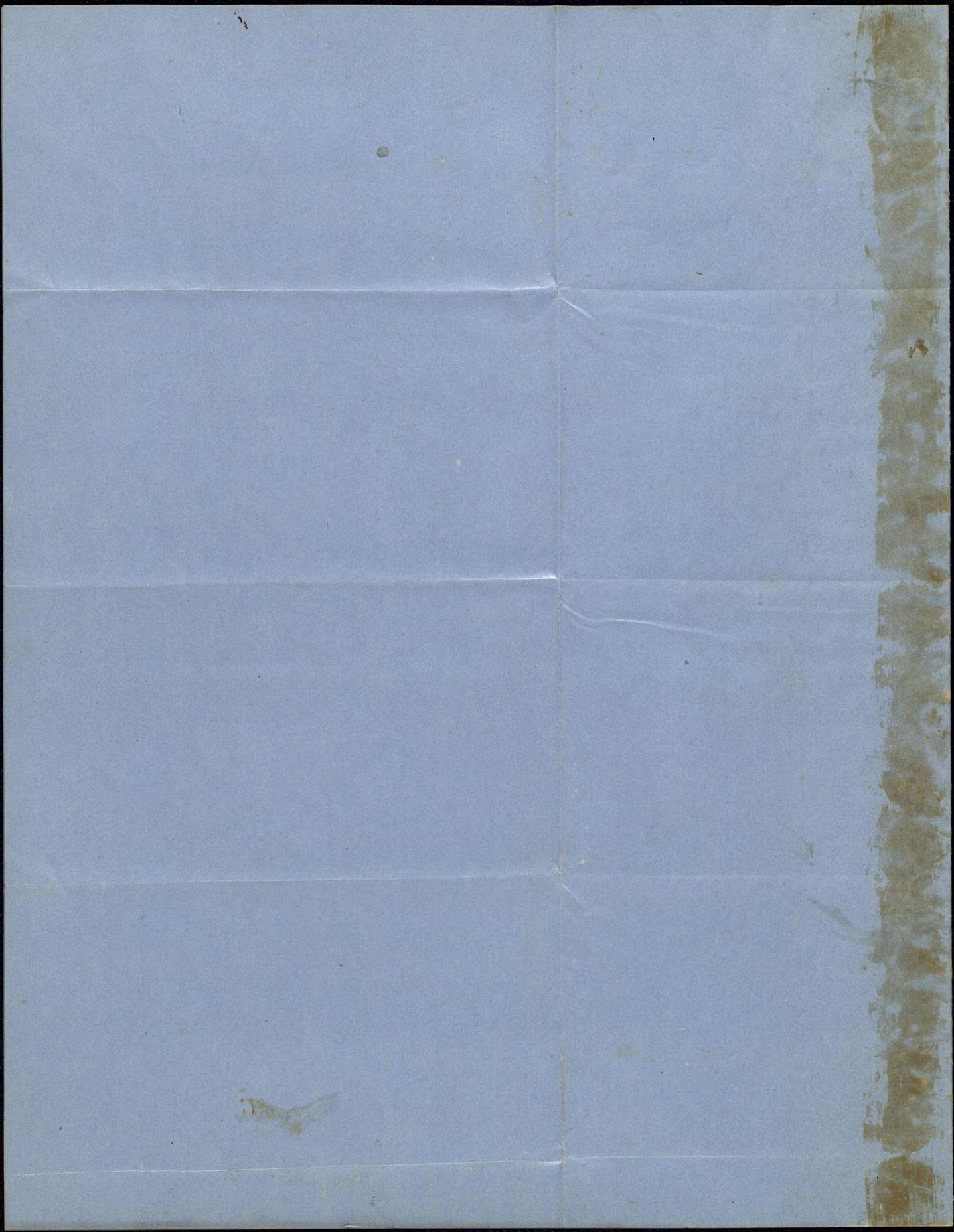
My dear brother it has been four days since I commenced this letter, & I thought ere this you would have received it and I have received a reply - but I have not had time since Saturday to finish it. I went after school this morning and asked Mr. Agnew to let me write to you. and he gave me permission -

I never was so busy in my life - now before Monday I have an Algebra lesson, Arithmetic lesson, Music lesson four pages of new music and one page of scales - Then I have all my letters to write and things to do on Saturday - don't you think

I will be as "busy as a bee" and you
will not wonder that I have not written
to you. I received a letter from Doctor
Perkins a few days since and he wished
to know if Mr. Agnew liked for the girls
to have visitors on Sunday - tell him I
will not have time to write to him in
time to let him know so you can tell
him to spend the sabbath with you
and come to Pittsfield on Monday for
I could see the more of him. Mr. Agnew
does not like for the girls to have any one
to see them on Sunday. It is getting very
cold - and is snowing at present. I will write
to you again on Saturday. Write to me soon.

Good bye Your devoted and loving sister
Mary Ann.







Lexington Oct 21st 1855

My dear Son

Upon my return home last evening from N.Y. I found your letter of the 11th inst at hand - also I see yours of the 11th to your mother.

After parting with you - I stopped at Pittsfield an hour or two (feeling much better) and saw your sister proceeded to Albany & thence to N.York & spent a week there until Friday morning 6 o'clock - when I left & reached home the next evening - making the trip from N.Y to my own house in about 38 hours rather faster than I have ever traveled.

My stay in N.Y was agreeable - having met my old friend Dr. Duncarr - who lives in his own house while there - he was very kind & attentive to me - also his Sisters Miss Justin & Miss Emily Duncarr and both the Leveretties & their families I saw at Mrs. Justin's - They all enquired particularly for you - my sole object though less than I expected I should be satisfied with, as it was the best made last week - and the quality of beef considered first rate.

In your letter to your mother my dear Son - you write dispiritedly of your average in your class. This I suppose grows out your deficiency in Greek - believe this I entreat by all means engagning Chase as a tutor in Greek & give it over

on two extra hours each day - and I shall feel
confidence in your coming up - even if you
should have to devote your winter vacation to
your Greek, do it, & necessary to overcome your
difficulty - And forego the pleasure of a visit
to Ky among your friends - which it will only post
pone a few months - It necessary to accomplish
your purpose - You are now too far to retreat
go through like a man, and permit no difficult
ies to interfere or defeat your success - For as
I understand Chas you are to excell in all things
else and in some of them, ^{become} eminently successful
Having taken your course and entered regularly
all your friends would feel disappointed; should
you beat a retreat - to me it would be deeply
mortifying - leave off your pleasures - take
exercise for health - and study as closely as
you can consistently with a due regard to your
health - remember that nothing can be or was
ever achieved without labor - diligent and
persevering labor - Never give up, that you
cannot accomplish an object, which so many
have attained - If you resolve - it is more than
half done - And after a few months it will be
easier & yield to persevering exertions - It is a
sort of Sebastopol you are storming - Those
strong battlements - have at length yielded to per-
severing attack - The Greek will yield to you

in due time - assault it vigorously, with courage and it will yield, and will be easy to you after a while - Inform me of how you are getting along & what progress - under the encouragement of a tutor - Do not feel disengaged - yield to such a feeling, and it is defeat resolve to conquer the difficulty and it is done I hope my dear Boy to have more encouraging accounts of your progress & success - but do not be disengaged - It will all be easy after awhile - a year more and it will be easy enough your success in every thing else - ought to give you confidence - Not only your Collegiate duties should encourage all have attention - but those in your Society - your literary Society - prepare yourself always well for its duties and exercises & soon the habit of speaking will be formed - in composition you will excell, the habit of correct writing - is a rare accomplishment and one for which you have some gifts

My great ambition is that you should succeed - that your success should be eminent & conspicuous - you are to perpetuate your name from you are all our hopes - The only Solace & do not I beseech you yield to feelings of despondency & doubt - But with feelings & aims - worthy & high ambition - pursue resolutely & perseveringly your course - and all will be right

Yr devoted Father
H. D. Dunham

P.S. when I left N York - I despatched Dr Leekins
who was going to Boston to see you on Friday
to hand & transfer to you 2 check's for \$100 each
making \$200 - the sum I borrowed of you, which
was not needed - Have my cloths made immediately
that I ordered - If not already made
and send them over by Express - I paying here
the charge - & taking a bill of lading for
their delivery in six - pay the Taylors bill
and send me - And I will remit it to you
at once - All well & send you much love

(Your devoted Father)

A. S. D.

Inform me if Leekins handed you the 200\$

Duncannon Oct 25th 1855

My dear Son

Yours of the 18th was rec'd on tuesday
It is always a great satisfaction to hear from
you, to know that you are well, You are quite enthu-
siastic in your anticipation of a visit home
it will be exceedingly gratifying to us all and
particularly your sisters who have not seen you
for so long a time, the servants do also show
great pleasure at the thought of seeing you,

I wish your father had made you a more protracted
visit, he said it was an interruption to you during
term time to make a longer stay, he also enjoined
it upon Dr J not to remain over a day, it will
seem to you a pleasant dream, it will not be
long before you make many a visit & when you
do, do not forget to ask her for the 1/2 hose I sent
you by your Father, she had some things in
his trunk of hers, & I suppose she took them
out by mistake, altho' they were in a package ~~as~~
directed to you, Your father arrived on saturday
at 8 P.M. I was truly thankful to see him safe
at home without any accident, he has quite a
severe cold, but hope he will soon be well
The weather has been most lovely until yester-
day which was as wintery a day as you ever
saw rain & snow continued during the whole

day, in the evening the air became clear & cold, & the ~~moon~~ shone out bright as day, & just as we expected a severe frost, every thing looks black & gloomy in the garden the roses are the only survivors, to day is bright but cold, Your father has gone into the City anxiously looking for a letter from the Dr, I hope he will get one
Here is your father with letters one from you & one from Mary, this is the second one I have rec'd from you this week, Mary is well but very home sick poor child I wish you both were together, Mrs Brand tells your father Emily is very home sick & does not wish to remain, she says that she saw you & Mr Anderson walking together in Boston last week, As to the theatre I regard it as a very bad place, but if I were near where Rachel took part I certainly would go to see her, I was surprised that your father did not go when in N.Y. - the sums of money such characters gather up is enormous, ~~too much~~ for such a cause - was it to benefit or christian the world how much more noble! I hope you will be governed by sound principle in such matters & not be carried to extremes, in such a doubtful course I pray you may be kept from the evil that is in the world, think of these things, & avoid all that is evil & sinful, all send an unmeasurable sum of love to you Your affec^t
Mother

Pittsfield
Saturday night Oct. ^{06th} / 1895.

My dearest brother

I suppose by this time you have received the letter I wrote to you on Thursday - I was so busy last Saturday night that I did not get to write to you - I thought I should have time during the week, but I did not have time until Thursday.

I received a letter from Father tonight all are well and cousin Maria is still at home. Father says she has had a day set but she postponed it. I suppose Dr. Pungins is with you, or on his way to Pittsfield. Have you seen Emily Brand? and how is she pleased with the school, and what do you think of her? How is the weather in Cambridge? it is quite cold here and there has been a great deal of rain. We were to have taken a ride this morning but it rained - and it was given up.

Is Mrs. Anderson's little son well who was sick? Father said she was detained in Albany by his sickness. They are getting

stricter in a great many things. We have three new teachers. Mr Agnew thinks they are better than the old ones.

I do not like them better than the old ones. Mary Offutt sends her regards to you. I have a letter to write to Lily to night, and must hurry and do it. The retiring bell will ring in a few minutes. Last night I went to a concert and enjoyed myself very much. I intended to have given you a description of it but the bell has just rung and we have to have our letters finished. Good night your loving and devoted sister,

M.D.

2

Louisville Oct 29th /56

My dear Cousin

I received from you a few days since, a "Catalogue of Harvard University," for which I must thank you - I have run my eye over the names of your class, to see if I could find an acquaintance, but yours is the only familiar name. There is tho' in the "Lawrence scientific School," the name of a Cousin of mine, Edwin ^{my} Garrison, of St Louis - he is the son of one of my Aunts, ^{Mr} Brewster, (my Father's Sister) he was some years in Germany, where I understand he became a fine linguist. His Father is a man of large fortune, & high respectability. It will gratify me, if you will

make the acquaintance of
Young Horner - he is like you-
self, far from friends & home, &
the tie of blood between our
families supts it, I am aware
of his Morality &c, or I should
not make this request No one
is more fully aware than myself,
of the importance of great care
in the choice of your associates &
acquaintances, I do not know
him personally - but the interest
I feel for him & you & any
young relative thus situated, prompt
me to make this reqst.

I did not see
Mary while she was at home, which
I regret very much, we had engage-
ments at home, which prevented us
going up - remember me most affection-
ately to her when you meet - Son-
received a letter from your Father
yesterday, saying that he would be
in Louisville next week, he was
on the eve of departing for the South

with his Father, & regretted very
much, he could not be at home
when he comes down, & they are
going to put their heads together
to have the Clay Monument all their
own way - & as they both think with
Lancaster, I have no fear, but it will
all be right, three such heads, shouy
will bring forth something worthy
of the object,

I send you a speech
of Grinnell's, his first appearance
in that capacity. We expect
great things of you & him, &
you are now in a fair path
for the begining, your Father & your
fumble servant are a good deal
laughed at - by some of the fam-
ily, tho' kindly, so full of our boys
& girls too, so fond, boasting, anxious &
ambitious!! poor me, I plead
guilty, I am but human nature,
which you know is always weak,
if disappointed, we will at least
have the enjoyment of anticipation

for ten, may, perhaps twenty or
thirty years - just conceive the
enjoyment of such sanguine tem-
peraments! I should be very
much pleased if you would write
to me occasionally, I know your
time is fully occupied, & you
write faithfully to your Parents, &
have not much leisure for scribbling.
but you can sometimes let me
know how you are, &c - Your
Aunt ^{my} Friend is with me
& sends you much love, so does
Alice - who is up to her eyes in
study at the Presbyterian College
in Louisville - now am I not liberal
to send my only little Lamb, to
such heretics, (as some of my Church
friends think,) but spare me from
such abominations, I desire
above all things, she have charity
in her religion - I fear you will
feel very sorely tried, by this long
loving letter, as I offer it in a spirit
of love - you surely will receive with
such - Your affec Cousin - Mr. J. Ford

Singapore Oct 27th 1853-

My Dear Son

I have just risen from a cosy family dinner, no one present but your mother Ellen Lilly & myself - the absentees were not forgotten especially where we were discussing a fine batch Black Hamburgs - Among other things it was resolved to cut them all to morrow and pack them away for winter use & to have them in abundance when you visited us in January.

