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Dunsannon dec the 18th 1856
(Dec 18, 1856)

My dear brother
O! I am so
glad you are comeing
home I only wish sister
Mary could come home
with you O I would
be so overjoyed and happy
if you and sister Mary
could only come home
together I would be so
happy happy sister
Ellen is writing to sister
Mary O! Christmass will
soon be here O how I wish
you and sister Mary
could be at home
Alice Ford is going to
have a Christmass
tree she wants sister
Ellen and I to come

very much we have
been very busy getting
ready to go down
I am very glad we
are going for Mother
sake because she does
not go away at all except
to church I am very
glad you are going
to bring a teacher out
with you because
I want to go to
study right away
I will you a huppy
[illegible] not a merry
new year
all send each to you
and sister Mary
your affectionate
sister Lily

Brownstage Cokes Co
Dec 22nd 1856

Dear Mary

Your letter of the 5th I received two days since. I am ashamed to confess that both your last letters came safely to hand and that neither of them have been answered the only apology I can offer is that without intermission excepting Sabbath afternoons my time has been wholly taken up in such employments as have wholly unfitted me both mentally and physically for letter writing. Coming in at night fatigued with the labor of the day I have felt positively incapable of writing a letter. and during Sabbath afternoons the only respite I enjoyed during the week I could not bring myself into the humor. For the first time in my life letter writing for two months passed has been a task - a serious task. As the result during that time I have only written two letters one to your father and the other to your sister Mary; the first of the two only within the last day. When I wrote to your sister I was fully determined to write to you immediately and I think I so stated to her but was prevented by the press of business. I will endeavour to do better in future. Let me assure that no lack of interest in your letters has in the least influenced my neglect: saving the conjunctions of conscience the two last occasioned they were all most welcome

I do not know that it will be of any interest to you to know how my time has been occupied since my return from Ky: the absence of other matter to communicate must furnish the excuse for doing so.

During nearly the whole month of Sept.r I was engaged in putting in wheat - sowed 130 acres in consequence of the extreme drouth only about the first half sown has done any good - The remainder came up only a few days previous to the setting in of winter and the prospects are I think 5 to 1 that it will be winter killed. For about three weeks I was engaged in cutting up corn - four of us cut up 170 acres. After this until the very day of the arrival of your father about the last of Nov.r I was employed in ditching. It may appear strange, but it is nevertheless true that up to that time not two hours of interruption was occasioned by rain. We made about 2 miles of ditching. Since then I have been miscellaneously employed. The only regular employment has been the feeding of cattle our work cattle and the heifers sent out by your father - The feeding explains my Sunday work and I have been feeding since the 17th of Sept I was driven to this by the prevalence of the milk sickness among the cattle in the neighbourhood that were permitted to run at large. The Logans lost 12 head from this cause. During the stay of your father the weather was so uncomfortable raining and freezing alternately that his visit was very much shortened; he was out on the

from only a few hours. He remained only a week. Your letter to him came two days after he had gone. I forwarded it to him. I suppose you have been informed that he carried back with him two deer and a parcel of grouse. Within the last few days the weather has been extremely cold. I am now writing about 4 feet from a huge fire (a log heap) with a heavy glove on one hand (the left) and a buff hand-ker upon the other and withal it is with difficulty that I can keep the fingers pliable enough to write. Would you believe it since my return I have not written to Miss Mary Ellen and from no other cause than that producing my delay in replying to your letters. Was I not cause to be ashamed of myself? I regretted to hear of your frequent indispositions. As you gave no intimation as to their character I can form no idea of the circumstance. It may be that hard study, not sufficient exercise and a strong but not quite successful effort to repress the promptings of the blind God towards some one or more of your fair friends or rather your sisters furnish the explanation. Love and Learning by universal adunition are incompatible and when brought in conflict certain to create a commotion. I commend your resolution to break off. In one of your letters you spoke of paying me a visit in January during your vacation. I should like greatly to see you. I have ample room to accommodate you: the accommodations however are not so agreeable as I could desire – This remark however only

applies to the room I occupy. It is by no means air tight - more purely ventilated than is compatable with comfort; but so far as my own experience goes not at all prejudicial to health. If you conclude to come you may be assured of the warmest welcome and that all appliances at command will be brought into play to render your visit as agreeable as possible. I hope to see you. Your visit to New York must have been exceedingly agreeable - a delightful interlude to your college duties. New York is you say is a delightful - fascinating city; of all the places in which I have ever lived that city has my preference above all other points. Did I possess the means to command its comforts and make available its resources of enjoyment I should most certainly make it my home. I heard from your father the rumor that Lewis Cartheman has secured the promise of the hand of Miss Waters. If he secures it he will indeed be fortunate. I am of the opinion that she will make a most excellent wife - too good indeed for Lewis. Should you see her again give her my respects. Did your sister get my letter? I hope that my recent neglect will not stimulate an epistolary indifference on your part. If it should I shall be punished indeed - I will not say justly. My best love to Mary.

Yours affectionately

H D Jenkins

Lex Dec. 29th 1854

My Dear Lou

Your welcome and interesting letter of the 22 inst is at hand, the contents particularly noted

I enclose you a check for 250 $ - which I trust will place your affairs in a situation - hereafter to make it easy - and render it unnecessary to contract debts - but pay as you go, and then you will see how you are getting along and be able, the better, to regulate your expenditures -

The information you give about the habits of Mary's boarding house fills me with anxiety & concern - If the Lady chooses to make her house a thoroughfare for youngsters - it is not a suitable boarding house

and even while she is in it, it does not follow as a matter of course that Mamy is bound to see and entertain her visitors - She has her own room - with fire & lights, she had better occupy that - and employ her time in her studies instead entertaining every "Cub" that calls - It is easy to excuse herself her occupation in getting her lessons and writing letters or compositions - should engross her time and attention - She should go no where - that is accept no invitations - without she is attended by her Brothers - She has not gone to Cambridge to seek society or pleasure - But for educational purposes exclusively a little society for recreation such as she finds at Mr Sparks, or occasional excursion to Mr Silsbee's

and is really exposing her health – If you can make a change advantageously do so unhesitatingly – and get her a situated as near the School as possible, keep me fully advised – If nothing else will do I will come on myself and arrange it, or take her from the school – For nothing is so abhorrent to me – as to see a daughter of mine – associating in company that is unworthy of her

Our trip to Louisville is over but for the bad weather – It was pleasant enough

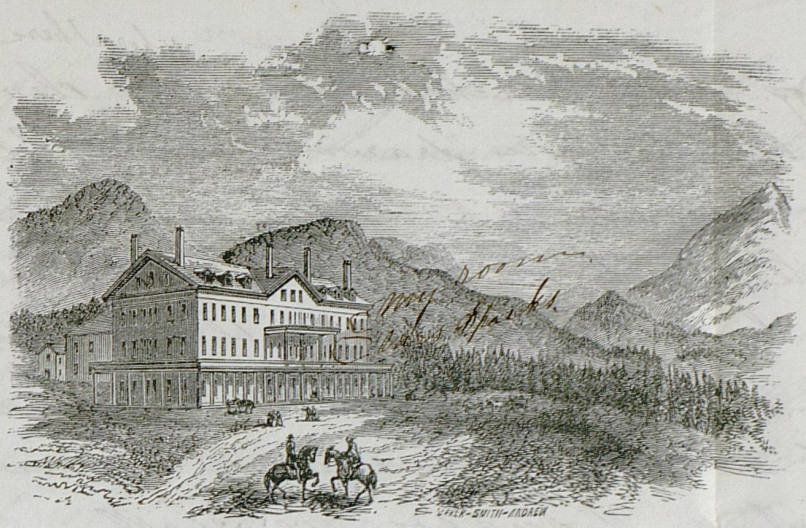
I shall write to Mary in a day or two – all send you & Mary much love

Your Devoted Father

A. T. Duncan

that which is perfectly unexcep=
tionable & improving to her - But
that she should mingle in the
band who frequent boarding hou=
=ses - is all improper - If other
young ladies do so - It is my wish
that she should deny herself to
all such - She does not know
who they are & whether she did
or not It is all improper, Its
making herself cheap and
common - to let herself down
to such associations & is calcula=
ted to give countenance to tattle
and tales that may be un=
pleasant & injurious - Independent
of all this her Boarding house
is too far off from School at this
unpleasant season of the year
& this is a sufficient cause of
change of itself - If boarding
more conveniently located

can be procured — this is a sufficient reason to assign without giving the true ones which might provoke some resentment — If she does not change her boarding (which is preferable) she must — discontinue her association with the visitors to the house — never to permit any familiarity with them — when absolutely necessary be polite but cold & dignified they can be repelled in this way. If it can be arrested in no other way — I must take her from Cambridge — For I will not expose her to such associations altho I have great confidence in her — This matter you must manage discreetly — without an rupture — the distance — This cold weather is great objection



GLEN HOUSE.

July 4th 1866.

My dearest brother

We reached our place of destination to day at one, much to our delight. The Glen house faces Mount Washington and the view is magnificent. I will mark my room. We reached Portland yesterday at half past twelve. after dinner I went to see Miss Wells and Miss Willis, I spent the afternoon and took tea with Miss Wells. she and her father insisted upon my staying there during the night. but of course I did not. I found them very pleasant. Miss Wells walked with me all round the pretty parts of Portland.

The Hotel we stopped at is horrible. the United States. if you have occasion to stop there. go to Jones's it is a private boarding house. There was a thunder storm last night. which made the riding this morning both in the cars and over the Mountains delightful. We left Portland at eight

this morning and reached ~~Gorham~~ Gorham where there is a hotel called Alpine at eleven. we then took a Yankee waggon "drawn by four little horses" and rode two hours over the mountains - a distance of eight miles, until we reached the Glen house. Where we have found every thing so far very pleasant. there is a rode going over the mountain that is Mount washington, and I want to go up it before I go - I suppose we shall. There are very few persons here at present not more than eight quite a number are expected next week. I suppose you know that my trunks were left - Mr Buck sent them on by express - and we got them safe this morning.

My mantua maker is going to send some two or three patterns up to Mrs Clapp's for me, will you please ask her for them and put them into your trunk. I left two bundles for you at Mrs C—'s one was your slippers. I will send a lock of my wool in the letter to have made into a buckle ring - a two dollar one will you please have it made and bring it with you and do not forget my patterns at Mrs C—'s for one is for my riding habbit. I wish you could stay here two days - every thing is so pleasant. How I wish Lizzie Ridgeway was coming here we would have such a nice time. I have written three pages to father and mother, and after I finish this, I will take a nap. I feel as if my eyes were half filled with sand and dust. Mrs Sparks has

just sent for me to ~~come~~ go out to walk. (but "duty first and play afterwards") I cannot go this afternoon must deny myself that pleasure until tomorrow.
I hear a lady and gentleman singing in the parlor. they seem to be having a good time. I should like to know what you are doing with yourself. I suppose the boat race has taken place - it has been a fine day for it. I hope the College boat will win. they ought to after starving themselves. I forgot the fly paper after all the other day. I wish you would get it it is just what is needed at home. I intend to write to Emma & "Ben" and mother tomorrow. I will write to you again on Monday if you write to me direct to the care of the Hotel keeper. J. M. Thompson. Give my love to the Clapp's. my love and a kiss to you Good bye Your devoted and loving sister

Mary.