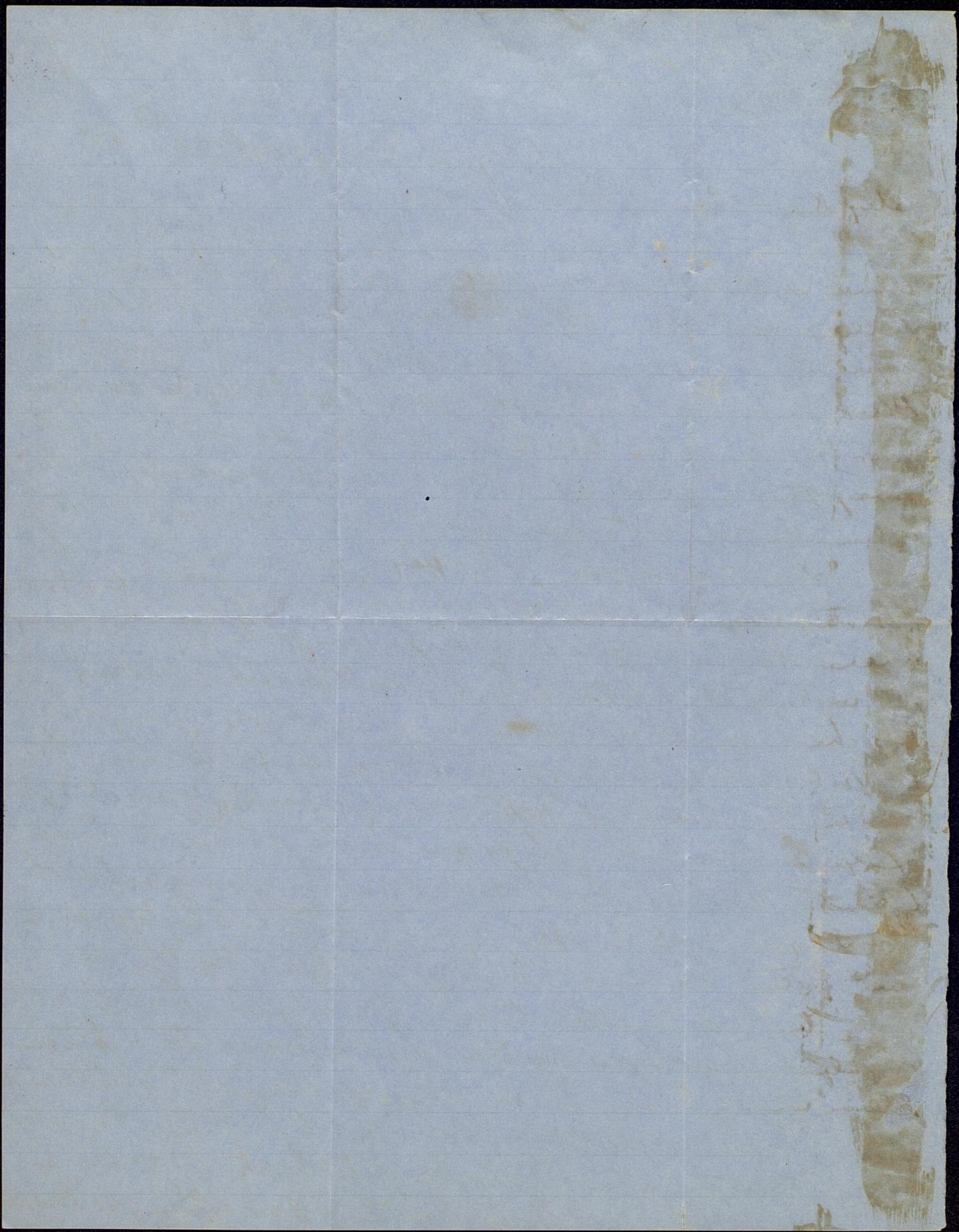
I left Dr Jenkins in New York the Friday after I parted with you - and have not heard from him since - He has not written me or given those characters with my business & wished to let me know from his head is I suppose so turned in this great metropolis - that he has lost his identity, & he has visited you I hope he has not been the occasion of your getting any marks or missing any visitations - If you see him hurry home

I hope my dear Boy you are mastering the Greek and getting on more to your own satisfaction

We have nothing new - one of the most delightful spells of weather I ever saw - Your mother Ellen & Lilly join me in all love to you

The last your devoted father

H. J. Duncan



8
Duncannon Oct 2nd /55-

My dear Son

Your letter giving an account of the "Great national show" I saw from the news papers which you sent that it would be a "Jubilee". It is very pleasing to hear that you get along much more satisfactorily in your recitations particularly in your Greek, I do hope you will be able to master it, altho' I can't see much advantage to be derived from it, save that it is considered necessary to make the perfect scholar, but unless it could be acquired by a less expenditure of time & means I should be tempted to dispense with the scholarship in regard to such an outlandish idiom.

My dear son whatever knowledge you may gain study your Bible if you would be wise, the Bible is the great ~~test~~ book of faith & practice, is the basis of all religious instruction, at home, in the school, & in the Church, you should obtain a good knowledge of Biblical history and doctrine, nor can this knowledge be obtained without systematic study, The religious part of a liberal course of education has claims to a place in the regular course of academical studies, This is an important branch of human knowledge The Westminster or ^{the} Shorter Catechism is a brief summary of religious faith & practice, & I would

recommend

You to spend some time ^{at} especially the sabbath
save the time that is taken up in public worship
Do not let the evil one suggest that it is only fit
for women & children, not so it is more fitted
for intelligent, accountable, ripened, mature,
minds, yes even down to old age, it is the study
that christianizes, enlightens, & elevates, to all of
good in time & eternity. Do let me beg of you
to give heed unto wisdom, there is nothing that
could give me such joy!!

Dr Jenkins returned yesterday, we were all
delighted to see him & welcome his safe
return, it afforded us an opportunity to
hear from our dearly loved children, he says
you are wavering concerning your visit home
& your Father seems to think that you can get
clear of those conditions by passing the vacation
in Cambridge in study, now I would not
oppose superior wisdom, nor your advancement
but my rebellious feelings do not acquiesce in
the decision, time will prove if it be necessary
when the term expires, you can then judge what
to do, It will be a sad disappointment!! but
disappointment & sorrow awaits on this mortal
existence, let us aim for that existence
which will make amends for all - God
bless you my dear son, Ellie & Lily send
much love to dear brother, also much love from
your affectionate Mother

When I commenced writing this letter I thought
of filling the paper but find that I can not,
When you visit Mary do not forget the $\frac{1}{2}$ hose
4 pr which I sent to you, I hope you will have a
pleasant time, the weather now is very pleasant
we can sit with our windows open at noon
tho' we have fire morning & evening
We have been gathering the apple crop for some
days Ellie & Lily have taken some of the
largest & put away for you in Jan when they
hope to see you, The apples are abundant &
very fine,

Miss Maria sends her love to you,
Your Father & Dr Jenkins drove into the city
immediately after breakfast - I look for them
to dinner, I suppose the Dr will write you a
long epistle after his visit to the city
he is obliged to see his old cronies first, &
gather all the news,



11

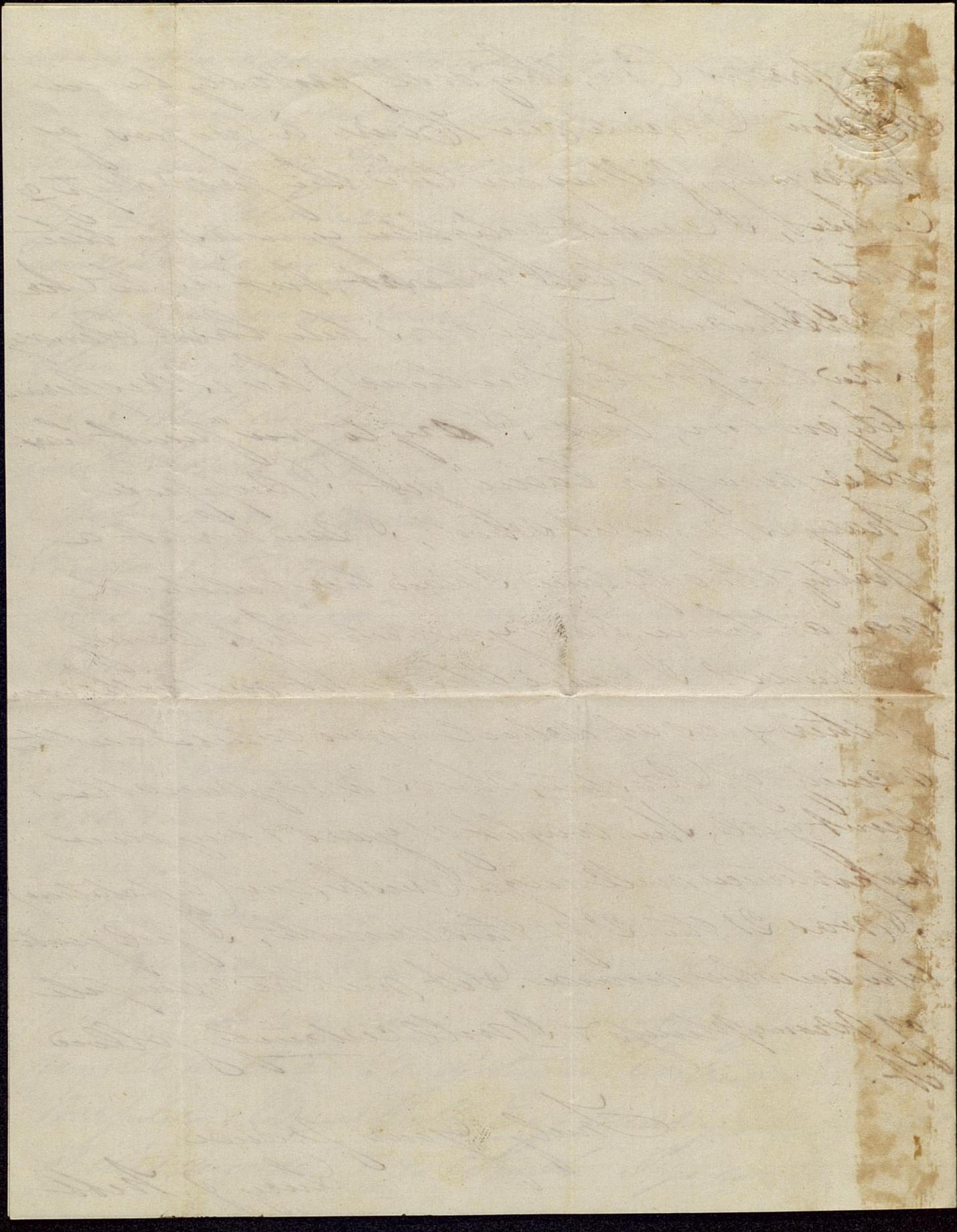
Georgetown Sept 16. 1835

Well Henry I will not ask you
to forgive me for my months procrasti-
nation, for many reasons knowing you'd
will forgive, first knowing you are most
particularly fond of answering letters, the
receipt of your imposes somewhat of an
obligation of writing one, secondly it is
the duty of friends, ^{to} bear with the faults of
those to whom they profess friendship,
The summer passes as a charm down
so swiftly it went, and as autumn bears
remind us that the balmy breezes will
no longer bring to us the sweet perfume of
flowers, each perfume so penetrating the
air, & charming to memory And how of
childhood of riper years when around
one flower cluster'd blisful associations
that one memory held sacred, & the mere
fragrance wafted on the breeze would charm

back old associations, the old time; as autumn
comes round us of Nature's Decay, so
when a loved friend is cut off in the mid
of life, of pleasure, devotion, & youth, then
indeed do we realize "in the midst of
life are we in death"; after leaving Paris
the summer in gaiety & pleasure, just
as I felt satisfied to leave such gay scenes,
and I was to leave for Bourbon with
Miss Mary Smith (the sister of Mrs. Del
Corrolor) the very day we were to leave she
was taken sick & after only twelve hours
died Miss Alice, it was too terrible; then
I immediately returned to Georgetown, where
I will probably remain for the winter, I
was & am so anxious to go to my father &
brothers in New York, but they won't let me come,
& you don't care to spend the winter in
A Orleans & Ark, but the latter I will
not do, so my time & Post Office for the
winter will be Georgetown. Entertain Ellen
Marple & Dan Bill Egg during the 2^d half
of this month to go North, I go with them

as far as Cen, they will probably be in
Boston: Excuse me Henry a propos of
marrying, falling in love the first drift of
Clouds, I cannot enlighten you as to the
state of Miss Hall's heart, but as to Mr
Brinkridge (he was here last Sunday
& was here for half an hour) he is most pro-
bably in love, but I say to you "unkt her
n'er none fair lassie" yet. Suppose
Hairy is now at school, I saw her at a
party the only time I saw her while she
was at home, have you seen Miss Emily
Drauer? I believe she is still with your
father & is at school some where in the
vicinity of Boston, she is a very amiable &
gentle girl. The night of your & my own
importance well nigh crushed me (appetition)
I was in the 2^d of this month, & full quite
like an older man. Set me the example
of your pleasure & I will certainly follow
it.