Direct. Gorham Post-Office. The House. care J. M. Thompson.

July 1

=Early July, 1856=

My very dear Son

Your letter was received on Friday, also one from M on Thursday, & I intended to write to each of you on saturday but your father returned at 11 o'clock A M. so that there was nothing done after, it was a gala day to us, I felt that I could not be too thankful that he had been absent so long and returned in health & without any accident I sympathize with you in the loss of your aged friend, kind friends constitute one of the greatest pleasure of life, Such seasons of sorrow should be rightly improved, to consider our latter end & be prepared for it, a long life & prosperity will will not compensate for the loss of such a prep-eration, now in the days of your youth is the time to secure the unestimable treasure, "Every one that asketh, receiveth;" I was very much in hopes that Dr Jenkins could have come to pass part of your vacation with us, but your father thinks that it is impossible for him to leave his field of labor, From all accounts it is a goodly land, but in other respects it is very objectionable, Your father had his shoes blacked once during his sojourn & the Dr performed the office. Just think! The ladies

have all the menial duties to perform, such as cooking, washing, milking, churning, house cleaning &c &c, a perfect drudgery, A persons enjoyment is not always according to what they possess, Still we should endeavor to be contented & make ourselves as happy as circumstances will allow, It is quite distressing to think that you & M have such a miserable set of teeth, I hope the dentist is an honest man & acquainted with his art, It was too bad! for him ~~to him~~ to make you faint. the rough fellow!

The weather is getting excessively hot, it seems that you ought not to return to this enervating climate, for it unfits one for any duty, destroys all energy, creates indolence & a disposition to indulgence, very unfavorable to strength of body or mind, The northerners are very indignant at our hot headed southerner, but the south thinks the north needs something of the sort, to make them more courteous, There is more forbearence from each required, ungentlemanly language should not be tolerated, I hope all will result for the benefit of each, The trial of Brooks will shew how matters are, & how far each was in the wrong, You must not mix yourself up in any way in the matter, The law will do Justice, If we are governed by the

Golden rule. "To do to others as we would have others do to us," All would be harmony & peace, but alas poor human nature is very imperfect! I wish that I could fill my paper, but they are waiting it to take to the mail, so adieu my dear son, All join in much love to you & M. Our kindest regards to the Sparks.

Ever Your affectionate
Mother

Lexington July 3rd 1854

My Dear Son

We have been without any letters from yourself & Sister for a week passed (the irregularity of mails I presume)

This is my 3 letter since I heard from you the first of the number contained a check for your for $200 – which I hope you have rec'd in due time – That being the amount you informed me you would need – In the event of its mis-carriage a contingency I do not apprehend and you cannot communicate with me in time to suit your starting – you will have to tax your credit for that amount –

The weather is excessively hot here and has been for 2 weeks – There is some prospect of rain – of which we have had a little which I hope will moderate the temperature I hope you will not think of the southern route – but come on direct – If you start on the 11th and should make your connections regularly – you will reach home the following evening otherwise lay over a day (Sunday) at Cincinnati – You must apprise me of your movements and plans, so that we may calculate with some certainty of the time of your probable arrival – All join in much love to Mary & yourself –

Yr devoted Father
H T Duncan

P.S. Quite an event happened here on yesterday a Mocking Bird a splendid singer was discovered in the orchard for some days delighting all with his beautiful musick (of course it was a male bird) this set Ellen and Lily to planning & scheming to take him. The plan was matured at dinner to take a cage with Lily's bird a female to the orchard — tie her in the cage & set open the door — to which was attached a long string — with Ellen holding it out of view concealed — Lily & Julia to watch and give the signal — if he should venture in the cage — they waited with great patience the gallant bird soon made his appearance & seemed to take a great interest in condition of the fair one — he lit upon the cage — looked in at the door — brought cherries & berries to the ~~fair~~ beautiful prisoner and finally — resolved — either to release her or share her captivity — and ventured in the cage — no sooner in — than the concerted signal was given — the string pulled by Ell — the door closed — and this noble gallant bird was a prisoner — his cruel captors — raised the shout of victory & brought him to the house — the victim of his precipitate and hasty courage — in a generous attempt to release

The distressed & helpless — whom I think he is likely to remain

Vermilion Coles Co Ill
July 7th 1856

Dear Henry

Your long and as welcome as long epistle bearing June 19th and finished June 25 was received this morning. As I am staying in the house to day taking care of myself to prevent an attack of the ague I know of nothing more agreeable that offers than to pay my epistolary debts. You are prepared to learn that that direct of Illinois pests the ague has invaded my system I have been a good deal exposed lately examining some lands of your father in Christian Co. The result was that before I reached home I had an paroxysm, and upon reaching home an other, two days after a third. I then began the vigorous use of quinine and succeeded in shaking it off. It is not the genuine shaker but a species of dumb ague. One half of me would be burning with fever and the cold sensations running over the other. While in the paroxysm I could but compare it to the fusion of the Republican & Know nothing parties. The two though coexisting together in the same body politic, both perhaps to the detriment of the general well being of the country will retain for a time the distinctive principles of the two parties but finally they will coalesce intimately and become one homogenous body Black Republicanism will pervade the whole mass and Nativism be entirely forgotten. So with my fever and chillness; both would sustain a separate existence for a time, each doing its best to mar the peace and comfort of its victim. but finally the fever would gain the ascendant and reign triumphantly in every fibre and tissue of the body.

Your description of the various ladies present at the numerous parties you have recently attended was very graphic. Your bump of Muliebrology is extraordinarily developed. You possess the rare faculty of finding more grace & beauty and general attractiveness in any given number of the fair sex met together on any given occasion than any one of my acquaintance. Where many would discover but one or two beauties at most you could discover three that number a popular and humbly talent. Perhaps these ladies succeeded in making you think well of yourself and in return you think well of them. It is said that the art of flattery in compliment is a female attribute. Convent rules I am do not reign over the Cambridge schools for young ladies. The wholesome terror of young men does not appear to obtain there that exists elsewhere. Mingle, mingle, mingle while you may in both female & male schools seems to be an approved maxim in Cambridge. As there is the seat of learning par excellence of the Western world — there to found the advanced post of civilization & of refinement, I shall presume not to call in question the wisdom of the maxim. The old prejudice that boys and girls while at school should be kept strictly apart and be permitted to grow up in ignorance of each other must now give way before the superior wisdom of Cambridge. After a while doubtless when society is prepared to go one step further in advance we will have mixed Colleges where will be presented the charming spectacle of young gents &

ladies and boys unite other in the pursuit of knowledge forgetful of the difference of sex or the consequent emotions love, and all that antiquated nonsense. The physiological fact that woman is nothing but man with slight variations will only be borne in mind. Who can say that upon a hundred years have passed over the delightful shade trees of the College Campus will not exhibit to the proper by the lovely scene of boys & girls clustered in pairs beneath their flowing brunches conning over their daily lessons and not studying Astronomy in each others eyes The world has made a more astonishing progress than that in 100 years. If the question was left to vote how would you cast yours.

You inform me that you are now their half inclined to make your brains minister to your support through the law. It is certainly applying them to a commendable use You have my heartest wishes that not only they may do that much for you but that they may procure you an enviable position in society. I see no reason why close study and diligent application may not gain you full success. I am loth honour to abandon the pleasant hopes I have built upon the probability of your becoming an Illinois farmer near me

You inquire of me what sort of chaps my friends among the gentlemen are. Most of my acquaintances

as plain farmers, clever and industrious and excellent neighbours. Dr Martin from Paris Ky a very intelligent and clever gentleman is farming about 1½ miles East of me. We see each other but seldom. Visiting here is absolute expense on business

If I can make my arrangements to suit and any how if the ague continues to vex me I shall go to Ky (how pleasant the thought!) about the last of this month or the 1st of next. You and your sister will then be at home and add greatly to the pleasantness of my visit

You are decidedly harsh upon Ky society but in justice I may add perhaps not extravagantly so

When you see Judge Thomas tell him of my purpose to visit Ky and to let George Beckett know it. Tell him he must have George there when I come in

Present my respects to those gentlemen if you see them and to the young ladies of my acquaintance not a troublesome task. Give my love to all at home

Yours affectionately

W. H. Jenkins

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Lexington July 7th 1856

My Dear Son

Upon looking over your letter again I find that Friday next is the last day of your examination & that upon that day you propose to leave Cambridge for your Sister at the Glen House — I hope you will not do so until your examination is through and that you will stand that — perform every duty before leaving — Do not omit standing any part of the examination as it might prejudice you in future

Will write & send you much love —

Your Devoted Father

M. T. Duncan

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Cincinnati August 18th [1856]

My dear Duncan

I rec'd your letter anticipating one which I intended to write you requesting the pleasure of your company on my eastward journey. Having been absent during the whole of my vacation I have not seen Home, but am sure that he will start on Monday morning with me and hurry as quickly as possible to Boston. I have to be there Tuesday evening. Will you not come over Saturday and remain with me until we start. I would be rejoiced to have you. Give

my best regards, in which Mother and Father join, to your parents & sisters. Hurriedly

Your ever affectionate friend Nick —

H. S. Duncan Jr
Lexington Ky.

[illegible] regards, in which Mrs [illegible]
and Father join to your [illegible]
wished, & Affectionately
Your ever affn
& friend [illegible]

Mr. J. Dunnigan Jr.
Lexington Ky.

Hopkinton Aug 17th 1856.
Sunday –

Dear Duncan.