Truly your friend
Lucy J. Webb



Sep Nov 4th 1822-

My Dear Son

Your letter of the 29th ultimo is rec'd - in which you state the account of my Taylor - He has made a great mistake in overcharging the clothes at prices above what he agreed to furnish them - How he got a bill of 59\$ the amount you paid him I can not imagine - for Coat pants &c &c &c overcharged you speak of sending the bill but omitted to put it in the letter - But speak of 59\$ as the result - now according to my recollection - They were to be 13\$ for Coat & 5 or 7\$ (I am not sure for next) 10\$ for pants & either 21 or 22 for Overcoat - thus taking the highest figures would make the bill only 52\$ instead of 59\$ - May not something for you be included as you have made a mistake in the footing of the bill - look into this matter If 59\$ is the bill I am overcharged

I am pleased to learn that you are with the Chase arrangement doing letters with your Greek - I hope my Son you are in better spirits & that you will in due time master the language - and become a good Greek scholar - that you will not become disengaged

and presence to the end and graduate
with honor & esteem from a wise & chosen
qualified to take a high position in what-
ever walk of life you may choose

The reasons my Son, for success on your part
are many - You are surrounded by peculiar
circumstances - You will be placed in a po-
sition - of great responsibility & high trust - so
far as your family and Sisters are concerned
Should an accident happen to me - you will
be my sole representative - The only being
bearing my name - You will be the
Executor of ^{my} Estate - The guardian & Trustee
of your Sisters - This will devolve upon you
delicate & responsible trusts - Requiring from
you capacity, diligence, firmness & integrity
to manage & judiciously - with the delicate
trusts that are connected with it - Your po-
sition my Son as my eldest living child - will
put to greatly in your power - from your
own personal position - to aid and advance the
best interests of your Sisters - In their proper and
advantageous position in life - In this connec-
tion nothing will be to them more advantageous
in life - than a proper matrimonial con-
nection on your part - Should the woman of
your choice be possessed of the proper quali-
fications of mind & heart - with the proper family

influence & position, it will be of unspeakable advantage to your listeners - Should it be otherwise it will be a great drawback. There are all hints you will understand and duly consider - But very soon the proper foundation for all these influences will consist mainly in your own personal character & intellectual attainments - Hence I beseech you to make hay while the sun shines, improve your advantages a Harvard and claim from it an accomplished scholar a polished gentleman & a man of exalted integrity and high personal & moral qualities - Keep yourself pure and unspotted making truth and justice the great foundations of your character

Let me exhort you to the practice of economy in your expenditures - This will conduct of Henry Timberlake throwing upon the payment immediately of several thousand dollars for him - makes it necessary that we all observe a proper economy, another crop will make me easy - I shall go to Louisville this week - for the purpose of bringing matters to a final close ~~of the~~ him - and wind up his administration - I shall require the sale of his property &c - and whatever is the overruled difficulty

I shall pay up and be done with it

I shall be off in the course of 2 weeks with Dr Lenkins for Illinois & get him fairly installed as a farmer I shall help the houses at Chicago & bring them down all ready to put up together - I hope this movement will prove advantageous to the Drs & well as myself - though we shall miss him greatly

I shall buy no more property for the present in Ky - If the Illinois enterprise succeeds, as I hope it may, I shall extend my interests there - I am too old to increase my cares here - where it requires my own personal supervision - And both overseers and negroes are too troublesome and becoming more so every day

I am glad that you will not need Mr Verzis aid while here - I supposed that you would have desired to keep up your studies while here in Greek - Should you conclude to come home at your next vacation - Though I think you should pre-fer as little intercourse with Ky as possible until your graduation - This will rid you of the influence of boyish familiarity - such as "little Harry Dumeen"

Yr devoted Father
H T Dumeen

10

P.S. Present my respects to your room mate
Mr. Yellow

Buenaonve Nov 5th 1855

Dear Henry

I worked at Mofield at 3 o'clock
on the evening of the day I left you - went
up to the Institute at 4, remained till
6 - found your sister very well and was shown
by her over the different buildings - was very
much pleased with the arrangement - thought
the appliances for instruction excellent - saw
none of the teachers not even Dr. Agnew but
had a glimpse of the girls as they were get-
ting into the numbers for their evening ride.
Miss Waters your sister pointed out to me
as well as I could determine from the in-
distinct view I had of her she had the
prettiest face I saw there - As desired I
directed Mary to divide with her the can-
dy you sent by me. Rock candy is not
at all expressive of the condition of your
heart towards the girls. There is nothing grottoes
in its nature or composition. After two I
called again and remained 2 or three hours
found in the parlour two Misses Buckingham
of Zanesville Ohio and the father of one of
them - spent a very pleasant evening - returned
to the Hotel at 9^{1/2} o'clock and of course remain-

ed there till morning - at 6^o clock made another start for home - found Mr. Buckingham in the car - had a long talk with him about the school and slavery - said his daughter had been at the Institute only a few weeks - that she complained and he thought very justly of the severity of the rules - therefore but otherwise was very well pleased. He added that before he sent her an he had observed in the catalogue of the school quite a number of Southern names, which made him hesitate to send her as he feared their influence might prove detrimental to his daughter. Southern girls he supposed to be proud haughty, aristocratic, domineering, devoted to fashion and the vanities of life generally, lazy, inert and dependent upon others for all the services they might require and upon visiting the Institute he found this to be very much the case, but that he had learned that the young lady (Mary) who was in the parlour with me was a remarkable exception to the rule - that she was plain ⁱⁿ her deportment and affable in her manners, free from all foolish aristocratic notions, and not ashamed to wait upon herself. On his reaching home he said he intended to write to his daughter urging her to make your sister a model for imitation. It is very pleasant, is it not?

To hear that Mary has such a flattering reputation at the Institute.

Promising at Albany 8 hours I left in the 11 o'clock train and arrived at Cincinnati at 3 1/2 o'clock on the following day too late for the evening train for Lexington. I had consequently to stay over all night. No incident worth relating occurred en route. One or two laughable circumstances transpired. One old lady just before reaching Cleveland asked to know how long the Chicago train stopped there - learning that it would stop there several hours she exclaimed that she would have a fine opportunity to scout around another lady coming into the car more Columbus inquired of a gentleman standing near the door if he was the undertaker meaning the conductor.

I found all at home very well - the weather very mild - but a great change in the foliage since I left the trees are almost denuded I have visited some of my friends since my return Miss W. E. G. I have twice seen. I told her I was surprised to hear her well merited praises trumpeted in Cambridge. That I had met a young gentleman there that knew her reputation well and had fallen in love with her upon it. That he proposed a visit

To try immediately upon his graduation for
no other purpose than to see her if she was
then still single, but that he feared she
would be lost to him long before that time.
She replied that there was no danger that
five years hence would still find her
fancy-free and that she would look
forward with considerable interest to
his visit. She says she hopes he will study
hard and make himself a ripe and
finished scholar. In the same she
says proportionately equal power to those
of a highly cultivated mind, refined tastes
etc. I have also called upon Miss Sallie
Thomas. I found with her Miss Mary
Morrison. In a conversation of two hours
she made no inquiry concerning you, though
she knew I had been to Cambridge
Apropos to this young Mr Breckinridge is board-
ing in town attending the Law Lectures
is very attentive to Miss Hale and it is be-
lieved will marry her next spring after his
graduation. The 27th of this month is ap-
pointed for the nuptials of Miss Ellen Warfield
and Mr Dan. Bell, but as the engagement
has been broken off twice before it is mighty
uncertain. Mrs Webb of Scott County, mother
of Miss Lucy died a few days since
All join in love to you Yours affectionately
W D Perkins

12

Duncannon Nov 8th 55

Dear Brother

He, he, he, I am so glad
you are coming home, the servants
are all anxious to see you, & are
always enquiring of Ellie & me about
you,

Accept dearest brother my sincere thanks for the beautiful
Portfolio you sent me by Father,
it makes me wish more & more to be
able to write, so that I could write
you a nice letter on the nice
little note paper you sent, O.
me! I have been trying to write, but
it is so hard, & I am so lazy, & love
my play so much that I can not leave
but I am determined to set at it in
earnest, the weather is becoming so
unpleasant we can't run about as we
have, & I will now try to write,

Ellie & I have three mocking birds,
& two canarys which amuse us very
much, in watching their manœuvres
& feeding them, Tom, Laura, &
Julia some days are all gathering
grasshoppers for the mocking birds
they are the greatest gluttons you can
see, we have strings of grasshoppers
hung up for winter,

I take a child's monthly maga-
zine (called Merrys Museum &
Parley's Magazine) which contains
History, Natural History, Ecology,
Geography, Travels, & Biographies;
it is very entertaining to me, & it
is always very welcome, But for
so learned a man it is funny
to see how he spells or writes my
name, e.g. Lilly Dunken

Mother went into the city with
us on monday to see the
wonderful performance of a
Glass Blower, it was beautiful
I could have spent the day
looking at him but I do

not expect the man could have
continued at it all day, for
looked so tired & was full
of perspiration,

Father went to
Paris on Monday it being
county court day, on Tuesday
afternoon he went to Louisville
where he expects to spend
the remainder of the week,
After his return he thinks
of going to Ill with Dr J
& cousin Maria goes with
them on her way to Vincennes,
O how we will miss them
all, it will be so lonely
Your letter to father came on
yesterday, we are always
glad to hear from you & to
know that you are well,
Mother rec'd a letter from
you a few day since for
which she thanks you &
will write to in a day or
two,

It is just about a year
since I bid you good by
but it will not be long until
I shall be so happy to say
how do you do, I shall be so
glad Mother, sisters, &
Cousins send much love
to you Your ever affectionate
sister Lily Duncan

13

Pittsfield
Nov. 10th/55.

My dear Brother

Two weeks have passed since I have written a single line to you, but I have not received a letter from you for a week, but I attribute it to your want of time, as that - the reason why I have not written to you. I was very busy all last Saturday and expected to write at night, but after prayers Mary Agnew came into my room and remained until after the first ^{ringing} bell rang, and then I could not write, I thought I might perhaps get time to write to you and Mother during the week, but I have been so busy that I have not ~~had time~~ ^{done so}. I did not write a single letter last Saturday. It has been two weeks since Dr Perkins was here. I was very glad to see him, and I thank you very much for the ^{letter} rock-candy, it was very nice and very acceptable just the thing I wished for. I have some of it yet which I keep for my throat. I gave Miss the pedigree you sent to her and she told me to thank you for it and sends her respects to you. I showed "Doc" everything on the premises worthy of note, and

he seemed very much pleased with the appearance
of the school. Last Friday night - last night
week, the Hall I am in received company - I was
on the committee, oh yes! I must tell you who else
was on the committee. Guss, and Mary Agnew,
and Mary Offutt. each of us was dressed in fancy.
Guss was a Shepherdess, Mary Agnew a Greek girl,
Mary Offutt a Spanish lady. Miss Battell represented
autumn, Lila Hunt (one of my intimate friends)
and a very handsome girl by the way was Spring.
Miss Hastings was Night, Miss Marshall Morning,
Mary Fairman a Gipsie, and Mary Duncan a Scotch
Highlander. Perhaps we shall have a fancy party
on Thanksgiving, you must be sure and come
to see me - and I shall expect you to spend a
week. You said you would if it would not
keep me too much from my studies. and I can
assure you, you will not. I am very busy
now with my studies. I was called up and exam-
ined in Algebra ^{yesterday}, and I was never so frightened
I shall not be so much so next time. I am study-
ing Arithmetic, Algebra, French, and Music, and
these with writing compositions, learning rehearsals,
and spelling lessons, keep me very busy. I am in
a reading class. We are to have some kind of
performances in the Gymnasium this winter, and

We all are to wear the Highland dress. I do not know precisely when it comes off. I wish you could be here.

Mrs Agnew has not returned home yet, but her health is very much improved - she has walked a mile at a time since she has been gone. Miss Lottie is with her. How do you get on in your recitations now, & do you feel the same embarrassment you did at first? Do you see much of Mrs Sparks? How does Agassiz school flourish? Father wanted me to go there this winter - but from what I heard Dr Perkins say of the school, I do not suppose I shall go, but remain here. I am realy getting tired of the rules here, there is no end to them at Leavenworth, but the teachers still continue to manufacture new ones it seems to be the fort of each one, of themselves, and just what they are made for. Are you as homesick this term as ever; I believe I am more so. I am constantly wishing myself there, at home. I expect you are tired of my gabble by this time so I shall not trouble you with any more of it at present.

Write ~~not~~ soon, but immediately, to your loving

sister Mary D.

My love to Mr and Mrs Sparks. I should write to Mrs ^{to day} S - if I had time. tell her how busy we have to go into the Gymnasium for ^{an} ~~two~~ hours this afternoon practicing for the exhibition.

and then will think it is the same
and that you will think the same to make friends
and so on and then the next day will be
done and then we all know that he is dead.
He will go away and we will see him at the
cemetery and say we are not so well as we have
the wife and husband and all the good things
we will think well we don't care about
anybody we can't be directly broken off
without a man to take care of us and when
we are all gone we will be left alone
and we will have to go to the hospital to care for us
until we are not embarrassed to mention little
things and nothing has been going on all day
since we were all here.

and I am afraid we will have to wait until
we get to the cemetery to make friends
and then we will be alone and we will die
and then we will be alone.

15th

Duncannon Nov 15th /55-

My very dear Son

Your frequent missives are a great source of satisfaction to me, & in a measure some amends for your absence. It is exceedingly gratifying to me to hear you have such a teacher of purity, & that he is so forcible & impressive, yet the heart must be pure or there will be no corresponding action. The clean fountain alone sendeth forth a clear stream. O how important! to seek for the purifying & sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit, which will not only benefit us in this life but to all eternity. In a former letter you wished to have my decision in regard to Theatre going. Whatever is pleasant, entertaining, & affords you any instruction or amusement, not incompatible with right principles & true morality, you will not find me to object to. The Theatre is a doubtful resort, as the actors are those of a most corrupt class, still if at any time a star comes along such as Rachel, & the like I should be induced to see them & few times would suffice, for I should feel

that I was not advancing the right cause.
Just think of the sums they collect, enough
to christianise the world, as far as man's agency
is concerned, The region you are in stands
in need of a pure evangelical missionary of
the cross, for the piety of the puritan fathers is
almost if not quite extinct. The ism's that
have sprung up in A. E. in the place of true
piety, is really fearful. I trust you will be interested
to examine the subject for yourself, it is one in
which all are deeply interested, there is no new
religion, the Bible is an old book & its teachings
are the same in all generations, reverence it
make it your guide of faith & practice, & your
course will grow brighter & brighter unto perfect
day.

A letter from Mary on yesterday, she is very
well & making herself happy in the anticipa-
tion of having your society on "thanksgiving"
Ours comes on the same day, & I believe most
of the states, what a reflection, a glorious one
just to think of a great nation acknowledging
their obligations, & underling thanks simultane-
ously to the great God of the universe.

I have read Wikoff it is very interesting & amusing, really "truth is stranger than fiction," he is decidedly a talented man, but love's vagaries carried him rather too far, his imprisonment has one would think cured him of love for so capricious a creature, let her other qualities be what they may. My sympathies are enlisted for him, & hope he may regain all the regard & esteem he deserves. Peg Woffington is said to be a book of exceeding wit it is an interesting book, Ellie has not read it yet, she commenced it but did not become interested enough to go on, she prefers Miss Edgeworth Dr Marshall made many a present of them, Have you read R. S. Ford's address? It is a very well written composition, those who heard him deliver it spoke well of it. save the elocution, elocution is one of the accompaniments of an effective address, you should cultivate it as much as is practicable, even to read aloud & accustom yourself to your own voice will in a small degree do away the embarrassment produced at a publick effort, speaking should have more attention in schools than is devoted to it at present.

Your father has been absent all the week at Bedford I expect him this evening - he is making his arrangements so that he can go with the Dr next week, I feel quite sad at the thought, we shall the Dr so much, Maria is also going, they travel together as far as Zionshaunte, where they separate, Maria for Vincennes & the others for Charlston Ill -

Rev J. H. Brown's sale comes off to morrow he is going to Jacksonville Ill - perhaps you have seen his advertisement in the Lexington Reporter. The 2nd church made him a present in token of their esteem & affection, in the shape of a silver salver, pitcher, & a pair of goblets. Sisters & cousins desire to be affectionately remembered to you, & accept the unbounded love of
Your Mother

Nov. 16th 66.

My dear brother

I received your letter yesterday evening and was most happy to hear from you. We have been all excitement here this week, you will be surprised when I tell you what it is about. Monsieur and Madam Richard, have left the Institute and we all have been so distressed about it that we could not half study, it is a little more than a week since I heard they were going, almost two, but I did not believe it at first. Then I heard it contradicted, and on Saturday night I heard it ~~was~~ was a ~~fact~~, it made me feel so badly. The girls are very much distressed about their going away, that is his old scholars, his and Madam Richard's old scholars presented them both with a set of plated silver, they could not get any real silver castors or goblet which they wanted to, there was none in Pittsfield, and there was not time enough to send to R. G. so we bought them the only set to be found in Pittsfield and bought Henry a knife fork and spoon. all together cost fifty five dollars. They both felt very sad about going away. ^{It is my opinion that} Mr. Brown does not like his leaving, for he knows he cannot another to fill his place, there is another French teacher coming.

Mr Agnew some of the young ladies might write home and say the school was going down, and so he spoke to them in Chapel, and told them he did not wish them to think Mr Richards place could not be filled - and that they would be very apt to write so home, and he did not wish them to, it made the girls so provoked. But I will wait until you come to see me before I tell you all about it. ^{Friday 16th Mrs Agnew & Miss Scott returned home to night, Clara ran through the hall just now and seemed in high glee. I shall go to see her in the morning - she is fatigued to night.}

I am overjoyed at the idea of seeing you on Thanksgiving - the girls talk of having a fancy party - I do not know it is decided yet. I received a letter from Dr Perkins last night - but I suppose he wrote the same things to you ^{that he} did to me - all were well - he and cousin Maria start for Illinois very soon and perhaps father will go with them. Everything goes on just the same as ever - it has been raining all day and I suppose we shall have some cold weather after this.

I am so tired and sleepy ("there are crumbs in my eyes") that I will not any more to night. I was going to say I would write more tomorrow but I am afraid I should have nothing more to say if I did so I shall close. Good night.

God bless you. Your devoted sister

Mary L.

P.S. Brother when you come on Thanksgiving
will you please bring me a cheese and a
box of soda crackers. will you if you please
and I will pay you when you come.

My love to Mr & Mrs Shaeks.



Nov 15 -



Mr Henry F. Duncan
Cambridge
Mass.

Nov^r 19th 1855

Dear Henry

Your letter of the 16th was received several days since. I have been in no great hurry to reply as you see, for the reason that I have had ^{nothing} of interest to communicate. In reference to the gentleman from Gainesville this Mr. Buntingham you say you hope that I have secured his address, as you shall endeavour to secure a place in his favor by informing him that you are that young lady's brother. As you visit Pittsfield on Thanksgiving day you will have an opportunity of making the acquaintance of his daughter and ingratiating yourself in her favor, and thus find access to the father's heart through the daughter. I hope the impression you will make upon her will be as favorable as that made by your sister upon her. I hope you will be regarded as a model young man.

I read your letter at the table of Mrs. Craig and that portion of it referring to Gelston I gave Miss Mary the benefit of and remarked that as I now had introduced them to each

other any further mediation on my part
was unnecessary. Oh no she said, I must
excuse it but that she hoped to hear
from the young gentleman in person.
She regretted to learn that down upon his
face indicated very tender years. advise him
to make frequent use of the razor and
some beard invigorating preparation to
bring it rapidly to maturity.
There is some talk of the Morrisons
going to Iowa this fall to reside - of their
doing so I think there is no great probabil-
ity this fall at least. I leave tomorrow for
Illinoian go on the cars to Louisville & the
remainder of the way on horse-back. Your
father will follow ^{with} night but he will ^{go} direct to
Chicago accompanied by Stephen Lewis, whose
object is to see the Chicago property of your father
- They are negotiating a trade. Your father
proposes to give the Louisville property and
Chicago property for the remainder of his land
about 600 acres. It is not unlikely that they
will trade. On his (your father's) return he will
call in Colds and stay a short time with
me. There is no news of interest about Miss
Mather I observed yesterday (Sunday) escorted
by her devoted Jones. Mr Brown delivered
his farewell to his old congregation yesterday

The summer ^{not} was the appropriate and pathetic
Many tears flowed on the occasion. He
got in a few days to Jacksonville Illinois
to take charge of a church there. Mrs Brown
promised that if I would visit her she
would introduce me to some very nice
young ladies and employ her kind offices
in my behalf if I felt inclined to try my
fortune there. I accepted her offer gratefully
and shall employ an early occasion to call
it into requisition. She says there is a family
of daughters 3 or 4 of whom are still single
in Jacksonville who possess rare accomplishments.
One of them she says upon getting
up in the morning will throw an a newspaper
envelope her head in a handkerchief
and sweep up the house from garret to
kitchen; wash up the dishes and then
make her toilet and go into parlour and
execute ^{the} finest music on the piano or entertain
company in the best style etc
I said to Mrs Brown that she was the gal
for me - do you think so in sober con-
sider. ^{not} Would such an one suit an Illinois
farmer infinitely better than one whose
accomplishments were only ornamental and
who was a total stranger to the culinary art etc
I think so, and thinking so I shall act

accordingly, whenever I find a fair dam-
sel just suited to my mind, and who
is nothing loath to unite her fortune
with my own

As the time approaches for my departure
I begin to feel quite sad at the idea.
I shall part with some good friends
here with great regret. You must write
to me on the receipt of this and direct
to Charleston Coles Cos. If my friends
are not kind enough to write frequently
I shall become very sad in my soli-
tude All are well and join in love
to you Yours affectionately
A. D. Jenkins

Lexington Nov 17th 1852~

My Dear Son

Greet while at Bedford This week your last affectionate letter, which is always a source of happiness, particular
slightly when they seem so cheerful - You speak of your monthly average - as being 7 in Geometry (is this the highest) 4½ in Latin & 1 in Greek - will this produce such an average as will enable you to matriculate at the close of this term or not - Can you not get up your average in Greek & Latin high enough - to produce the general average - You speak of 25 lower in Greek than yourself & 25 more than have an average in Greek of less than 2 - Cant you pass this latter back in the next 2 months; Having gone into Homer an easier work - with the aid of Chase - Cant you get it up higher - My Dear Boy - you have no Idea of my solicitude for ^{you} on this subject - or I am sure you would give an extra hour a day in your Mathematick - bring it up to 8 which is perfect according to my recollection - How happy I shall be if you can matriculate this term If you do not however - what is the consequence does it exclude you from the class or not what

what is to be its effect upon the future, there
are matters I do not understand.

Your Bill of the Taylor with explanations
is satisfactory - I may have misunderstood him.
Enclose you a check for 59⁹/₁₀ the amount you
were good enough to pay for me - what addi-
tional means will you need to close out every-
thing for the balance of this time - up to your
returning home in vacation - with your ex-
penses out &c that I may send you in time.

Dr Jenkins will be off to Illinois on
horseback early next week - I shall follow in
a week or two after by rail road & spend some
8 or 10 days and assist him - in contracting for
the improvements & locating the necessary build-
ings &c &c Maria will go out with me to visi-
tions - where I hope she will spend the balance
of her days.

Lewis and I are upon another track - I
have said to him - that I will have no trans-
action that is not closed up - that he must
take my Louisville & Chicago property in ex-
change - If I can make this arrangement it will
be a first rate one - in exchanging unproduc-
tive property for that which will produce, and
making my Bourbon property perfectly compact
in its form & gives me near 3000 acres in a body
which will by concentrating my property make

It much easier to manage - and of more intrinsic
value - Susceptible of change - either for sale
or change among my children

I have made a visit to Louisville looking
into the Timberlake affair - He has acted with
great want of good faith - I have taken steps to
wind up the concern & take it out of his
hands - of course we shall have a break - I
shall have to pay for him - immediately several
Thousands Dollars - I paid last week a postdated
bill for 1200\$ a new endorsement of only 8 months
too bad - You must avoid my folly and never
endorse for any one - particularly your kin
mine are a miserable set on both sides - you
must have nothing to do with them in your
day and generation

I am much delighted at the defeat of Rockwell
the leader of the black Republicans in Mass
he is unworthy the position he had in the whig
party - Goodwin occupies a position which
gives him great opportunities to win distinction
as a national man - His anti-slavery in the
Loring affair - & the personal liberty bill
alone place him ~~in~~ high ground - His re
election is such a support & promises well for
Mass as a great Union loving people - All well
& send you much love

My devoted Father
A. T. Durkee

I send you a check for 100 p^t 4^t am
your advance - payable direct to your
order

H T D

19

Pittsfield

Nov. 24th/68

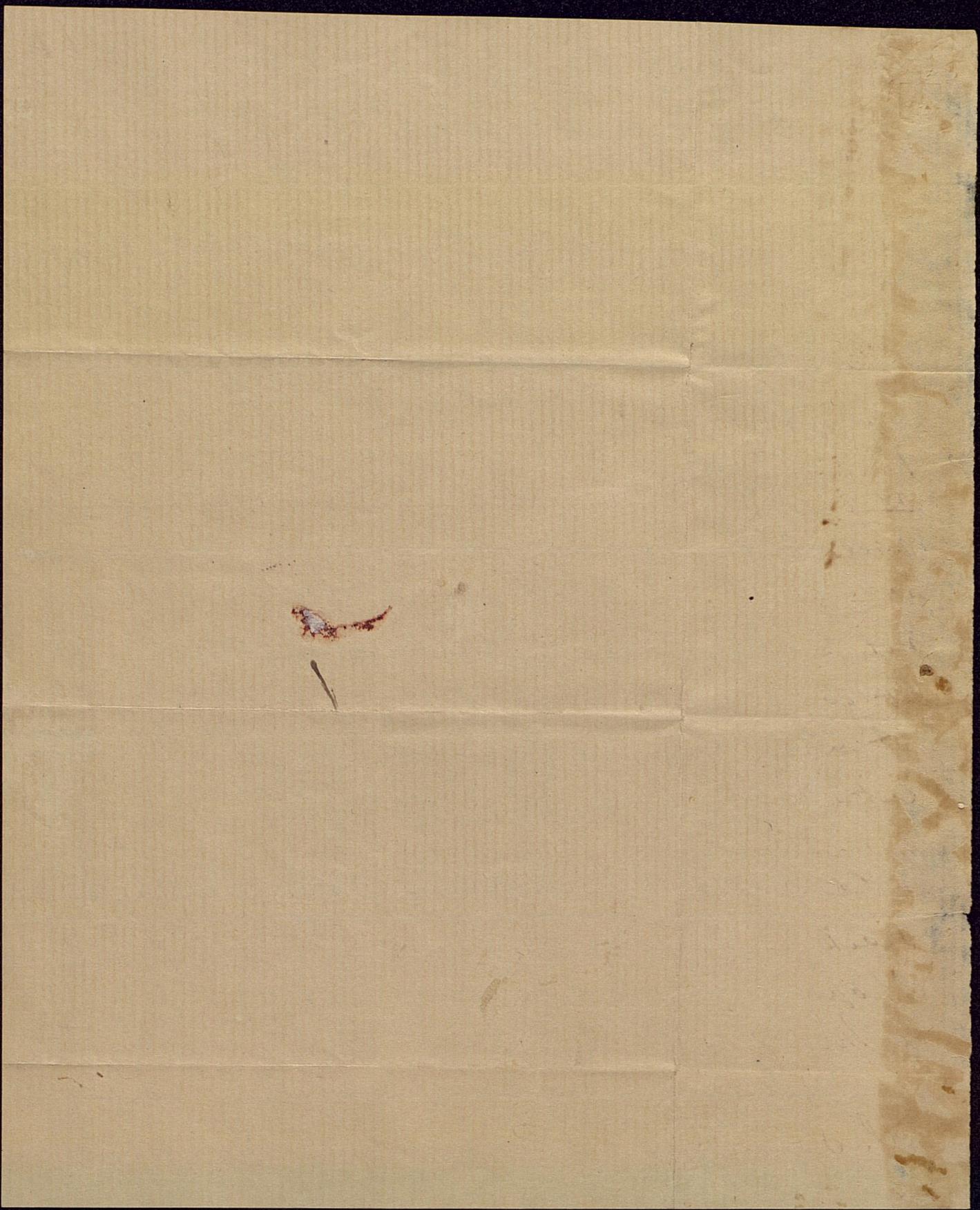
My dear brother

I shall only write you a few lines this morning as I am very very busy. I am so glad you are coming, you will enjoy yourself so much. great preparations are going on for the fancy party - I shall not tell you any of the characters - but will let you wait until you see them.