I was very much pleased a day or two since to receive your letter – I too have been on the point of writing to you several times since you left for Ky, but I thought that you were at home & must be enjoying yourself so much that I would not do wrong to you & by so doing mar your pleasure. I have been to Boston but twice since I came up here – once to see some friends & the other time to see my Brother Thomas – I stayed there each time however, a whole week, so you can see that I have not been much in Hopkinton. I have not as yet made the acquaintance of your Friend Miss Green – I have been promised that pleasure however a half dozen times & have as often been so fortunate as to escape. You will excuse me for being so remiss in my duties as your Friend, when you remember that I always said in Cambridge I would not make the acquaintance of a single lady while I was in this place – but unavoidably I have made the acquaintance of several. First comes Miss Lennie Stephens (or Stevens – n'importe) a very queer person who

the first time She ever saw me ~~Tell~~ told me that She was not engaged to Edward French - whom I suppose you remember. Then again I have been introduced to Miss Edmunds & Miss Clark. This latter named person has the honour to be the niece of Mrs Samuel R. Adams - My landlady - and about 40 times a day, more or less, I have the A accomplishments of Miss Austins (Oh! Gracious I should never have undertaken to spell that name) sounded into my ears. In short Miss Clark is a perfect angel of a creature & so ethereal too weighing only about 20 lbs more than I do. Ah! Duncan you rogue - I have heard sad accounts of you since I have been in Hopkinton - To engage the affections of Miss Green and then to allow them to die if possible - from want of reciprocation. I suppose you may soon expect to receive a Challenge from Hermann Grey. If so, accept & go to Canada & put a truce to this Nonsense. I showed your "Key Rupe" statement to "Reg". He says that it is a great pity we can't believe all we read - I think he would be willing to take that statement as true if he a saw one of them levelled at him 100 yds off. He is still very attentive down at "Headquarters", as you so appropriately termed "Stanwoods". Apropos of Stanwood, Fred looks wretchedly. From all accounts he has not Consumption, as I told you in Cambridge, but from what I can hear from his friends he Contracted a disease in Cambridge (or Boston) from some "Fille de joie" or to use a more vulgar term - prostitute. I went

yesterday afternoon to witness the raising of a "Liberty (Frémont) pole". After the pole was raised and "Hail Columbia" was miserably played by a wretched band, the South came in for the usual invectives which are poured out against her by these dirty, cowardly abolitionists. Preston S. Brooks came in for his share. One Man became quite poetical & treated forth the following original – of course "Oh! for a mighty arm to wield this gutty(a-) perchy(a) Club, I'd make you look as pale as green cheese just out of the tub!" Although Ky's late elections showed as you say a considerable increase for the Locos, still I think it is no criterion to judge from as to how the State will goin Nov for President. I have living hopes that the "Old line Whigs" in Convention at Baltimore (which Convention is soon to take place) will endorse the Nominations of "Fillmore & Donelson and if they do, it is my humble Opinion that Mr Fillmore will stand more than the "ghost of a chance" – but I will no longer bore you – Remember me very kindly, if you please, to your Family –

Hoping soon to see you in Cambridge I remain

Yours Very Truly

Charles. D Jacob.

Henry S. Duncan Dr.

Lexington – Ky.

I forgot to tell you when I went to see that Liberty pole raised – it was over at Contoscookville – how was I succeeded in spelling C – right?

August
Dunscomon 5th 24
[1856]

My dear brother
sister Mary and Miss
Waters went over to Miss
Mary Castlemans this evening
at 4 o clock. cousin Nannie
and doctor Flint went down
to Paris this evening at tow o clock
and as they were going down
they ran over old aunt Milly
and crushed her hed all to
pieces all of the black ones
were very much grieved when
heard tut she was killed.
sister Mary and Miss
Waters have just come home
it is a quater past eight P. M

good morning dear
brother. John bout in
55 Watermelons this
morning. sister Mary
and Miss Waters went
in to the Pantry and
busted a Watermelon
after breakfast. and
one last to, they are
up to Clark this morning
O! how much I wish
that you were here to enjoy
a visit to Clark to.
O: dear brother you away
from home now and soon
sister Mary will have
to go to and then it
will be so lonsome here at
home no one but Mother
and sister Ellen and my
self O: how lonsome it
will be. it is now
ten minits of ten ~~and~~
and Father will ~~home~~

going to town ~~&~~ and

I will have finish
my letter so good by

your affectionate
sister Lily Duncan

August 29th 1856

My dear son

This is friday & all are from home save myself, your sister M & Miss Waters went to Clark on last tuesday, As the horse show comes off to day in that county, your father has concluded to go & bring M home with him, Ellen & Lily accompanied their father in the carriage it will be quite an event in their monotonous home scenes, a change of some sort is very desirable and agreeable after a stay for a long time in one spot, It is quite cloudy I hope it will not rain until they return, You had very pleasant weather for your trip East, I trust no accident, happend to

you, May God's protecting care
ever be over you & keep
you from evil, by which you
are surrounded, Oh! That you would
"remember your creator in the days
of your youth," "Seek the Lord
whilst he may be found, & call upon
him whilst he is near"; A friend
in all times of need. That will
never forsake you, neither in time
or eternity, do be persuaded to
attend to your best most important
interest, No mental acquirements, no
personal accomplishments, no degree
of the esteem, or love, or admiration
of others are of any value without
religion, O! I beseech you to be wise
& search for it as for a hidden treasure
How time flies! Monday will be
the 1st of Sep, the time for M, to
leave us will soon be here, then
how sad & lonely every thing

will appear, when each of you
are so far away, I said to E.
& L as they left me every thing
would be so quiet that I must
write to dear Val, they each
desired me to give you a great
deal of love; E says she will write
to you soon, if E would only learn
to spell well there would be no end
to her writing, she is fond of it, but
when the correction takes place
then it is thrown aside, she can't
be persuaded to write it over
Two letters have been rec^d from
Dr Jenkins, the land he hurried
off to secure had all been
taken, so that his labor & expense
were all lost, Write all about
your visit in Cin - Did you see
capt Culbertson's family? How are
they all? hope you enjoyed the
grapes, they are delicious now as

they are so much riper or quite
ripe, the Melon's also are
very fine, if you could only
enjoy them all would be right
Mary has rec^d another letter from
Miss Denny, the day before she
went to Clark so of course has
not answered it, when she returns
she proposes to spend several days
with M Castleman, M is to be mar-
-ried the 2nd of Oct & is very anx-
-ious for your sister to remain
but we think that she will loose
to much by not begining her classes
in the commencement of the term
What do you think of it? Are all
your friends returned to C. &
have you arranged all to your
mind? Present our kindest regards
to the Sparkes; God be with you
& bless you My dear son. Your
ever affectionate
Mother

Duncannon
Sept. 1st/66.

My dearest brother

I did not get to write to you last week, owing to my being in Clarke where I had a very pleasant visit. Cass and I went up to Winchester in the stage with Mr Buckner on Tuesday and I returned on Friday afternoon. There was a horse fair in Clarke on Friday and Saturday, we went on Friday. on Saturday mother and I went to see Mrs Henry Bell but had not time to make any other visits as we had visitors before we left home which detained us

at home until late. Miss Kate and Lucy Jacob and their brother came out. Lucy is very anxious to go on with me to Cambridge to Prof Agassiz's, tell her brother if he is anxious to have her now is the time, to "strike whilst the iron is hot" tell him to inform himself about the school and write immediately I leave on the 16th or 17th and if she desides to go she will I presume go with me.

Nothing of interest is going on at present. we have a great quantity of mellons, and amuse ourselves by eating them. I shall be very busy until I leave, I shall bring your articles to you, that you left, and some others.

also We are going to see the Miss Jacob's tomorrow. I shall write again in a day or two.

We have received one letter from

you since you left. Give my love to Mr & Mrs Sparks Mrs Clapp and all enquiring friends.

Good bye Your loving sister

Mary S.

Duncannon Sept 1st
[1856]

My dearest son

Your letter announcing your safe return to C— was rec'd on saturday, truly thankfulness & joy possessed my breast, for it makes me feel very solemn & sad to think of the terrible fate of many of those that took passage on the ill fated Northern Indiana, Oh! how different might have been your situation at this moment had you been one of them, but thank God it is so different, It is of infinite moment to be always prepared for whatever awaits us, do be persuaded to think

of these things, how happy I should be & then Oh! how inconceivably happy you would be, eternity alone can reveal,

Do not let the small sum you had of me cause any uneasiness, it does not make the slightest difference, Your sister M is collecting her birth day presents before it arrives I remembered yours & wished that something could be given you also I think Miss Lucy Jacob has some inclination to go on to Cambridge, if her friends were satisfied in regard to it

there is some hope that
M will have a Kentuck
ian to go on with her,
You might suggest to her
brother that he make all
necessary enquiries concerning
the school & write home
whatever is done should
be done immediately in
the case, for M will
soon be leaving for
~~Mr~~ E.

Every thing looks so
different in comparison to
what it did
when you left, the small
showers that have blessed
us, have revived every
thing the grass is green &
beautiful, the flowers
abundant & fragrant, the
garden
looks quite gay—

Your father went to Bedford
this morning to remain
until tomorrow —
Oh how lonely it will be
when M & her father
leaves us, it causes me
to heave a sigh as I
think of it — I console
myself that your frequent
missives will in a great
measure dispel my gloom
All join in much
love to you, God bless you
Your ever aff^t Mother

Our kindest regards to
Mr & Mrs Sparks, also to
Jacob & Anderson Adieu
E D

Lexington Sept 2th 1854

My Dear Son

Your letter announcing your safe arrival – I have duly received – It was a source of great satisfaction to us all to know of your safe arrival without accident and in good health

This is my first letter since you left, But I have been depending upon the other members of the family to write you – which some of them have done – though not so fully as they should have done I fear

I have been fully occupied since you left – Having spent 3 days at Bedford – from whence I have just returned having gone down on yesterday – & spent the night – and having been down last week – I laid out this morning the large pond – in the valey back of the Black Smith's Shop – It will flood from 5 to 8 acres and give us 15 feet of depth – It will be – I think the largest and finest pond in the State – Indeed it will be a little Lake – And some day I hope we shall have fine – indeed many a happy day in fishing together

As my offer to sell seems to attract

no purchasers — I shall abandone the Idea for the present, & by way of makeing it more proffitable I shall I think commence the business of raising fine Blooded Cattle and Horses so that I may hope to get from 3 to 500$ for a Calf

It may be that we shall take the Southern route by Baltimore — If I conclude to attend the Whig Convention on the 17inst come with very much that I represent this distract upon the occasion — But I affirm I shall not go — as I should be too long absent than I ought — It will shorten Mary's visit a week or more — though I think she is willing to go — I shall advise you of my movements

You have nothing new since you left — I shall go to Louisville on Thursday — after my Timberlake business Mary may go with me — go one day and return the next

All well and join in much love to you

Your Devoted Father
H. T. Duncan

Duncannon
Sept 11th/56.

Dearest brother

I received your letter day before yesterday but have not been able to write to you since, indeed I have been so busy, and have been dissipating so much since you left that I have written you but one letter. I do wish you could be here at the fair, I think you would have a nice time. The exhibition this year is very inferior, the same quilts flourished that did ~~exhibit~~ at the first fair and they were the homeliest. I did not pay much attention to the exhibition of stock, but

Alexander as usual took the premium in every ring in which he showed. to day is the "Horse Day" as it is called at least part of it is, the morning the afternoon is to be devoted to the long eared gentry, but tomorrow nothing but horses. father will be unable to show the colt, as there is no ring for full bloods. I am afraid it will rain to day it has very much the appearance so far the weather has been delightful, not very dusty or warm. Guss is here in the Library with me she spent last night here, and Sallie Moore the night before. Guss "sends her love, and says she wishes you ~~could~~ were here at the fair". I underscore at her

request. I commenced a letter to Coy Mahon ~~&~~ 11 days ago, and have not had time to finish. I must write to Fannie Gardner before I leave. We go on Monday morning, quite a lot of us will be together part of the way. Mary & Alice Lafon and Co. Charlie Moore, and Guy Jacob is certainly going on with me. Lucy is not going south – and I think it very probable she will come to Cambridge after Christmas. Father is one of the delegates from this district to the Whig convention in Baltimore, we will be there several days and from there to R. I. Friday night I went to Miss Mag Bolley's party. on Saturday afternoon father and

went to Louisville and returned on Monday morning - on Sunday evening, we went to a party at Mr Coates - it was a very pleasant one & enjoyed it more than Miss Coolleys - it was not a dancing party - Miss Ross was, she had Strauss band I will give you all the particulars when I see you Ens and I were invited to a fancy ball last week, but did not get our invitations out of the Office until the day after Miss Lottie Hagerw is at Mr Castleman's she arrived on Monday morning. My love to Mr & Mrs Sparks Clapp &c

All join me in much love to you Adieu your loving sister

Mary D.

I hope Grandma has recovered, I am very sorry to hear of her sickness

Write often & be very careful of your health

Lexington Sept 4th 1854

My Dear Son

I learned on yesterday from Mrs Jas B Clay – that her Sister Miss Jacobs, would go on with us to Cambridge – with the view of entering the Aggassiz school

The object of this letter is to request you to call upon Mrs Clapp – and request her not to engage her larger room – until our arrival As it is very probable the girls may desire to room together – If so will need a room of good size

We shall be on quite in time – for the beginning of the term

I accompanied your Sister and Miss Castleman last night to a very large party at Mrs Woolley's — Strauss band, many Strangers & a crowd of "Home folks," and it was one of the most elegant and brilliant Companies I have seen in Lex — The young girls decidedly took the lead, and are henceforth in the ascen=
=dant

Next week comes off the fair when every body is expected to be present — Your Sister & I go down to Louisville this evening and make Mrs F a visit — return day after to Morrow (wednesday) in time for the fair

I doubt whether it is possible for me to be off

in time for the Baltimore Convention — so you need not look for me until week after next — your Coat and such articles as you have left — I will bring on — Do not forget to have me a dress Suit of Clothes made as I shall be out nearly at the elbows — by the time I get on

You have nothing new all well & join in much love to you — The Stearns & Miss Waters will be here next week — Miss Castleman is preparing me, that Mary remain until Oct. for a certain event — But it won't do — I remain

Your Devoted Father

N. T. Duncan

Sey Sept 11th 1854

My Dear Son

I have only time, to say to you that I shall leave on monday morning for Cambridge via Baltimore — accompanied by Mrs Freeb & your Sister

I shall tarry at Baltimore while the Convention is in Session not more I presume than 2 days — and hurry on with probably a day in N.Y. — & reach Cambridge on Saturday or the Monday following

Call and see Mrs Clapp upon the receipt of this and engage her larger room as the girls will wish to occupy it together — also boarding for the two

All well & join in much love to you — This is my second letter to you — Have my clothes ready by my arrival —

Yr Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

N York Hotel N Y 21st Sept 56

My Dear Son

You are detained here and shall be until to morrow evening — by the detention of our baggage — which was expected here on Friday — But will not be delivered until some time in the forenoon of to morrow Monday — So that we shall not leave until the evening Boat by Norwich & reach Boston by 6 O'clock on Tuesday Morning

This leaving of the Baggage — occurred in consequence — of the difficulty of getting tickets in the pressing crowd & getting seven good seats for the girls — there being an unusual crowd — the convention having broken & dispersing — when I had accomplished this much, the time of Starting arrived & we were off without our Baggage — I telegraphed from the first station — I rec'd a despatch in reply that it had been expressed — this prevented our reaching Boston on yesterday — All with the Girls — impatient for their trunks, the proceeding of the convention you have seen in the papers — I hope it may be productive of good — Yr devoted Father

H. L. Duncan

Duncannon Sep 15th
[1856]

My very dear son

Your father & sister M, with Mrs Jacob left this morning at 5 o'clock, I trust that they will reach their destination in safety They will be in Baltimore several days, & probably in N. Y. also, We have had accounts of the Yellow fever being present in N. Y. I hope it will not be an epidemic, I am truly glad to hear that you have entered College with bright & pleasant anticipations for an agreeable course, Your account of the "foot ball" feat was a sad one, if one or two should be killed in this barbarous exhibition the faculty will put an end to it

I send much love to dear brother & S

To be made a cripple for
life is next thing to death,
I have not the slightest doubt
that your indisposition was the
effect of your exertions on that
eventful day, really it was a
source of great anxiety to me
until your letter relieved me on
your own account, But the poor
fellow! that was so injured made
me feel very sad. & also very thank
-ful that it was not my own dear
son, I have not parted with all
with a more heavy heart than the
present one, wretched & lonely has
this day been, I have busied
myself in packing up some grapes
for you, also some cherry bounce
for Mrs Sparks, & hominy, it is
a present from your sister M
to Mrs, S. hope all will

arrive in good condition

The weather is very warm again & things assuming rather a parched appearance, Take care of yourself, in your last letter you complained of your jaw, if you will get a little sweet oil & terpentine, mix them & touch your finger in it and rub it in externally tie on a piece of flannel on going to bed, you will find very great relief from the use of it, be careful not to take cold as it will affect the weak part first, Dr Green has arrived & old Pennsylvania has the most flattering prospect of great success the Dr preached for us on yesterday he is a splendid speaker, his text was "The fool hath said in his heart that there is no God." it was

an exceedingly impressive
discourse, & listened to with
great attention, I ~~was~~ am very glad
that you have concluded to go
to the Episcopal Church instead of
the Unitarian, it is decidedly the
better choice, the services of the E-
church if devoutly attended will
be an acceptable one, May God give
you wisdom & grace to improve the
hours of that blessed day for time
& eternity, "Be ye also ready for ye
know not what an hour may bring
forth." Miss Agnew & Miss E-
spent saturday evening with us,
The great affair is to come off the
1st of Oct I should been glad to
have M stay if it had been earlier
but think it best to commence with
her classes farewell God bless
you. your ever affct Mother

E & Ed send much love to dear brother

Vernontage Sept 15th 1856

Dear Henry

Your letter of the 29th Aug. was received some days since I have been trying to summon resolution to reply to it this several days past but between an extremely bad cold and a great deal to engage my time I have either not had the leisure or have been unequal to the task of writing till to day. I reached Springfield on the 2nd day after parting from you and very soon thereafter learned at the Registers of the Land Office that none of the lands on my list was vacant. The most surprising circumstance connected with the matter was that Mr Davis the gentleman? that furnished the list at a cost of $45,00 entered a portion of it antecedent to the date of his sending the list to your father. It may have been the result of a mistake an oversight an accident if so he will rectify it if he responds to honor's impulses On the 4th day after my leaving Ky I reached home found that my corn had come out amazingly much to my gratification, it made 1/3 of a crop. I was fearful I should make next to nothing. Since my return I have been busy putting in wheat

I have 85 acres in, and shall put in as much more as I can during the proper season. Fifty odd acres of it is esp. beautifully. The weather is dry and healthy no chills of consequence prevailing. Two hunters on the strength of your father's reputation visited me a few days since. They remained but a single day & during that time killed 50 prairie chickens. They are both expert shots as good as I ever saw. Their names are Wofford of Iowa Points & Lanier of Madison Ia.

You must have prosecuted Eng billiards with very great vigor to have had so great an effect upon your weight. The loss of 1 lb per day is melting away very fast. It must have been the night air and the nervous excitement of the short time that caused so rapid a decline. It was well you left. And you stayed much longer at that rate of loss there would not have been a grease spot of you left. Did the sport exert a similar effect upon your fellow pards? I hope that the anxiety of the three last delightful weeks of your stay at home will not hasten your making haste to such an extent as to interfere with your literary progress. If it does those studies you speak of will not be as pleasant as some other things. I too passed three delightful weeks in Hy. and lost no flesh either: but since my return the case has been different. I have been falling off. We are totally

dissembler; the presence of the fair one is fast
losing to me - her absence only causes a decline
You ask me concerning the young ladies of the
neighbourhood. I have seen none since my
return except my bashful daughter. Her health
is good. I learned yesterday with great gratifi-
cation that a person had removed into the neighbourhood bring-
ing his grown up daughters, I am very impa-
tient to see them. I have yet heard nothing
concerning them, as to their beauty or intelligence
I received a letter from your father day before
yesterday. He informed me that he expected
to go East with Mary this week or possibly start
earlier and attend the Baltimore Whig con-
vention I am afraid that he will fail
to visit me during the autumn
Excuse my short and hastily written letter
I write it during the resting spell at Dinner
Giving my love to Mary - write soon

Yours affectionately
A D Jenkins

100

september

Duncannon Pa the 21st

[1856]

My dear brother

this is sunday evening it is now nearly five oclock it has been quite a week since Sister Mary and Father left us all a lone Mother Sister Ellen and I it seems so loone whe we sit down to the table all only three ons.

My dear brother you must excuse me for not writing you untill now! Mother sent you a basket of grapes by male but I

I hope you will
receive them before
this letter and will
receive them safe
and sound
We have all been
well since Pattie
left us all alone
no longer have
bound out all the
chowls have begun
I wish Father would
bring on a teacher I
like to study very
much.
Father thinks that
he will go on next
summer if Father
is with you you
must give much love
to them both all to you
I have written to
Sister Mary.

~~Hance~~

We received a letter from Dr Jenkins ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ yesterday he says that he is very anxious ~~to~~ to know when Father will be there so that he can be at the station he said they had had town boat last month y I must bring my letter to a close for I expect you are getting tired of my scrawls but you must excuse my bad writing but I know it is so bad that you can

excuse it it is
very very hard
so good by all
send dears of love to
you your
affectionate sister
Lily Duncan

Baltimore
Sept. 18th/66.