I will see you must have your hair cut - but I guess you had better not if you think it will make you take cold - can you get me some soda crackers - Now I must say good bye I hope to see you soon. love to Mr & Mrs Sparks. Your loving sister

(Mary D.

P.S. Mary Offutt sends her regards.



21

Texas Prairie,

Nov 24th 1853-

Dear Henry,

Having just finished reading your kind letter of the 5th inst, & under the charming influence of my cob-pipe and the pleasant fire, will give an immediate answer. Could our common wish be gratified we, ~~as~~ samples of Young America's frankness, would perhaps, just now be gossiping over my old-cob-pipe, ~~recalling~~ the by-gones, that would even now bear repetition. Sometimes I almost think that there must be something besides the juicy weed in my loved companion, such as the thymecurls slowly up, like fairie-ones - and sometimes the sweet-benys that cluster around the fast taken (by what power I know not) find it and speak. Often some reveries containing more stars of calm against bright luster than Heaven, and more glorious sunrises - and sunsets than Eternity.

A great old pipe I reckon you would think
yet it's nothing more than a common one
but were you present you would think
a matter of life & death as about to
be told by that puffing - sometimes a
steam-boat's nervous jerking puff - sometimes
a deliberate puff - as now - and last of
all - a faint puff, for 'tis done - and
Lord knows "I'm sick."

You could not wish
worse than I that we were neighbors
& think we could get - a breath - a short
one - of gaiety into these old fagies
My liveliest companion whom I generally
see once a month, is a man of thirty
years; he is tall and slender, ~~runifid~~
as the little boy ~~used~~, to run up the
lamps posts, He has a serious, and
dignified ^{look} received from a pair of ^{wild} mustaches
which he is cultivating, and a high fast-
board standing collar completely his wonderful
appearance so completely that the children
hold him in perfect awe. - A fine loving
loving gentleman, whose ^{best} approach
to the humorous - is ten words in every
ten minutes for an hour on ~~Christo~~

resurrection.— I enjoy myself at least I will let you imagine so.— He calls me a stubborn sinner, and in way of emphasis, as if he felt the importance of what he would say, he raises up his hand and knit's his brows, ~~and~~ oracularly exclaiming you will certainly sink down "down to bottomed perdition".— This is no exaggerated description, but true as I can give.— Yet it is ~~nearly~~ as I wish to enjoyment, also get with such gress Chap~~x~~— and listen. But I shall leave in no very long this delightful prairie for business town life.—

Yes, Henry our friends in Ky treat us badly—but I am charitable in my suppositions— And believe & certain lady friends do not write to us, ~~only~~ because they do not understand our motives sufficiently to appreciate them; and their boy-friends know this no matter of life and death—the Republic will not fall!

In answer to your kind enquiry concerning
my sister, I cannot say whether she
was in Georgetown or Beijing town, but
when I last heard from her was in
the former place, but she is as often
in the latter.

How heavy you must
write soon, and excuse this, as
I shall try and write something when
I write again - Remaining as ever

Your true friend
let me bid you good-morn
And wish you happy
dreams &c &c

J. A. Duncan
Cambridge
Mass

W. Webb
S. "

P.S. Since the above has been written
I have thankfully rec'd. Several cards
from the hand writing must be from
you, - I must also - if I have not
now acknowledged the reception
of a Catalogue of the University, and
tell you such kindnesses are
appreciated. Excuse the scrawl - for
goodness sake

Yours

Lexington Nov 25th. 1835-

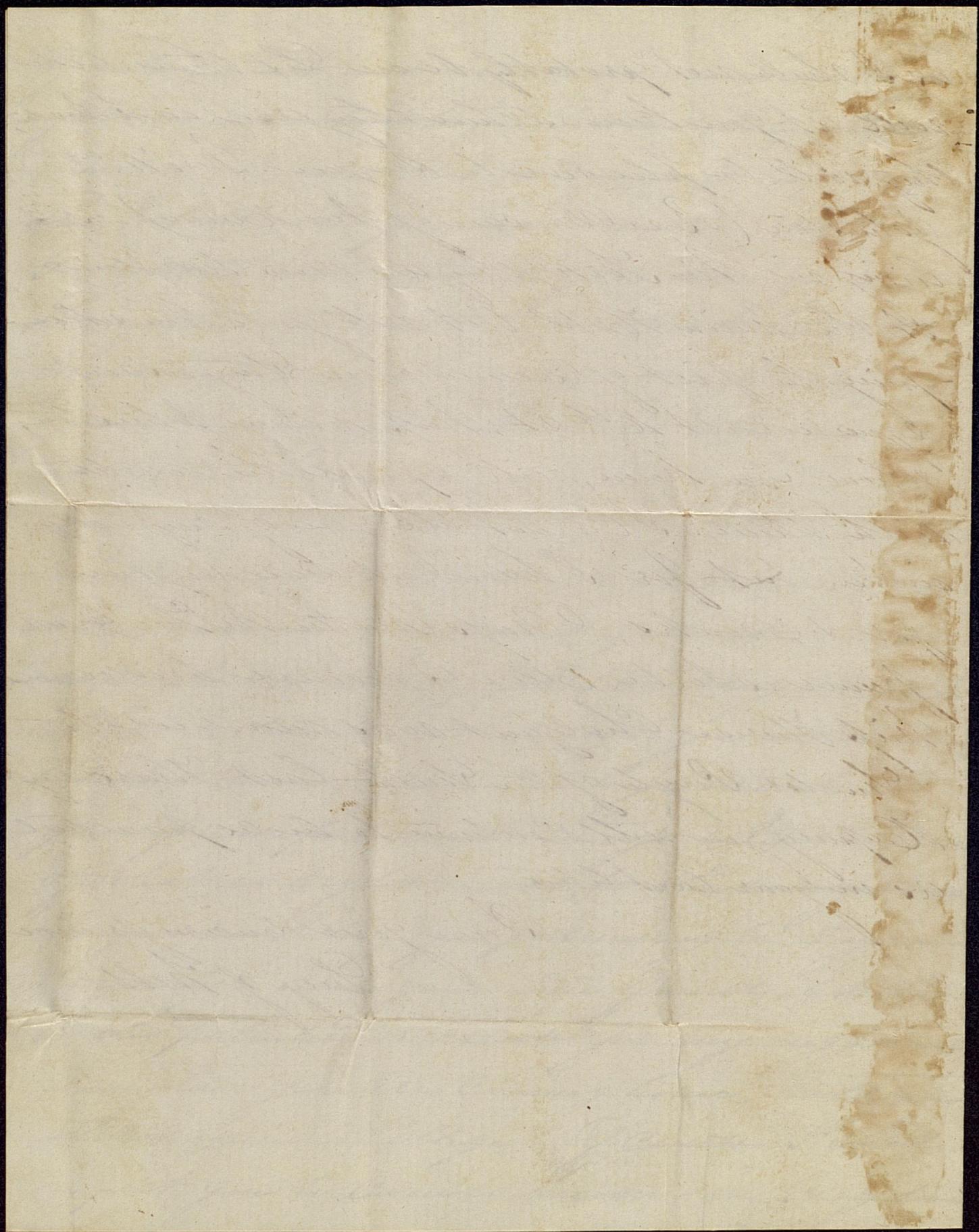
A Deary, bleak November

Monday, when gray, morning, waiting spirits
seem to implore sunshine, making all dismal
I don't exactly feel dismal but I suppose
of submission to weather & fate. I came to
Lexington last Thursday to be with Ella
to tell the final remnant, how strangely
how exceedingly mysterious the feeling that
makes the heart all contract & turn happy
to communion with one always forever & ever
through good & ill, in sorrow & despatch
I cannot help gazing in a kind of wonder-
ment upon the individuals who profess
such feelings. I love Ella very much, exceeding-
ly, whether I am to lose her, know only can
tell. Certain it is that she never can be
to me all she has been, however I like her
Bill exceedingly, & she is marrying well, he
loves her infinitely, he has shown a deposit

of feeling that has elevation here a sum whose
falls in my estimation. I saw Sally on
Friday, I may not tell you how pretty
she looks, she promised me a visit in
Georgetown. Don't think of marrying yet
Henry, the woman who would suit your
lastis now would not begin to satisfy
you at twenty five, the lastis change as
better its the imagination more than
accurate last which influences my ex-
-treme youth, take leisure & study for your
virtue, wisdom & judgment your counsellor
uprightness in every particular your staff
but not ambition ^{to} exal others be your stimulus
but the abition to gain the high mark the
pure principal in all things, the standard
of what is right & just, be the moving cause.
Forgive me Henry for presuming to suggest,
& remember I am your true friend, let that
be the palliative or excuse for my suggestions.
I am gladd you are coming home, will you
return again to College? Of course I shall
expect you to come to see me in Georgetown

as I shall not probably be in New Haven. Ellen
will let you know when they are in Boston,
they will be pleased to see you. Mrs. Mrs.
Johnston (Rosalind Duncan of New Haven) is
living in New York, they are now boarding
at the Union Hotel, but will go to her sister-
ping the first of December or they want
square east 16th st. Miss Henry Johnston,
whom you know, will spend the winter
with them. I cannot tell you of any body
in New Haven for I have not seen any one
for six weeks. Miss Prather Mr. ^{the} your
friend is to be Ellen's dinner bridesmaid.
Miss Turner Chalfant was married to
General Price of the South last Thursday
hoping you will continue to be as practical
as in your last letter.

I am your sincere friend
Lucy of Webb



20

Lexington Nov 21st 1852-

My dear Son

In my last letter to you I emitted
you a check for \$100- of which I have had
as yet no acknowledgement - In my last letter
from your sister - She wrote for more money
which has astonished me not a little - when I left
her but a few weeks ago - I left with her money
enough to pay her Mantua-makers Bill - and
left her some Twenty odd dollars for pin money
quite enough for the term - But when young ladies
are encouraged to be constantly making presents
of Services of Plate to teachers (which falls upon the
few) getting up fancy dresses for all sorts of
exhibitions - Instead of being required to attend to
their duties for which they were sent for, and
thus encouraged to habits of extravagance - I am
out of all patience with the concern & shall make
a change - And its is high time that Henry was learn-
ing some habits of taking better care of his
cash - She must exercise more firmness - create no
debts whatever - If you get this letter, send her
\$10- If you have it to spare - If I do not make her
a remittance myself - which I will do if I go to
town - which is uncertain, as I am unwell
all well & send you much love *With affectionate Father*
H T Sherman

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22



Maplewood.

Saturday night Decth /55.

My dearest brother

Another day has passed and I have not written to you - I cannot see what I have done yet I have been busy all day, I did not write this afternoon which will ~~not~~ show that I was busy. How do you get along after ~~this~~ Thanksgiving's dissipation; I wish every day was a Thanksgiving. You would be amused to see us eating cheese

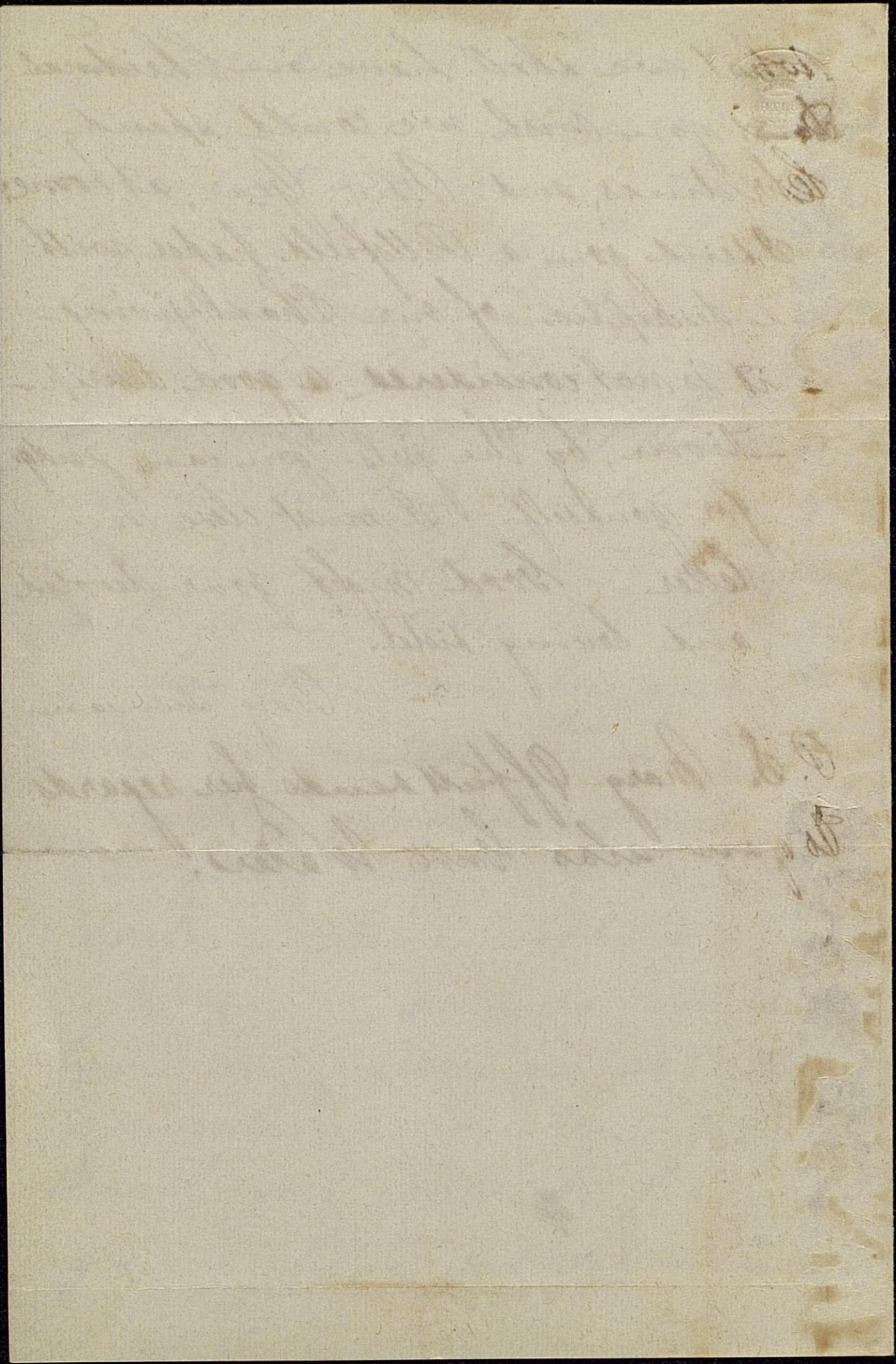
and crackers, we do enjoy it so much, but our store of crackers is almost out. we will have to lay in a new supply. Guss Waters "Empress Rosaphine" alias Guss Waters had three Daguerreotypes taken to day. I wanted one of them so much. she looks beautiful in them. I must have my picture "tuck" some of these days. for Guss, she has given me hers and I have promised her mine.