My dearest brother

Here we are in Baltimore we arrived here yesterday morning at ten after riding all night we left Cincinnati at six Tuesday morning rode all day and night in the dust you can imagine how we felt I intended to have written yesterday to you but ~~we~~ I took a nap and did not write. I sent a card to Mr McEl-downey yesterday afternoon but he has not made his appearance yet I presume he did not receive my card. Lucy Jacob is going to room with me in the large room, if Mrs Clapp will let us have it. Please tell Mrs Clapp to let my things remain in the bureau as I piled them and that when I come I will move them myself. We hope to be in Cambridge on Saturday night or Monday. Lucy is very homesick.
We leave here for N. Y. this afternoon or tomorrow. Hoping to see you soon I subscribe myself your devoted sister

Mary —

Write to me well

Duncannon sep 14th 1856

My Dear brother

It has ben quite pleasand all day the for some time past it has ben opprescively warm for some days past the gras is parched up to nothing it dry as hay water is very scarce Mr Gratz & Morgan are hallling wate for there stock there is very little wate in the naborhod a grate many people are sell ing there stock. the vegetables are very infearia and scearce potatoes are a dollor & a half a bushel turnips are 75 cents for a bunch as large as your two fist & very smal. Meat is very cheep only a few cents a pound the marcet is crouded with it chickens are a $1 a dozen.

Fuel will be very scarce this win

=ter if there is not rain to raise
the river I do not now what
the poor will do if we have
as cold a winter as last christains
will have to contribute more than
usual they seam to be afraid of
there dust. I do not know of any
news except that Miss Mary
Higins is to be marid to William
Breckenridge miss Swift to Horice
Crage. It is reported that Mrs.
Morison is in the Lunitice assilum
it is also said that his sone that
returned from the arme is a
little so I do not now wheather it
is true or not I hope it is not so.
We received a lettel from Dr Pinke
ins he was quite well, he said that
there had ben two frosts we had
frost last night. Cuzzie wantect
to know when father would be
was, there

so he might be at the station
with the wagon & oxen
as that is the mode of
travelling in that part of the
countre.
I hope father and sister & Mis
Jacob will have a pleasant
time of it at Baltimore, Telagraff
the convention has nominated Mr
Filmore for President I hope he
will be eleted for they say that
it will be the onle way to preserv
the union, this glorious union for
which so meny of her sones
have shed there blood and now
to be torn assunder in the fune
of partie strife, but I do not
think this will ever hapen

Who would sever freedom's shrine;
Who would draw the invidious line!
Though by birth one spot be mine,
Dear is al the rest.

Dear to me the Southrs fair land,
Dear the central mountain band,
Dear New England's rocky strand,
Dear the prairied west.
By our alters. pure and free!
By our laws, dee rooted tree!
By the pastdread memory,
By our Washington!

Fathers, have you ble in vain?
Ages must be ye droop again?
Mace, shall we rashly stain,
Blessings send by the?

No! receive our sollen vow
While before thi throne we bow,
Ever to maintain as now
Union! Lilerie!

All jou in much love to you
and siste fathe & miss Pacob
iff witjo merry kisses for sis fathe
& your sell one or two for miss Pacob
your affectionate sister Ellen Duncan

Lawrence Sept 25th
[1856]

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Dear Duncan

I am hard up until next Wednesday, which is quarter day. Wont you have the kindness to lend me $5.00 until ~~the~~ Saturday the 4th of October when I will be in Cambridge & return it to you. I hope you will excuse this invitation of relieving you of $5.00 for a few days. I shall not be in Cambridge the

week. This affair will be entirely between ourselves. I have some money but I am afraid that a fellow to whom I owe a bill will present it before Wednesday, and I should not like to be necessitated to refuse him.

I remain as ever yours Truly

Gouverneur Morris

P.S. Please answer by return mail

Duncannon
Oct. 4th 1856

My very dear son

My intention was to have written to you long before this, On last Tuesday we all were up at an early hour to have breakfast & be ready for the accommodation line of cars at 7 o'clock to go to the state fair in Bourbon, on wednesday we were expecting your father, & were not disappointed for he arrived in the 11 o'clock A. M. Train safe & well, for which I was truly thankful, then on Thursday such a getting ready for the wedding precluded every

thing else, the wedding has actually passed off & they leave for St Louis on monday,

You must accept my thanks for writing so often during your fathers absence, I am so sorry that the fruit was so mashed up, it is not worth while to attempt sending any more, there are so many & so good I wish you & M could have some, Mrs & Miss Duncan from Ill are now with us, very pleasant & agreeable people Miss D is a very sensible & lovely young lady indeed,

There is nothing of importance to mention at present I suppose before you receive this you will have

seen your freind
Horace Gray & Lady
they went on last week
Excuse this short letter
for it must go to day & if
not now must wait until
monday, much love to
yourself & M love to
Miss Jacob hope she has
recovered from her home
sickness, regards to the
Sparks, regret to hear
of their sickness,
Your ever affect.
Mother

Lexington Oct 5th 1856

My Dear Lou

I reached home on Wedn=esday forenoon – after a safe and pleasant trip – finding all well I found Mrs Duncan & her Daughter of Jacksonville Illinois at my house where they still are the Daughter has been quite sick now much better – The wedding at Mrs Castleman's & the State fair at Paris has so occupied my time – that I have not written you before – The wedding was quite pleasant – not a very large company, the bride bore herself with great self poss=ession & courage – and so far as looks are concerned the groom is de=cidedly inferior to the bride

The fair at Paris - though not as fully attended as at Lexington - was in the variety of the exhibition - machinery domestics &c - which was exhibited in a beautiful building for the purpose - and the extent and quality of the stock on all hands admitted to be finest exhibition that has probably ever taken place in the U S - and last not but the arrangement for the entertainment of visitors ~~in the way of entertainment~~ - was more extensive & ample than I have ever seen - the Bourbon farmers had large tents - capable of dining a great many persons and in this generous and splendid hospitality all were entertained most bountifully

We shall have the most vio=
=lent election ever held in
this - upon going in to church
this morning - I saw the lar=
gest crowd at the Catholick
Church I ever saw of Stran=
=gers - brought in from Ohio
to vote & are collonized at
many points in the State, this
will lead to violence and I
should not be surprised
that the scenes at Louisville
will be acted over in many
places - this attempt at wholesale
fraud - will be resisted
by force - If the judges re=
=fuse to do their duty - and
consequences the most deplo=
rable may be expected - If
they beat us they must im=
port and vote at least 10,000
voters - which with the

vigilance & courage of the Whigs is almost impossible
I shall keep you advised of the progress of the contest
We are organizing to meet this apprehended difficulty — and the organizations will be more complete & powerful — Since I saw you I am satisfied that the extreme Southern party contemplate — In the event of Fremonts election — immediate revolution, a more daring and treasonable par=
=pose was never contemplated
The leaders should be Hung, we
Wise of Va at their head
who has ordered an organiza
tion of the Militia of his State
The election of Fillmore is
the only hope of the Country
My love to Dear Mary to whom
I will write in a few days

Duncannon
Oct 12th 1856

My very dear Son

It is exceedingly gratifying to hear of your success in debate, still it is rather a dangerous faculty to make the "wrong appear the better reason" You may be led into error on some important matter by such a course, that you may think yourself right when you are as far from it as the poles, are distant, As to the Mexican war, I have never been able to understand its merits, One thing I know that many valuable lives were lost in it, but the good & bad often suffer together in this world, many men that

are entirely worthless are swept away in the scourge of war, and a terrible one it is, the times are very dark & gloomy at present, & some predict that we shall be in a state of revolution before six months, God grant that such will not be the case; In God is all our trust. vain is the help of man, I hope we are not like Sodom & Gomorrow, not good enough in our land to preserve it, But really there is enough to make us afraid of the result. Now that M & Lucy have secured a settled abode they will feel more contented & also to get along in their studies with more system & order, & if comfortably fixed there will be

more of a home feeling, I hope
that their progress in their studies
will be satisfactory to themselves
& freinds, From what you
say about a teacher for E & L
there is not much certainty in
procuring a suitable one, I
was in hope that your father
would have secured one &
brought her along with him
We shall be compelled to send
to our home schools in Leg
which is very inconvenient,
I am sorry to hear that your
teeth still trouble you, What
does the dentist say about it?
You must get a spoon full
of olive oil & half of one
of spirit of terpentine
mix it well & rub your
jaw on the outside at night
& wrap up in flannel, it is

not necessary to make your
jaw very oily just dip your
fingers in the mixture & rub
gently, then apply the flannel
or tie on an old woolen sock
do be persuaded to try it. I
intended to have put up a
viol of it for M but she
was so packed, & every thing
was put off to the last minute
Mary can tell that this prescrip
tion did her much good.
Kind regards to the Sparks
glad to hear that they are
convalescent, My love to
Lucy Jacob hope she will be
come so happy & interested in the
school that she will not think
of returning. Much love to
my dear son & daughter,
Your sisters join in the same
Your ever devoted Mother

Lexington Oct 13th 1856

My Dear Son

Your affectionate letter, written on yesterday a week ago — I found at hand upon my return from Bedford on Saturday night — where I had spent the 2 preceding days, where we are beginning to suffer for the want of water this great scarcity of that indispensable article is being seriously felt & unless we have copious rains in a few days — Stock cannot be sustained & much of it lost — You will recollect the poplar Spring at Bedford, as it is called when I purchased the property this was esteemed in the neighbourhood — as the best spring in it and the tradition from the early settlers of the country is that it was one of the finest springs in the state — But in time the felling up & tramping of cattle had almost destroyed it — I gathered all my disposable force some 8 hands 2 carts with picks shovels and spades — and commenced energetically working on it taking a diameter of some 12 feet — by dinner — we had quite an increase of water — but persevered & by bailing — we were enabled to continue the work, and by 4 o'clock had cleared it to the solid

rock, leaving only the mud & clay which we had packed in a crevice between 2 ledges — thus we were now ready to clear away — which we done with all hands rapidly — and in a few moments had it all cleared — and such a gushing bold vein of water I have seldome seen — it came with a rush — running over a rock some 3 feet in in breadth & in a few moments filling the large barrow we had prepared — brought out some fish as long as your fingers and in abundance to day we dig a culvert to the solid rock & wall it up — and run the stream into a large artificial pool walled up to the surface some 30 by 20 feet — where we expect to have a fine body of water — sufficient for all the stock upon the plantation, the week we shall (encouraged by this success) open and thoroughly clean all the springs upon the place — I have seldome felt more of pleasure & thankfulness — than in this timely ~~timely~~ relief — of abundance of pure water —

The election is the absorbing theme of interest — there have been a great number of imported notes brought into the State — not withstanding and the use of thousands sent out by government officials we

dangerous foes to the Constitution & union as the northern abolitionist — will the true patriots of the land the men of property substance & character longer hesitate to rally to the support of Fillmore — the only national Can = didate — Let down by one & all for the union — and she will carry Fillmore notwithstanding — ~~all~~ the gigantic frauds and use of money, sent out to control her elections; & then she will be necessary anew to a man in the defence of the National Constitution & union — be opposed traitors either north or South — be one for our Country our whole Country — I will write in a day or two — the presentation of the Flag, (which has been delay by the express) will take place this week and showers to the breeze

Love to dear Mary & children Jacob

Oct 13, 1856

will
carry the State — The developments of the last 2 weeks — showing the existence of a deep laid conspiracy against the integrity of the Union — which threatens bold & defiant resistance — may Revolution itself — in the event of Fremonts election, making it the event — should it happen — which if it does can alone be done according to the constitution by a majority — yet without any act on his part in violation of the rights of the South — His mere election is to be the pretext of this extensive Southern Democratic conspiracy — with the traitor wise of Va at its head — we are treading upon a fearful volcano — which needs the union of all patriots ~~and~~ union and law abiding men — to rally at once to the defence and unity of our National union — Here we have evidence that the Southern Democracy are as

Lexington Oct 22nd 1856

My Dear Son

We heard of you through Mr Jas B Clay on yesterday — who informed that Mrs Clay had recieved letters from her Sister — that you were all well and cheerful &c &c

We are upon the eve of the election — and I will say to you, that I am apprehensive that Buckhannon will carry this State — If he does however it will be by an imported vote — we have reason to believe that thousands have been brought into the State — If so the result is very doubtful — unless they can be prevented from voting Our laws are very defective in arresting such frauds

the voters by his own oath can disembarrass himself of difficulty - If he will swear to his residence - in most cases it will let him through - If the judges should happen to favor his views. This will be the case in Democratic Counties, which in such localities will open the doors to fraud & perjury. I have however now no apprehension of the election of Fremont - And my belief is that Buchanan will be elected by a decisive majority - This is far more desireable than Fremonts. election - But it is bad enough.

Every thing goes on quietly I shall go to Illinois - immediately after the Election

and as the weather has been so fine I wish I had gone before – It is now beautiful Indian Summer – warm and delightful

I trust you are getting along pleasantly & agreeably in your class – keeping up in your studies – finding Greek and Latin easier every day & getting higher numbers and higher position in your class

Enquire what the services of the English lady can be procured for, to take charge of 2 little girls and all about her qualifications – does she speak and teach French – and music – these are essential How is she in manners &c &c

All send yourself & Sister much love – Your devoted father
H T Denman

Fri 15 - 12 M.
Oct 25 - 56

Dear Duncan.

Found your note. Very sorry about the boats for the day is so fine. But we will hope for the same next Saturday or any time that will be agreeable to you and the Young ladies. I shall be at your service any time. Saw you at the Opera with the beautiful Miss G. and think you were in the same car with me coming out. But I thought I would not interrupt your tête-a-tête by speaking to either of you. Heard you were inquiring for me last Eve. Sorry I was not in.

Yours truly
George Gorham

H. T. Duncan Esq.

Lexington Oct 30th 1856

My Dear Son

Though we have no letter from you this week, I set down to write you my weekly letters unless interrupted or absent — It is half after seven we are just up from Supper Lilly — is in front of me — Miss Walters sits next Ella next your Mother next — all having the benefit of the light by which I write — so that if my letter is a little unconnected — ~~with~~ It is not surprising as they are talking all around me — a little fussing some scolding &c &c so that I have undertaken an enterprise to write in

crowd — Mother has just dropped a stitch — and is up standing in front taking it up — If Ell was in bed I should get on bellers and be able to collect my Ideas — But enough of this fussy group

On yesterday came off the great Fillmore Celebration & barbacue & Mass meeting — which for numbers Splendor of arrangements & imposing magnificence of the pageant, has never been surpassed in this city — and among the thousands of banners thrown to breeze the Bunkers Hill flag — was prominently conspicuous borne by a Committee of whigs & when the procession arrived at the ground — the

stand erected for the offi
cers of the meeting and
speakers — was the chosen
spot for the Bunker Hill flag
It floated most gracefully
over the heads of the bene-
erable & true men who
were placed upon this stand
There was Cullenden Letcher
Chelton Allen & a host of
others — who under this noble
national flag — proclaimed
the true principals of the
Constitution & union — nation
al union — to the vast multi
tudes — The papers will give
you a full and minute ac
=count of this magnificent
pageant

We have nothing news
Polaticks is the all absor
bing subject — nothing can

defeat us - except the perpetration of the most flagrant pendenous frauds - by the importation foreign votes from Ohio & Indiana - Thousands of them have been introduced into the State - and our apprehension is, that in Democratic counties they may be voted to a considerable extent in many places they will be drawn from the polls - Louisville I fear is to be again the theatre of a bloody tragedy - the government has posted upon the Canal three some thousand foreign troops who voted in Indiana the other day and are now to vote in Louisville - If they do - It will be worse than the storming of Sebastopol * But I hope it may pass without a collision

Oct. 30, 1856

This cannot be however if they attempt to cast fraudulent votes If they do they will be driven from the polls by force

It is only in certain "Loco foco" districts - I think they can succeed in their frauds and the only question is whether they can do this to sufficient extent to overcome the large majority of legal votes against them 10,000 at least - and it is believed they have got nearly this number into the State they must I think be fooled in their calculations at points enough to defeat them

The polls are to be

opened at 1 O clock a little before day — I am told the Fillmore men will be at the polls by 4 o clock and there stand until every man casts his vote — offer no legal votes — but resist every illegal vote

I shall write immediately after the election & be off soon to Illinois — I go to Bedford to morrow morning & spend 2 days all well and send yourself & Sister much love

Present me most kindly to Mrs Lucy & her Brother Chs

Write me fully about how your Sister is getting on and always advise me in time of your necessities for money — Do not buy on credit — Do without un

but you get the cash, this of itself will have you to economise — when you have an account you do not know how much you are spending and its apt to lead to loose and careless habits of business — a man never knows where he is — who keeps accounts — like a mariner at sea, without a compass

In haste

Yr devoted father

A. T. Duncan

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Lexington Nov 3rd 1856

My Dear Son

Since I mailed a letter to you this morning in which I enclosed you a check for 150$ I have rec'd your letter requesting me to send you $200 I now enclose to you an additional check for 100$ making 250$ sent you to day

I must exhort you my Dear Son to prudence & economy in your expenditures this makes first 300$ then 150$ left with you now 250$ making 700$ since you were at home — You must not indulge in extravagance It is all wrong

Farewell

Your Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Nov 3, 1856

Tuesday.

I have heard nothing of Miss Higginson. You had better enquire for Dr. Bowditch's sister in law Mrs. Benton on Tuesday eve, I had cards engraved for a large party but as I am ill I have promised to give it up.

But as Mr. Benton's letter was very forgiving, you must have your sister and the Jacobs here (to tea) by 6 o'clock.

And please say to the young gentlemen who come occasionally that including Crowninshields, that I wish them to come in after the lecture.

I indeed any whom you know to have special reason to wish to see him. For you know I like Harvard,

There are besides a

bery who ought to come.
I will try to name of these a
~~few~~ whom you may see.
You see I am not
idle in <u>letting others to work</u>

Always your friend,
Mary C. Sparks.

Lex Nov 3rd 1854

My Dear Son

Your Mother received your last letter on Friday which was as awlways a source of great pleasure to us all, and when we fail to receive it on its regular day - we are disappointed - No letter from Dear Mary last week, she must cultivate habits of punctuality - Her reluctance to write is unaccountable - as she writes very well and nothing will improve her more than regularity in writing - It is a beautiful accomplishment for an educated Lady

It is raining all this morning & I hope will continue

until we get an abundant supply of Stock water

Miss Waters is still with us - Her Cousin Mr Collins arrived here on yesterday they leave in a day or two for N Y - He is quite an intelligent agreeable man

On Saturday night the disorders commenced in Lex preceeding the election there had been a great accumulation of Irish vagabonds in town - On Saturday night - the Boys commenced mowering them - There was some firearms of pistols but no one shot - Some of the Irish were badly beaten & on yesterday Sunday - were quite scarce - The black carpet gentry are getting

alarmed ~~scarce~~ – they will not be permitted to vote – unless when they are entitled to do so – The imported ruffians will be discouraged – Since the Barbecue on Wednesday – the feeling is up – and every man will be at his post by 6 o'clock to morrow morning & not leave until he casts his vote – with this feeling and a resolution to prevent illegal voting which if we can do – which I think we shall – we shall carry the state for Fillmore without doubt – I feel much confidence, Let others do as they may – Kentucky will do her duty – to the Country the Constitution & the Union

If I go in town to day I shall remit you a check for 150 $ in this letter — If not I shall do so during the week — I hope the rain may be hard enough to keep you at home

I shall make the Doctor a flying visit — about the middle of this month, when at Bedford the other day, I selected for him 17 head of beautiful 2 year old heifers to make his herd of Milch Cows — with a fine young Bull — which I shall send out to him very soon — with several teams of mules — at our ~~lock~~ table at dinner the other day your were remembered in a glass of generous Madeira

It was the 30th anniversary

Nov. 3, 1856

of our marriage — Mr Lewis Castleman Miss Maters & our own house hold constituted the Company — The sentiment to you was by Miss Maters — "That you might be the valedictorian of your class in 59" — to which we all drank — Mamy was also remembered

I shall go to Illinois so soon as I can get off — arranging my business at Bedford — so that I can be absent

There is an impression out that Lewis C is taken with Miss M — He is over to see her every few days — appearances look a little like it — Love to Mamy & Miss Lucy — all send you love

Your devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

Duncannon Nov 6th
Thursday [1856]