Nothing worthy of note has transpired since you were here therefore I have nothing new to tell you. perhaps we shall have an exhibition in the Gymnasium on New Year. I wish you could be here, as yet we have not determined

what we shall have on Christmas. Don't you wish we could spend Christmas and New Year, at home. I send you a Pittsfield paper with a description of our Thanksgiving - it is not considered a good description, by the girls. You can judge for yourself. I must close my letter. Good night your devoted and loving sister.

Mary Duncan.

P.S. Mary Offatt sends her regards to you also Guss Waters.



Lexington Dec 9th 1853-

My Dear Son

Upon my return home last evening from Bedford, where I have spent the last four days—your letters of the 10th & 11th inst—One to your mother the other to myself—was placed in my hands to read—as usual my dear boy—it was a great satisfaction to hear from ^{you}—I also rec'd from you when I was on the wing to Bedford—a previous letter acknowledging the receipt of my check \$100. You doubtless—with the exceptions of your thanks & general dinner—have had a pleasant trip to Pittsfield & feel quite reinvigorated & ready to commence your College studies—with renewed energy & vigor—I trust that your maiden effort before your Society will be a successful effort one—which you must give me the opportunity of seeing and reading for myself—Habit & practice are important to fix the habit of easy and successful speaking—an accomplishment above all others suited to the habits & tastes of our country & puts it into the power of the fortunate possessor a position of great distinction & influence which when accompanied with high personal qualities makes a man all that he could desire!

I am upon another track with Lewis for
the residue of his farm of about 500 acres - I
offer to take it at 75\$ per acre - payable in
Chicago property 20 acres at 800\$ per acre &
the residue in Bourbon Bonds at par (that
is the County Bonds having 30 years to run) the
same that I got of the Covington Rail road Com-
pany - This proposition - you see propounds to pay
off the whole amount at once & if he takes
it will be a very desirable transaction to
me & really suit him - This purchase makes
my Bedford estate compact & in fine form
and susceptible of making 4 first rate
farms - giving me about 2900 acres - includ-
ing the series of valley of Heston - one
of the most beautiful bodies of land on this
continent - So you see I am in kind of more
trouble - during the past week Mr F K Hunt and
myself sold our partnership property in Lou-
isville on main Street for \$20,000 - in payments
bearing interest - equal to Cash

My news from Dr Jenkins in Illinois is
astonishing as to prices of Land - He speaks
of 218 & 25\$ as the value of land in Coles
County - and rapidly advancing - you see that
I have given out my trip this winter to Illi-
nois - Shall not go out until Spring, I have
not recovered from my cold contracted

when I was at Cambridge & I am afraid of
exposure in those cold parades

You mention my Son in your letter to
your mother of your expected gallantries with
the ladies &c (and the ridiculous vanity & weakness
of Miss L) in saying she had been addressed by
you & had flattered you &c &c - Upon this subject
of intercourse with ladies (all of which is very
proper) let me impress upon you a few
things - Your attentions should never be so mark-
ed as to make the impression you are a
suitor - either upon the young lady herself
her family or the publick - Let your ambition
not be more elevated & manly than to be
a successful gallant with young ladies
the "beau" - It is all right to be affable polite and
agreeable - But never let your attentions be such
as to make an erroneous impression - This is not
right - And inconsistent with the ingenuousness of an
upright & pure mind - In all things be sincere
and true - never deceive a poor girl - by making
a false impression - by devoted attentions, unless
your purpose be serious - But enough of this
I am persuaded my Son - that you ^{can} ~~not~~ far
forget ~~your~~ ^{their} own personal character as to act
otherwise as becomes the gentleman & man of
honor - All your in love to you

Yr devoted Father

A. T. Gloucester



Laxonville Dec. 13 1855

Dear old Duncy

Do excuse
me for not having written you before
but I have been so busy here that I
can hardly call my head my own
even now, & I am just beginning to get
fairly settled down.

Duncy dear can't you call up
and see me soon? Please do: most
all of Harrod's class (who is a senior
staying here) have been up to see him.
Just think, it is only sixteen
miles from Cambridge and you

can drive up easily in two hours,
do Duncan please do, you know I
would for you if you were in my sit-
uation, try and get the fellows to come
up to, I do want to see one of you dread-
fully.

How does that blessed institution
called The Anonyma prosper? Write
up & tell me all that is done.

Please give my love to all the
fellows.

Your aff. friend & classmate
Dr. W. Magend

"Maplewood"

Dec. 16 - 1855

My dearest brother

As I have Neuralgia ^{in my head} I will only write you a few lines - I have had it very badly to day - but it is much better to night. I thought every day headaches were bad enough, but this is ~~bad~~ worse. I hope I will be well by tomorrow.

I have received your letter since I commenced this ~~letter~~ and am delighted to hear from you. You say you have not heard from home since you were here - neither have I - I wrote ~~a~~ a few lines to mother to night and told her you were complaining of it - You say you have the "blews" so have I, and have had them ever since I have been here - Oh me! I wish I was at home! Don't you? I will have to go to Cambridge to school - don't you think so? - I must say good night and go to bed so as to be well in the morning. I wish you could come to see me Christmas - we are to have grand doings on Christmas night - My love and a kiss to you - Good night - with a Sister's love.

Mary D.

P.S. Excuse the hand writing if you please.

Dec 17

Mr Henry S. Duncan
Cambridge.
Mass.



Henry S. Duncan
Cambridge.
Mass.

Lexington Dec 22nd 1853-

My Dear Son,

Upon my return home last evening from Bedford where I have been since Tuesday - I found your affectionate letter of the 18th inst - And was surprised to find you had rec'd no letter but mine from home your Mother wrote you & it ought to have come to hand - I endeavours to write you once a week - except when absent and much employed ~~as absent~~ - my engagements & employments are arduous and requires all my time - My affairs will require one or two years of great energy and attention - to place them in proper position so as to work easily - And if I make of Lewis the additional purchaser of land it will take more time - as by that operation I reduce very much - my active cash means - This with the increase of family expences - yours & Henry's - Requires close attention & economy in every department, on my part So my dear Son you must not be surprised that I lay upon you proper & careful attention to your expenditures - Upon the 2 purchases here to four made of Lewis - There is yet 14000\$ to be paid - 5000 in March next & 8000 in July 57 - This however the Bedford estate

will easily make & pay - Then comes the Secured
debts for Timberlake - which will be not less
than \$1000 & I fear - The improving & starting the
Illinoian farm - is to be another expenditure
of some \$1000 - All their 2 crops at Bedford will
pay out - But all this needs close attention and
looking after - So you see I am a slave for
2 or 3 years to come - when every thing will be
easy and comfortable - with a good income
& fine property - When you come home, I
shall have much to say to you about all these
matters - As it is important that you should un-
derstand them thoroughly - In the event of any
accident to me

I shall remit you in due time the funds
you need - I am sorry you seem to have so little in
- intercourse with your guardian not having seen
him for 2½ months - You are certainly not a very
stertine wond - Have they said any thing to you about
a visit from your sister during her next vaca-
tion - I am sick & tired of the Pittsfield school - Agnew
I fear is a "poor shoot," I wish to hunt up some
other and a better school - How is the Bedford
school - in the neighbourhood of Boston - I see a
flaming advertisement in the Intelligencer
some time ago, referring to most of the principal
men about Boston - will it do?

I find in your calculation about getting

home - you say you will leave Boston on the evening of the 14th of June and reach Cincinnati on Saturday at 12 o'clock & home the same evening at 8 o'clock - now I will give you a little information on this subject instead of reaching Cincinnati at 12 o'clock on Saturday you will not before 2 in the evening - not time enough off for the Connington Cars - the consequence is that you will have to lay over in Cincinnati until Monday morning - for the Connington Morning train - By starting on the 17^a you cannot reach home until the following Monday, laying over in Cincinnati on Sunday - But with your friend Nick and others friends & acquaintances you can make out a day there pleasantly - my impression is - that the Connington train leaves one hour earlier now than it did when I came out - By leaving in the Morning train on the 17th instead of the evening train - you might stand a chance for home on Saturday evening - But wait the full close of your session - when is to out - You never mention in any of your late letters your friend Nick - Is any thing the matter between you and him? I hope not
Your mother & Sisters join me in much love to you - all well

Yr devoted Father

H. L. Duncane

This image shows a single page of a document that is severely faded and stained. The original text is illegible due to the poor condition of the paper. A vertical strip of darker, more solid material runs along the right edge, possibly a binding or a repair. The paper has a mottled, light blue-grey tint throughout.

Sixty two Dec 25th 1853

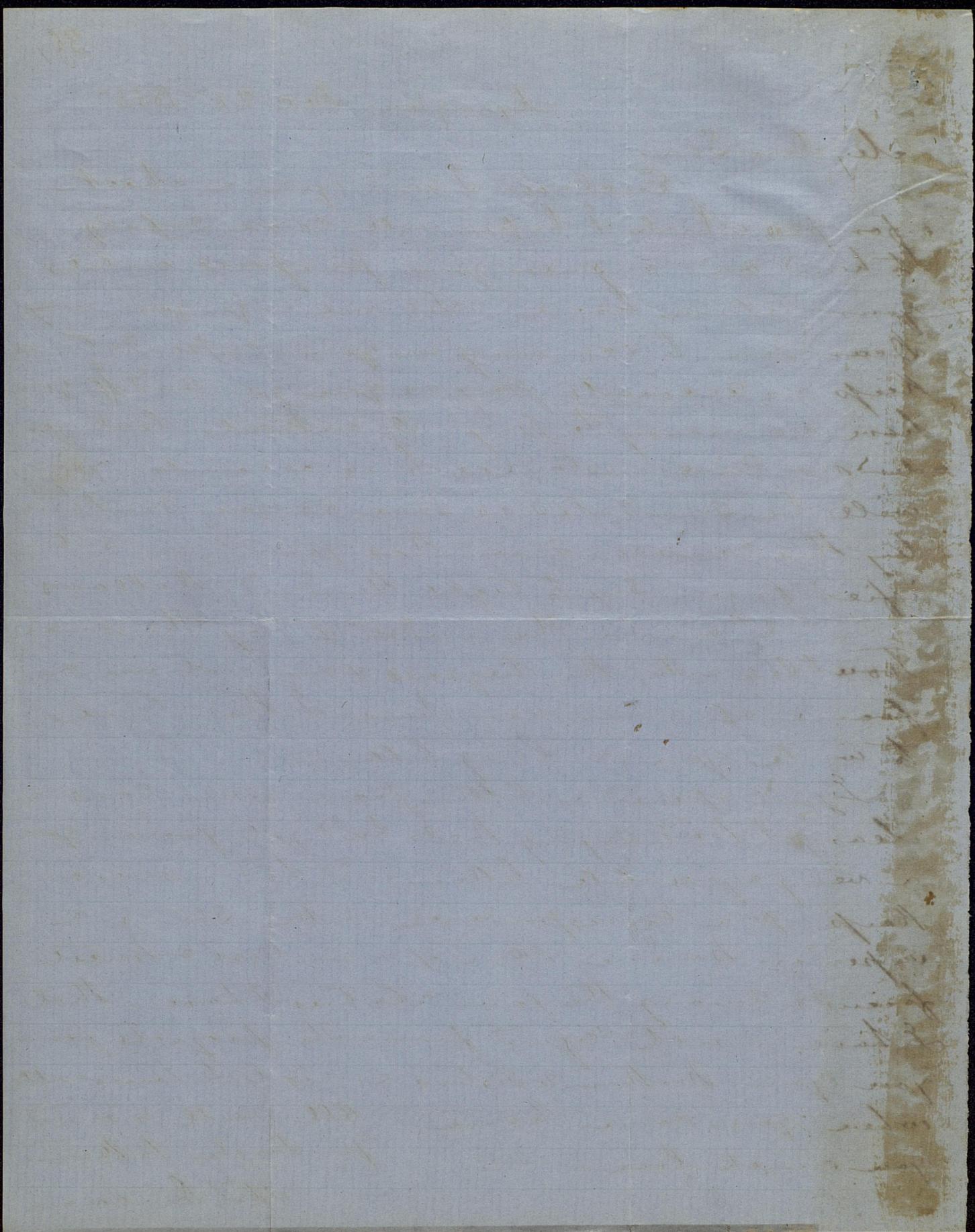
My Dear Son

Enclosed I send you a check
for \$200 which I hope will come safely
to hand and answer your purposes until
your return home. Let me urge you very
Dear Son to economy in your expenditures
Keep no accounts pay as you go - and if you
have no money to pay - Do without - But un-
der no circumstances have accounts - you
will be wounded as sure as you do I have
by this course saved this year I am sat-
isfied from Six to Eight Hundred Dollars

I am in the midst of my Christmas
troubles with the negroes & am not in a
frame of mind nor have I the time
to write you a long letter

I just opened a letter from your Cousin
Leany I Ford saying that had got from you
a very agreeable letter and had answered
Keep up a correspondence with her. She is a
superior woman & one of our best & truest
friends - Among the few relatives I have that
I have much regard for - The projects for
you your Mother & Sisters a visit to Louisville
when you come home - All well & send
you much love — Yr devoted Father

W. T. Durkee





Dec 28th /55

My very dear Son

Not a line from either you or Mary this week, it is said, "No news good news," I most sincerely hope so, as Mary was very much complaining the last letter she wrote, & a very short one it was, I am afraid the climate of that region is too rigorous for her,

Last week I was in looking for books for Christmas gifts for El & Lily, among them I saw one with the title, "Letters to sons in college" by Samuel Miller D.D. Prof in the Theological Seminary Princeton New Jersey Judging from the author it was good I purchased a copy for my dear son I shewed it to your father, he commenced to read it & was so interested & pleased with it that he continued to read until he finished it, he pronounced a most excellent work & wanted to send it by mail to You, but I concluded you would probably be unusually busy as vacation was so near, & then you would be with us to present it to then - O may the principles it contains guide you!

The Christmas festivities have been ushered in with wind rain hail & snow, "Jack Frost" reigns supreme it has been intensely cold, for our region indeed the days are so short & cold we do little else than eat & keep ourselves warm, the servants are frolicing away evening & sleep nearly all day they rise at 7 A.M. give us breakfast at 10 A.M. & dinner at 5 P.M,

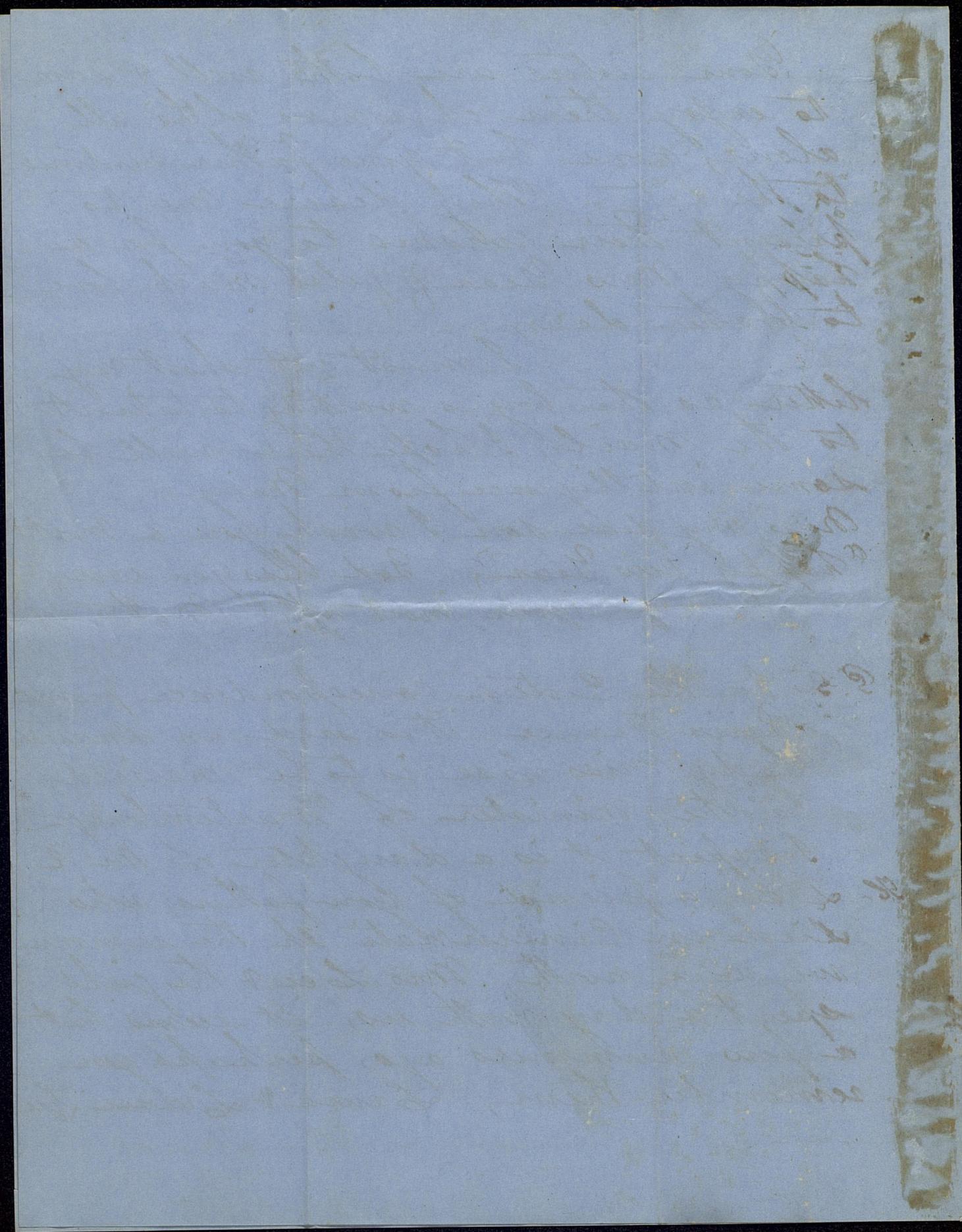
I am afraid the frost has spoiled the apples, for they are as hard as rocks, we had such beautiful apples so large & fine - it was delightful to see them,

Take good care of yourself my dear this cold frosty weather, like all boys I suppose you will be using the seasonable exercises such as sleighing & skating, It was a sad event, the death of the young man a few weeks ago, O that such occurrences were rightly improved by the living, Time is flying rapidly & death is ever near, how exceedingly important that we should be always in readiness for the summons.

Your sisters are both well & sum
to enjoy their chrismas altho' all
alone, none but your father ventures
to the city - They desire me to
present their wishes to you for a
happy New Year; also much love
to brother dear,

I must cut short my
letter as the boy is waiting to take it
to the mail, I hope there will be
some intelligence from Mary -
Now my dear son I wish you a most
"happy New Year", God bless you ever,
Your most afft Mother

P.S In the Eastern correspondence from
Paris France it is said an American
lady Miss Lee is to be married
to the minister of Wurtemburg -
I expect it is a daughter of Mr R.
H. Lee a friend of your fathers, who
died in Cincinnati oh the summer
we were north, Mrs Lee & the girls
spent a day with us, it seems but
a few summers ago, perhaps you
remember them, Laura & Lizzie Lee



31

Saturday morning
In great haste

28 Dec 1855

My dear Brother

You must be here to come Christmas if you can and be here on Christmas night, and you cannot then come New Year if you can. You said you would send me Turkey if they allowed it they do on Christmas - if you come on Christmas you must be here on Tuesday evening as we are to have some kind of performances.

Good bye with the love
of your sister

M. D.

The girls petition you to come.

Anna Offutt
Mary Offutt

Jan 28

Mr Henry S. Duncom.
Cambridge
Mass.



Lexington Dec 29th 1852

My dear Son

On the 21st inst day after Christmas I addressed you a short letter enclosing you a check for \$200 which I hope came safely to hand This is 25\$ more than you wrote for - I do hope by dear son - for your own good that you will hereafter endeavor to cut down your expenses - I am satisfied that it is a disadvantage to any young man to be furnished with too much money - It is almost sure to lead ^{to} vicious habits of extravagance - Among other things - young men find it out & if they cannot induce ^{you} to frolick with them - they borrow his money - and never pay - There are to be found many dishonorable young men in every institution who will not scruple thus to swindle you - There is a thousand ways in which a young man can squander and get rid of his money - Besides it is so apt to draw him from his studies - and lead to a waste of his time - upon objects trifling and unworthy - Let me exhort you my dear son to avoid all this Concentrate all your thoughts - upon your College duties - perform them all and all - with credit omit none - Conform to all the rules of the institution with alacrity & pleasure

In your friendships and associations - you cannot be too cautious & wary "Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath," Learn to do what your conscience says is ~~wrong~~, whosoever it may disapprove or offend - Avoid with sacred care slander - backbiting - in short every thing inconsistent with the greatest truth & justice the most elevated magnanimity and the purest benevolence - Never indulge in that gossiping spirit - which leads to the propagation, however honestly of evil reports and which frequently involves those who indulge it in ^{expectations} and not very honorable explanations and apologies! In the course of a life not now very short - I have known but few very fine true & reliable men - treat all with the courtesy & politeness of a well bred gentleman. The danger of confidential intimacy is very great and you cannot be too cautious.

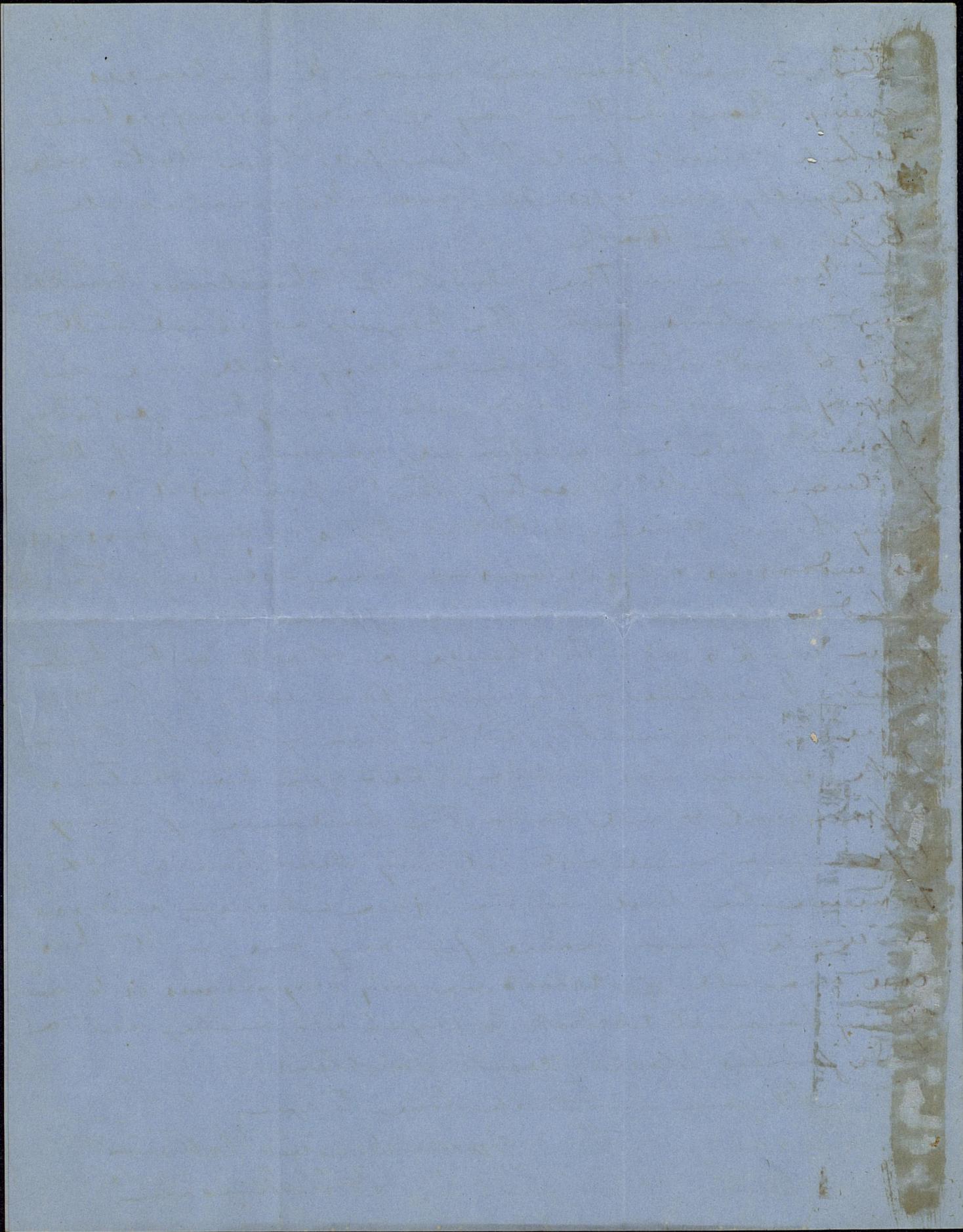
Your mother has purchased for ^{you} a small volume - which she will hand you upon your return home - By Dr Miller of Princeton entitled "Letters to Sons in College," I have read it with infinite pleasure & gratification - There is in it such experience wisdom purity truth &c &c that it ^{is} impossible for any young man not to be greatly benefited by its perusal - It ^{is} of correct universal a Book that should be read & cased and

Studied and pondered over - to my braces
every thing in the way of advise & suggestion
which cannot fail to benefit him who will
diligently read & ponder over its invaluable
lessons of Truth

We are in the midst of Christmas troubles
and vexations - with the Negroes as usual - It
has I understand been a very dull one in
Lexington - upon going into Lexington yes today
I found quite an excitement, growing out of the
failure of LeMoyne (the Carpenter) It is a
very heavy one - and involves many persons
as endorsers & creditors - I have escaped though
I had a fair chance - He applied to me a
few weeks ago to change a check with him
which I declined - though formerly I had
done so frequently with him - my Timber
lake affair has made me - you see cautious
& prudent & will do so the balance of my
life - you must not let my dear boy's ex-
perience be lost upon you - never endorse
or write your name for any one - It has
cost me all of 20000\$ in my day - Lewis is to be
at my house at 2 o'clock to day - to and make out a
trade for his place - result doubtful

All join in much love to you

Your devoted Father
H. T. Shimer,



35-

"Maplewood"
Dec. 29th/03.

My dearest brother

This is the last letter I will write you this year - I wish you a happy new year and many a happy return. I was very sorry you could not be here on Christmas we had a most glorious time. the Gymnasium was dressed with evergreens - and looked perfectly enchanting more like fairy land than anything else - "Fairy queen" was dressed in the same dress you saw her wear on Thanksgiving - she was an Enchantress Billie & Clara were fairies - and they carried the presents to those they were intended for. Mr Ensign was Santa Claus and he represented his character very well. Miss Besdie Manning and myself were Highlanders - Marshalls it was our duty to seat the company - Mr & Mrs knew the teachers then the girls - we had the a Christmas tree - covered with presents. I had two presents - a jewelry box from Annie & Mary Offutt and a book mark from Fony Rose. "God is love" each letter was worked out of the hair of different friends of mine. I did not give any. I hope you had a pleasant time. How did you enjoy yourself? This week has been one of adventures, on Tuesday the Mary Offutt sends her respects.