My very dear dear Son

Your precious letters have accumulated since I last wrote you, various causes have conspired to prevent & interrupt my correspondence, had not your father been home & writing regularly to you I should have made a vigorous effort at writing, And as it is you have not lost any thing for you have no doubt been posted up in all local matters, much more minutely than I could have done, It is so gratifying to know that my dear children are getting along agreeably & happily at such a distance from home, that you have kind friends to add to your happiness, I regret exceedingly to hear that your old friends the Sparks' have been so afflicted, but hope they are in a fair way to a speedy recovery of usual health & spirits, & live to a green old age - Present our kindest regards to them, You have not let us hear if you came off to your satisfaction in writing, the subject I have almost forgotten & the letter is misplaced, but as near as I can remember it was, "Practical talents incompatible

with poetical illustrated", It will be necessary to answer the question, well acquainted with the lives & characters of the Poets, They have pretty generally been of a visionary cast, living in imagination, too exalted to look down on vulgar occupations of earth, & have scarcely ever received their award of censure or praise untie their earthly existance was closed I trust you acquitted you self, & performed the task to the satisfaction of the judges, or criticks, In all your researches I hope you will be led to distinguish the real from the false, truth from fiction, & more than all to learn, What is the chief end of man? This question properly considered, answered & lived up to will lead to happiness & a glorious immortality,
On last sabbath Mr Brank pronounced a most excellent discourse on the sixth commandment In view of the election it was presumable there would be great excitement, & scenes of violence, & probably bloodshed, & should any be committed his skirts were clear A letter from Dr Jenkins some time since said he had only received one letter from you & that one soon after your return to C— You & M should not slight the Dr in his hermitage away from civilization and society, Your father will be going

to visit the Dr soon now that the election is over, he went off to Bedford yesterday where he remains until saturday attending to the slaughtering of his hogs, Miss Waters left us on tuesday afternoon with her cousine Mr Collins for N. Y. There is some reason to believe that she will return to Ky & be mistress of Castleton, she has not made a visit for nought, do not say any thing out of council until it is more certain, as we may be deceived, Mr Castleman yesterday purchased a small place 3 miles from Lex for his mother, the place was purchased from a Mr Downing, probably you may know it Miss W- did not colour the picture for you whilst here, she could not obtain the articles necessary, but will do it in N. Y-
Mattie McKee & Dr Jones are to be married next week unless something happens, they go off to Keokuk, Rumor says there are a number of weddings to take place soon in the course of a few weeks. Miss Woolley & her brother to married on the same day, she will be made Mrs in the morning then go to her brother's in the evening in Cin- he takes Miss Strader for a bride, perhaps you are better posted up in the Lex gossip than I as there are so often persons

visiting Boston from Leg— It is pleasing that Miss Lucy Jacob has determined to secure an education, she seemed so childish about going & staying that when her brother & sister should visit her, that Lucy would return with them, I hope the improvement will be very perceptible as M used her influence to induce her to go, Hense is just from the office with a letter from each of you, I am sorry to hear that you are sick, you must take better care of yourself, it is cold produces neuralgia, you become warm in your exercise, & do not use the prudence necessary afterwards, you may bring on an attack of inflamitory rheumatism if you do not act prudently— I am glad Mrs S— likes the Cherry Bounce, & judge that if she is able to use it that her health is improving— I must bid you good bye for the present & say a little to M—
E & L send much love to you & hope you will soon be perfectly relieved from all your aches & pains, Your ever affectionate
Mother

Lex Nov 9th 1856

My Dear Son

Since the election I have spent most of my time at Bedford - returned on yesterday - Tom has been routed Horse foot & Dragoon in Ky - It is all over - and our great comfort is the defeat of the Abolitionist of the North - The K N party is finished - Had the old organization been preserved we should have succeeded - The frauds though are appalling I think there will be a call of the Legislature to pass a registry law - which will close the door to this unparalled rock

You will see by the Sly returns a great increase in the vote above the vote for Morehead whose Majority was from 4 to 5000 — In this County Mr Fillmore got about the vote of Gov Morehead in 55 — whose majority was between 1 & 700 — now in 56 Mr Fillmore with about Mr Moreheads vote — carries to County by a majority reduced over 200 votes — How is this It could only occur in one way — by an <u>imported fraudulent vote</u>, Nothing but a registry Law can put a stop to it.

I wrote you on in the early part of the past week enclosing you a check for 150 $ after mailing the letter I rec'd yours — informing

me that you wanted about 200$ – which I replied to immediately & enclosed you an additional sum of 100$ making 250$ – which I hope came safely to hand

The season is so far advanced, that I think of giving up my trip to Illinois this fall & not go out until May next – though good weather may tempt me – I shall send out to the Dr. a fine lot of young Heifers & one Bull

All join in love to your sister & yourself

Yr Devoted Father

A. T. Duncan

Lex Nov 10th 1857

My Dear Son

Upon looking into the Library I find your Small edition of Cicero is wanting in a no of volumes If you did not take it on with you Some one has hooked it — the object of the letter is to make the enquiry of you — How many vol^s of the work^s of Longfellow did you bring out with you — I find but 3 — it seems to me there were more

All well and send you & sister much love

Yr Devoted Father

H. J. Simeon

Laurence Nov. 17th 1866

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Dear Duncan.

I intended seeing you on Sunday evening, and went around to your room for that purpose but you were not in so that I am obliged to bore both you & myself by writing this letter.

If you will call at 56 W 20th St at 3 o' clock on Wednesday afternoon (26th) & announce yourself as Duncan Jr you will find some one at home to receive you. As I have already written to New York mentioning that you would

probably call at that hour
& on that day and requesting
them to be at home, and
do all that is in their power
to make ~~[illegible]~~ your visit
to the city as agreable as
possible. You will probably
find Mrs Greenough there, therefore
you might begin now to make
notes as to what they are
having been
doing in Cambridge, as she
will require a résumé of all
the news up to last 6 weeks.
You might mention to Mr
Jacob that I expect him here
on Tuesday or next week & ask

him to have the Kindness to
write & let me know if he can
come. I shall request the use
of your room for the night preceding
& Thanksgiving night. ~~But~~
If not inconvenient for you to
answer this letter & oblige

Your sincere friend
Gardiner

Lexington Nov 17th 1856

My dear Son

I rec'd your letter acknowledging the receipt of my two checks, together $250

In my last letter to you - I mentioned ~~to you~~ that we had been routed - in the election in Ky as elsewhere - majority of Buchanan about 7000 - this defeat has been occasioned - first by the importation of foreign votes to a great extent - and the addition of many "Old Line" votes - given from the conviction that their was no chance for Mr Fillmore and to vote for Buck - was the only chance to defeat Fremont - that the contest was really between them - that Fillmore was ~~really~~ not in the ~~contest~~ race - So strong and deep rooted was this opinion pervading all parties - that it brought to the support of Buck a large vote, He would not have gotten - under any other circumstances - So controlling and overriding is the feeling against the Northern movement - which in a little while must be confined to the fanaticism of the N England States who will again become as perfectly odious as they did by their violent opposition to

the war of 1812 — when they held their famous Hartford Convention — N York altho she voted for Fremont (who carried the State by a plurality only) — will never vote with N England again, but go with the South N York is the Break water — which will check the treasonable excesses of N E
The North was long years recovering from ~~from~~ the odium of her unpatriotick position in 1812 — She had barely got rid of the odium of that treasonable folly — than she has plunged into another, worse than the first — This contest will unite — including N York all States South of it — with most of the N Western States — Northern Ohio — is and will be the only black spot in all that region — In fortune I believe that all parties will band together in this contest — the entire South — with N York N Jersey — Penn, with Ohio Indiana Illinois ~~California~~ — that is the States between the Ohio & the Lakes — & I believe the extreme N W & California states will be united — These are my speculations but nothing will render it the least doubtful — unless the party in power are guilty of some as signal blunder as the Kansas folly

Say to my young friend Jacob that I sincerely condole & sympathise with him in the defeat of Mr Fillmore — No set of men were ever more disappointed and chagrined in the strength of their Candidate — than we were — But there is this great consolation in the result — The Northern abolition black republican party are defeated — never again — to make such a fight as they have in this contest, the rule of Democracy is far preferable a thousand times more so

Since I wrote to you — we have attended Miss Mattie's wedding — at 11 o'clock in the morning — It was a handsome affair & Mattie looked far better than I ever saw her — Also her two brides maids Miss Harrison & Miss Bush — I sent your invitations to rather late to attend from Boston Miss Mag Woolley is to be married to-morrow to Pete White of Cincinnati — and the day after — Mr Charley Woolley is to marry the daughter of Mr Jacob Strader Cincinnati — an only daughter — a great piece of good luck surely — the match has produced some surprise — I hope it will make a man of him & that he will prove deserving of the girl — though his antecedents are rather unpromising

with my regards to friends and my love to Lucy & Mary — not forgetting by any means Miss Lillie

With a kiss for dear Mary

I remain

Your devoted Father

H. L. Duncan

As the season is so far advanced I am hesitating about my trip to Illinois — though I shall go, it is very inconvenient to leave — I have no one on hand at Bedford that needs any supervision — If I go I must be off in a week and make but a flying trip — not spend more than a week with the Dr — Cannot be absent more than 2 weeks

Say to your Sister — I fear she is falling into her old habits — we do not receive near as many letters from her & yourself

We had some nice fried Oysters for Supper — Ell Lilly & I alone to partake — We wished for you & Mary — which is an oft repeated wish at your table that you were in your seats — Shall I send you a saddle or two cushions to give your friends? — What has become of your banker Blake? I hope you went Mrs Selsby's reception

Lex Nov 23rd 1856

My Dear Son

Your letter of the 16th inst is rec'd in which you say that you will be in N York at (St Nicholas Hotel) on the 26th inst – to which place I direct this letter

I hope you will not omit to call on Mrs Austin & her Sister Miss Emily Duncan also the 2 Mr & Mrs Lewiches while you are in N Y –

Let me urge upon you to avoid all improper associations & bad company – while in N Y – It is a vile place for the young & unwary there is no spot – where so many snares beset the youthful

vicious men & women you encounter at all points avoid them as you would a fatal epidemic - For they are ten Thousand times worse - It is a moral epidemic which is certainly fatal - from which their is no escape - If once you are drawn into the vortex

I shall leave day after to-morrow for Illinois - shall be absent some 2 weeks - shall put every thing in training for completing my improvements there this winter & enclose more of the Jaraiva - I am anxious during the coming season to complete my improvements - so as to make them comfortable - I must build houses for tenants

to occupy & cultivate the soil on the shares — this I am sure is the plan freest from trouble and care

I shipped by the cars this week to the Dr 15 head of beautiful Durhams — one splendid bull & 14 cows and heiffers — the finest lot ever taken to Coles County — which will put the Dr in a superior stock

Every thing has calmed down very quiet since the election well satisfied that Freemont is defeated — If Mr Buckhanan only calls to his aid in his cabinet the conservative men of his party & rejects the evil counsels of the fiercer disunionist & filibusters — he may have a creditable administration

all are well and join in much love

When you call upon Mrs Gustin make to her Miss Emily — the Mrs Lewis and their husbands — my kind regards

Le Conte

Your Devoted Father

H. T. Duncan

PS remember me to your young friend Mr Anderson

Duncannon Dec 3rd
[1856]

My beloved son

Your letter from N. Y. was rec'd yesterday afternoon, which was truly gratifying as you were well & so happy in meeting so many friends, & enjoying yourself I hope nothing occured to mar your pleas=ure, it was very pleasing also that you called to see Dr Hall, you several times enquired if I sent the "Journal of Health", to you, I always neglected to say who sent them, Dr H— sent them on his own responsibility, my advice to you is to read it, it is truly worth serious atten=tion, to all that desire to learn how to preserve their health, which should be as much a study as any thing can be pertaining to our enjoyment in this life, for without health there is none — no enjoyment

I hope that Mrs Macalister is pleased with the school she has selected for her neices, Your father wrote a letter & directed to the St Nicholas before he left home, as you did not mention it I thought probably you did not receive it, we have not heard any thing from him since he left, but presume it will not be many days now before his return home, So you saw Miss Waters & quite charmed with her, it is well there was other agreable young ladies at the St Nick to divide your attention as she is mortgaged property - & I think has accomplished considerable by her visit to Ky, You were in a mistake when you thought I was prejudiced against Miss Wo, I entertain the same opinion I ever had, she

is a pretty, fine looking, good young lady but an ordinary one in point of mind & education. She will no doubt make a very agreable neighbor, I will be very much pleased to see her the Miss-tress of Castleton & wish her much happiness — My dear son it is truly delightful to think that we shall see your smiling face so soon, I wish dear M. could be with you, but she will be more profitably employed than traveling in such an inclement season. How does she & Miss Jacob get along together? Is she an agreable room mate? I hope she is studious, as those that are not so are apt to interupt those that desire to study. Can you perceive much improvement in the young ladies? I presume M has discarded writing composition as she never mentions it, well if it was

such a worry & torment to her it is better to dismiss it — if she does not learn to write well I hope she will learn to talk well — but there is one thing that would rejoice me beyond every thing & that is to see my precious children possess the "pearl of greatest price," "the one thing needful" — with this all would be peace & joy forever — You are surrounded by all that is seductive & calculated to lead away from the Creator of all good — you have his will & testament be persuaded to study & regard it —
Yesterday was mild & beautiful to day it is freezing hard snowing a little, & the wind is blowing most furiously —
It makes me feel anxious for you & M protect yourselves from those blasts
I with E. & L have been alone ever since your father left us, E & L join me in much love to you & M Your ever affect
Mother

P.S. Tried a pards to the Sparks' & Jacobs — I wish the old Dr would come out with you

Duncannon
Dec 10th 1856

My beloved son

Your letters are most cordially welcomed & give great pleasure & there is not the slightest intention to slight or neglect you, I was not aware that you had written so often without receiving an answer, since your fathers absence there was one source of communication cut off, he wrote to you to St. G. just on the eve of starting, which I perceive you did not receive, altho' it was directed to the care of the St Nicholas. It is with great pleasure that I inform you of the safe arrival of your father on monday noon, he is well but had a very disagreeable visit which is due to the season

It was entirely too late the cold weather being so much more intense than with us, & the winds are so violent, she said sometimes it seemed as if the cabin would be capsized two large deer skin antlers & all entirely whole, also a dozen & half of prairie chicken, they were all killed on the Drs plantation, but not by the Dr or your father, told Lily he shot them with a silver bullet, & she quite artlessly went to Ellen & told her that father shot them with a silver bullet, El had quite a laugh ha! ha! ha!!! Lily learns her book very well but El is very idle, have you made enquiries concerning the young lady you spoke of? does she teach music? it is high time that they were at it if

they make any thing of performers; If the young lady will suit, would it not be as well for her to come on with you? I'm so glad you were so lucky to meet with so many Ky's & altogether had an agreeable visit, I agree with you that Miss Waters will be an acquisition to this vicinity, & that Mr C— is a most fortunate man, The female portion of his family do not appear to be much pleased, My reason for thinking so is formed from what Mrs C— said, the day after Mary Webb left, Mrs C— & Mrs Breckinridge came over & passed the day with us, & spoke in very high terms of Miss Agnew, & never mentioned Miss Waters atal, I can see no reason to object but every reason to congratulate themselves in the arrangement—

In regard to M's attending the balls, You can decide the matter as well as I They are always a very promiscuous gathering & very objectionable, I asked your father what I should say? he said that you had decided it & very rightly — He has always had an aversion to public balls — & he is a judge of such places as he has often attended them, & knows from experience, I trust that all frivolous & pernicious amusements, you will not consider a privation to abstain from To keep out of temptation is the safest place, May God preserve you & keep you from all evil, & His richest blessings be yours, All send much love to each of you, remember us to the Sparks' & Jacob's — farewell

Your ever aff't Mother

Lexington Dec 12th 1856

My Dear Son

I reached home on last monday - since which time I have received from you your welcome letter of the 8th inst, your letter addressed to me in Illinois I did not receive & I presume you failed to get my letter written upon the eve of my departure from home - directed to you at the St Nicholas Hotel N York as you have made no mention of it, I doubt not you have had a pleasant visit to N Y - I hope you called upon Mr & Mrs Crittenden Mr & Mrs Macalister the latter of whom you speak of seeing at the table only & that their seemed to be some

estrangement between them and the bridal parties, I hope also that you called upon Mrs Gustin Miss Emily Duncan & the Lenneches - I should have supposed that the daughters of Dr Irwin were there - as they generally spend the winter in Mobile - and you would have found them at Mrs Gustins - give me a particular account of your trip &c &c

My trip to Illinois was a very unpleasant one owing to the cold weather - and all the discomforts of a new country - I slept in an open cabin - with the wind blowing through - Yet I was pleased with the growing & rapidly developing prospects of this magnificent country

Chicago has wonderfully improved since I was there in the Spring - and numbers now 100000 thousand inhabitants which in 5 years I predict will reach 300000 & the State of Illinois in ten years will be the competitor of N Y as the empire State - It is now the 4th in the union in population - with this rapid increase property is going up apace - I sold an improved paraire land this fall at 20$ pr acre in ~~Clinton~~ ~~two County~~ Moultrie County through I am selling all my lands out of Coles - I am only concentrating them in that County - I have added to the Jenkins farm 800 a and shall keep every op

portunity — I refused a fi=
gure that I did not swap
with Vandevoort even at
1 acre for 4 — his place
has advanced 25 pr cent
since — this would have gi
ven me 100$ for my Bourbon
land — But so it goes

You see there my head is
full of Illinois & likely to
become more so — You must
not take your trip there
this winter — It must be
postponed until we can
go together — I will write
to Dear Mary in a day
or two — Bell joins in love
and a kiss to you both

If the young Lady Mary
speaks of has the proper
qualifications in music and
French — If you can engage
her at 300$ a year bring her out

Mr Lenoble & Lady

Lexington Dec 30th 1854

My Beloved Daughter

Your rather hastily written letter came duly to hand - you do not mention whether you have resumed your Composition writing - as I urged you to do - today my dear Daughter - have you layed aside your Compositions? and your letter writing is not so frequent - nor do they appear to be so carefully prepared - Have you too much Company or not - Have you too many visitors at your boarding house - If so my dear Child - you should excuse yourself, too much Company interferes with your studies - If your Landlady opens her doors too freely to visitors - It does not follow as a matter of Course that you are to assist in their entertainment - You have your own private room - and Books & School Studies - to occupy your time and attention - should too much Company interfere - It is not a suitable boarding house - It is at all events too far from your school - this severe weather - If a change can be agreeably made - I would advise It During the absence of your Brother home you should decline all invitations to parties He is the only galant you should have - and his absence is apology enough for a different

course subjects a young Lady to be talked about - The miserable "Cubs," who constitute the great mass of the young men at College - are the poorest of all acquaintances - No one not properly introduced - either by your Brother or his Sparks - should be recognized - The introduction by a Boarding house keeper should never be tolerated - But my beloved Daughter, altho I have every confidence in your discretion and high sense of propriety - yet these are hints that will be of no disadvantage - they are pre=cautionary & to keep constantly before your mind the high course of delicacy & propriety, which I am persuaded you will always keep in mind

Our trip to Louisville - with the exception of very bad weather - was very pleasant and agreeable - Lexington has been very dull this winter no gaiety whatever

I shall resume my trips to Bedford so soon as the holidays are over - when I sell your Bourbon interest - I shall invest in the West - I hope to get through ~~all~~ and sell out there (this coming year Bag & Baggage) - which I hope to do if a favorable crop year - I was more and more delighted with my late visit to Illinois - It is to be the Empire State of the union

You shall have when you get home some

nice trips to my Cottage home at the Hermitage — where we shall see the beautiful Pazaias in bloom — and immense grain crops shoot the deer grouse pheasant Turkey and all wild game — They will be delightful excursions to your & the Dr — will be prepared to entertain us comfortably

All join in much love to your Brother and yourself

Yr Devoted Father
A J Donelson

(In haste)

your
your
love


U.S. POSTAGE
THREE CENTS
Dec-13
Mrs Mary Duncan
care of
H. J. Duncan Esq
Cambridge
Massachusetts

Lexington Dec 17th 1855

My Dear Son

Your letter of the 28th ultimo from Ky addressed to me in Illinois Dr L received for this place ~~and Lt~~ is just at hand – also your letter to your Mother enclosing Mary's Rel Your visit to Ky appears to have been pleasant & most of your friends appear to have treated you politely – You did not say whether the Leverickes were in town with Mrs G or in the Country – I hope the old Lady carried her civility far enough to invite you to break bread with her – Is Miss Leverick as beautiful & bewitching as her Mother? as she seems to have taken your eye

I learn with not a little as=
=tonishment - that your Sister
has discontinued her Compo
sitions and Musick - the first
is particularly wrong & the second
if she has any facilities for
the purpose - Her letters do not
indicate such improvement in
composition - as to warrant its
discontinuation in School - Tell
her that she must resume it
by all means, I enjoin it upon
her to do so - And also her mu
=sick if she has time & proper
facilities for doing so,

The account you enclose
in your Mothers letter - of
many expenditures during
the past quarter & your es
timates for the next - shows
a pretty liberal expenditure
No board appears to have been

paid yet – The Agasser charge
pr quarter seems above his
advertised price of 100 pr year
How is this – I enclose you
a check for 200$ – pay off
her board up to your leav=
ing & any thing els she may
owe – of course she can have
no personal debts or accounts
bills this sum be ~~necessary~~ suf
ficient to pay all dues, and
furnish you with traveling ex=
penses home – This is the time
for study & not spending money
The too free indulgence of
the latter – is generally an
evidence of the neglect of
the former – Allow me to hope
that your expenditures will
not exceed the point – which
borders on extravagance – I
wish you both to appear

as becomes you — quietly & not any indulgence ~~in~~ that would be considered extravagant — participate in reasonable pleasures — such as are consistent with a proper economy which all should practice

Your Mother speaks of a visit with Ell & Lilly to Mrs Ford in Louisville next week where she proposes to spend her Christmas — I wish they would go, they will have an agreeable visit

You seem to conclude that my letter to Rom at N York indicated — doubts of your not being able to keep out of bad company &c Not so intended, my Dear Son — It was only in the way of caution that I was apprehensive ~~that~~

Dec. 17, 1856

or doubtful of the purity and uprightness of your principals & morality — not so — No Father ever had a more unbounded confidence in the integrity honor & purity of his son than I have — So my Dear Boy you may rest easy on this subject — It was only a suggestion in the way of a caution, not that I deemed it necessary by any means

I am now about to go through my Christmas vexations and troubles with the Negroes — It will be the last I hope — For I must cut loose from them they are worse every day — all well — My love to my Dear Daughter —

Yr Affectionate Father
H T Duncan