Gymnasium took fire. We were very much frightened. I rang the Chapel bell five minutes by myself and then I was so tired I could scarcely stand - and I was stiff two days after - when I became so tired some of the girls rang it the Chapel bell never was rung so violently before. The people ran from down town up here through the Chapel hall, in a very short time two Engines - and about a dozen people were up here, but the fire was extinguished very soon.

Yesterday afternoon the girls went to ride - and the horses ran away with the Omnibuss when they were about three miles from Pittsfield - one of the girls lost her bonnet and walked back to the Institute without any and with her hair hanging down - and they had to come through town. another lost both her shoes and walked half a mile without any - and various other little things have happened. Will you please have my coral earrings mended and send them to me by mail. in a little boy. I have been looking every day for my boy. Mary & Annie Offutt received one from home yesterday. How long before you go home? You must come to see me before you do if it is only for a day - The death of that young man was very sad indeed, if he was only prepared - that is the solemn question. Oh! if we are only Christians; we are not to go to die - I often think about my sinfulness - ~~the~~ ~~it~~ ~~it~~ will soon be new year - and the old year will have passed away forever - how many

moments and
precious, hours have we misst - which we might have employed
in improvement. I suppose you as well as myself will
make many ^{good} resolves - which I hope and pray we may
be enabled to keep. Good night my dear brother, God
bless you, is the prayer of your devoted and loving sister,

Mary D.

Dec 31

Mr Henry F. Duncan
Cambridge
Mass.



25-

Dec 15th /55

My very dear son

Some time has
elapsed since I last wrote to
you, Your father writes so often
it seems to do away the necessity
for my doing so. We are reduced
to quite a small number in our
white family, only four of us
all told, & your father frequently
away it is really lonely were
it not that I have so much to
occupy me it would be insup-
portable, Your visit to Pittsfield
seems to have been very refresh-
ing to each of you, it is really
delightful to a parent to see
such fraternal affection,
It is beautiful to behold!

I wish your vacations could
come together, Many is wonder

-ing, what will become of her, she thinks it would be intolerable to remain at the Institute, but I do not see any other alternative at present.

I regret your studies are so incomplete to you, I hoped that you would pursue the path of knowledge with great delight & pleasure, that eminent attainments in literature would be the desire & ambition of your mind, there are difficulties in every pursuit in life, this is not a perfect state by a great way. I have been very anxious to know how you maintained your argument in the discussion of the subject, The Bible & the religion it contains is the only palladium of our liberties -

It is prophesied by some that we are to have some hot work in Congress this winter, may an overruling Providence keep us in the bonds of peace & adhere to the national motto E pluribus unum, confederation is the safety of our Union.

So the motto of thy United we stand divided we fall."

Every one should seek for the right course & stand by it, with firmness,

There is nothing new that I know of & you have the Obs & Reporter which will enable you keep up with the changes in our vicinity, we are compelled to read the papers to keep posted up in the affairs of the world, I am glad you read Dr Breckinridge's letter

He is a master spirit &
handles things in a most
decided manner, it ought to
to be published in pamphlet
form & freely circulated,
Ellen & Lily watch the weeks
very closely & are quite enthu-
siastic as they draw near to
the termination, they both
send an ocean of love to you
Lily has written hers on a slip
of paper & wants me to put it
in this envelope with my letter
The servants desire to be very
respectfully remembered to
you, they are delighted at the
idea of seeing you,
I pray that no unforeseen occur-
rence may cause our mutual
pleasure to be disappointed
God bless you Your afft Mother
E. D

27

Dec 20th 1855

My very dear son

Your father went to Bedford on Tuesday, so I with your sisters E. & L. are all alone, yesterday afternoon I sent for the mail & it came about tea time, among the package was a paper in the hand writing of my dear boy of course it was the first to be opened & read, the tragical fate of the poor fellow made me feel very sad, the want of correct principle & morals has made many hearts bleed, by such acts we are most forcibly impressed "That Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," How important the daily prayer "Lead us not into temptation",

Such examples should have
a most salutary effect upon
the young & thoughtless to bring
them to reflection, that one
step in wrong doing leads
to many more, & eventu-
ally to ruin. It is a pity
that those infamous women
could not be brought to
punishment as well as the
men. The poor unfortunate
young man, has come to a
dishonored grave & carried
a most crushing grief to
the hearts of parents, sister
& brothers. A deplorable cata-
strophe!

Only 5 days till
Christmas, Christmas gift;
I wish you a merry Christmas!
& a happy New Year!

Your little sisters are
wondering what they will
have, & what they will do,
there are so few of us at
home now, I guess it will
be a very quiet time.
New Year is rather a time
for reflection, in making
a retrospect of the past &
formulating resolutions for the
future. It is a mark to show
the progress of time, how
imperceptibly it flies away
never to return, may we be
led to redeem our time &
to pursue "whatever things
are true, whatever things are
honest, whatever things are
just, whatever things are pure,
whatever things are lovely,
whatever things are of good
report; if there be any virtue,

& if there be any praises,
think on those things. Phil 4. 8

I often reproach myself
that I have not taught you
the scripture, stored your
mind while young in its
knowledge, & also in church
histories. You are now arrived
at an age to choose for
yourself. & I pray you may
be led in wisdom's ways.

I must write to Mary a
few lines, so good bye
God bless you ever, your
affectionate Mother
E. D

P. S. - Your sisters send
much love to brother
dear -

29

Lamisville Decem 23^d/55

My dear Cousin

I received your very agreeable & welcome letter some days since - the preparation for Christmas etc has prevented me replying to it more promptly, & then I fear if I write too soon after receiving one from you, you may feel that I expect the same from you & my correspondence will be a tax upon you, which I do not wish --

I write, thinking it may give you some little pleasure to hear from this part of Ky - & you will return me a short letter when you have plenty of spare time

I shall look forward with pleasure to your promised visit, you are not to leave your Mother - She is to come with you - Your Father & I have it all arranged

This would be the nick of time for you to be in Louisville - from old flame Miss Ellen Wooley being in the City - she has a great many beauties - and you alarmed? But I think you can well stand the rivilship - Now dont let this put the funk out of your head, those two beauties you sat at Pittfield will counterbalance the thing - Where do you spend your Christmas - with Mary? I am anxiously expecting Trinble from N. York when he stops some days on his way from Charleston - He

writes me, he expects to dine with us - at 6 o'clock - Christmas day -

What does young Hammon mean by refusing your acquaintance? he is very disdant I hear, which is no doubt the reason -

Your Aunt Trinble & Cousin Nannie are well & desire to be often remembered to you - D' is very busy with his school - which has gained a little upon last year, & the old school!, your old Tutor, D' Marshall is here we called to see him a few days since, he walks quite well & seems in fine health & spirits, I see from the Papers, we are to have one of your Prof' lecturing in the west soon - is he worth

going to hear? Are you
freezin at 'Cambridge' - we
have had a lovely warm sunny
winter thus far, not a flake
of snow yet, the old weather
wise folks say we are to have an
open winter & no ice - so we shall
have it from 'Fresh Pond' - &
when you stir your julip - perhaps
the ice that cracks it, may be
broken from a piece that rattles
in my glass - of milk -
This is as busy as a bee - about
"Santa-Claws" doings - between the
two I shall be kept busy for
the next week, I hope you &
Mary may be together & have
a happy Christmas, give her my
love -

I remain, yr affec' Cousin
M. J. Ford

[Dec 28 or 29, 1855.]



Hermitage Hotel Co. N.Y.

34

Dear Henry

Upon going to Charlestown two days ago it gave me great pleasure to find from you a letter in the office. It is the first that I have had since leaving N.Y. I left upon the 23rd ult. in company with the cousin Maria. At Louisville we took a boat for Evansville and reached there at day light upon the very morning after leaving home. Trusting that no freight train left till Monday morning and that I should have to remain there till then of I went by R.R. I determined to send cousin etc and my baggage ahead by express and follow on horseback. The weather was delightful & the roads good. I reached Cincinnati on the 2nd day distance 55 miles; remaining a day with cousin etc. at Mr. Maddox's whom I found very dear people - visited at the quiet solicitation of cousin etc. Two young ladies sisters by the uncommon name of Smith, one of whom she was exceedingly desirous I should

make love to. Upon making her acquaintance I found the affairs were not compatible for union as I could get up no professional attraction for her. So I protested and was incognizable to all her entreaties to visit her again at which she ~~saying~~
was much distressed. I would not consider if she had set her heart upon getting up a match between us. If she has I am bound to defeat her machinations. The next day I started again and arrived in Charleton distance 30 odd miles in two days now the weather still continued pleasant. The roads were good and much of the country beautiful. I therefore did not regret my choice to make the journey equitably. Charleton is situated upon the edge of the grand prairie, whose boundary is the lakes and Rocky mountains. It is a most thriving village; population about 1600 chiefly Americans, noted for their generous character, & great hospitality. I have never seen a more kind or generous people. After staying a day in in Charleton I rode out on a beautiful prairie as ever

crooked, whose margins as far as the eye extended presented a cordeau of neat farm houses, many of them painted white and gleaming in the sunlight, here and there one standing far out in the prairie dotted, isolated and alone—as I began to say I rode out ~~in~~ in as beautiful and pleasant an afternoon as the last day of summer ever witnessed about 16 miles to the tract of land on the Chippewa river, upon my hands and my thoughts are to be based in authorizing and improving. Fifteen miles out as I passed the Chicago branch of the central R.R. the cars came rattling along, and passed very near me. The clatter of the wheels increased became the clinking of dimes that are to be coined from the rich products of the country through which it passes. Just as the sun was sinking beneath the horizon I emerged from the timber on the west side of the river and commanded a full view of the open prairie beyond, belonging to the tract to be improved. For this night I buried myself riding over it and through the timber at dusk. The prairie lays well for cultivation.

- solon, with trifling upland, and
The woodland through which the river
meanders in a very tortuous course
is densely studded with the most de-
sirable timber. White, Black & Burr
Oak, Hickory, Chestnut, Walnut, Sugar &
Hickory, Holly, Huckleberry, Sycamore
Hornbeam, Locust &c &c on the prairie
grasses. Hazel black haw and wild
plum fringe the margin. Of game
there are ducks geese & crane innumera-
ble, hares and partridges in abundance
and prairie chickens in considerable num-
bers - no deer. The first Sunday
I went to church with a young
lady at the house in the neighborhood
head of which I am staying and
heard a backwoods baptist preacher
whose amorous speech upon
the Kings English was shocking
but nevertheless amusing. For instance
for he pronounced sometimes fair
and at others fur, woman running
romance, river, scripture, scriber, yet
yet, primrose, primorial &c &c
His congregation consisted of 25 all
told counting an infant in arms. Some
the number were two very pretty girls
one of whom a beautiful blonde

Dec. 28 or 29, 1855, 34

5 light hair blue eyes, full and rounded
form, draped mostly in calico stole
from me many sly glances. The officers
that are my side were working finely
when unfortunately I turned about
was the preachers daughter. Inevi-
tabilities were immediately apparent
and personal attention out of the
question. The girls here all know
how to cook, wash, iron, milk chun-
kies &c &c and practice them. If
I marry one of them I cannot go
without finding these invaluable ac-
complishments in her possession. In
addition to these military accom-
plishments there are some who add
the lighter graces of singing, playing
on the piano &c with boarding school
education. If I can marry one of
these latter pray tell me why I shant
not have a companion as well as a wife
as for a wife? Will I not have to plan
and chop, & go to mill & gather corn
and feed cattle & dogs &c &c and
with just as much mason you might
say my wife might have in me every-
thing except a companion to be found
you did not inform me what the
names of the Jacksonville wife at the

Pittfield Institute on & when their
education will be completed
For about a week the weather was
as delightful as any I have ever
enjoyed in October. Then it began
to blow steadily and hard from the
N. E. and continued for two days
then it rained in torrents for two
days more. Then it became singly
cold & froze hard and tight the
ground and water upon it. One of
these days I rode to Charleton &
had to go for 5 miles out of the direct
route to cross the river. The next day
the wind began to blow from the
South, rain commenced again in
the afternoon and has been fall-
ing with but short intervals ever since
now nearly two days. The earth pre-
sents almost a sheet of water in these
parts and if cold comes on suddenly
again will present a sheet of ice.

Yesterday I rode nearly all day
in the rain and came very near
being lost in the woods. In riding
from Charleton I came by the head
of land of your father's miles below
here in the Ohio riding into it &
riding through it without a guide
I became completely bewildered

where I thought to ultimatum my steps
I should infallible have been lost
had I not fortunately had a pro-
teus with me.
I have not yet described to you my
present quarters. I am boarding
with a Mrs Logan whose family
along side our tract and very conve-
nient to it. Her is just about com-
pleting a new house and in the
mean time is occupying a cabin
of two rooms. There are in family
his wife and child, nurse, mother &
sister and others to the number of
9. I occupy an independent cabin
that has been appropriated as a buri-
er, fruit room etc. The solitary
window is sash'd and is plancked
up leaving a space large enough
for a cat to enter at a good deal
of the chinking is out and the
punchion floor is not as tight
by considerable at present moment
But a comfortable bed & warm covering
seems sound & undisturbed repose
In a short time I expect to get into
better quarters. I am glad to hear
that your sister Mary is getting
on so encouragingly. I hope you

enjoyed yourself highly as you are
reported at the Thanksgiving festi-
vities at the Institute and what you
filled in for with half the school
at least. Loving numbers is an impo-
tent occupation that never interferes
with study, disturbs sleep and
fills it with dreams. It is when love
is concentrated upon a single object
that it plays the devil with our power
of mind and progress in mathemat-
ics &c &c. And then let your love
wander down till it embaces
but a single fair one, but continue
to love them all with all your heart
My respects to Gettysburg. Tell him
that I shall communicate to Miss
Mo. G. any messages you may place
him to transmit through me
and do my utmost to advance his in-
terests. When I parted with her
she enjoined it upon me to keep
her informed as to his progress in
his studies, whether or which I
promised faithfully to do
Accept my thanks for Yankee & N.Y.
Send all future communication to
Hermülge Gold Co. Ill. Yours affectionately
J. G. Fowler