

Friday, Nov 16th 1854

My dearest Mother my thoughts have been on
you & my Mother knowing that it is the time for
both to be separated for some months from
friends & each other, that naturally call up the
saddest feelings on the occasion, you are now
to prove the united pleasures & trials of a large
Academy, but do not indulge in sad anticipa-
-tions, I think of us with bright feelings, & in the
animating thought that we shall be reunited in the
summer vacations, write to your dear Brother often
& enliven his solitary hours, after a few days
you will so engaged in the pleasant work of
improvement, study & recreation alternately,
with your lively spirit, be comparatively happy
Your dear good Brother sent me two long letters
from Pittsfield, which were received with
great joy, also one from your Father he is very
pleased with school, now my dear daughter do
be diligent & attentive to your studies, & go a
head of your classes if you can, keep yourself
neat & clean but do not shew any undue love
for dress, do not join in the gossip about dress
with the girls, when you want to say any thing
say it to me, did you take the pin with the
topaz set, how are your ears? Ellie caught cold
in hers & is suffering very much, is your tongue
well? if not get borax and sugar made fine
to a powder sprinkle it on & hold it in your
mouth as long as you can, then spit it out, take
care of your health, make no change in your
clothing, particularly in your shoes, thin soled
will not do after this, I regret you took

The servants all desire to be remembered to you

your garters for fear you be tempted
to put them on, I charge you if you regard
your health, you can't be so foolish, Lily has
just come in with some sweet my leaves & says
give my love to sister Mary & tell her I send them
to her, Ellen & Maria also send you much love
El is quite sick to day with her ears they look
like they will burst, they are so swollen, I hope
you will write soon & tell all about yourself
when you feel sad sit down tell all about it
to your sympathizing Mother, I will write often
& try to cheer you, write to Emma she will
be looking for a letter anxiously, the thick
square paper you took with you is not fit to
write letters on, it is only fit for manuscript
writing, or to make a book of, I prefer this fool's
cap to it, I will write to my dear Hal, as soon
as I know how to direct, or his address, to whose
care, You ought to keep a book to record such
things as you would like to remember, as you
arrived at Pittsfield the first sabbath you spent
etc, etc, I think you forgot to set down the text
of the last sermon you heard at home, the one
in the morning was in 1st Peter 1st Chap, 13th verse
I trust my dear that you will regard the Holy
time in such a way as you will never regret
You should remember that with all your getting
to get that wisdom that cometh down from
above, then you will be happy in time & through
eternity, all have gone on just as when you left
I have not been in Lex since you left save on Sabbath
Mrs Gratz came to see me a few after you left me
& insisted on my spending the next day but I could
not, I was too sad, Dr Penkins comes out every eve
he wrote to you last sab. God bless you your affectionate
Mother E. Duncan

find the chapters you read each day, & read them to me, so if we knew the time you read, we could take the same, it will be pleasant to think we are reading the same at the same time, in reading Luke 3^d v. 22^d last sabbath, when Christ was captured, one of the fundamental doctrines of our Church, I think is proved, the trinity, if you turn to it, & read attentively you find the Son, Holy Spirit & the Father present - it is not reading a great deal, that is always profitable, but that which we think & reflect upon, Mr Brank is delivering every sabbath evening lectures on the life of Christ, the gospels which you are now reading, is the same, & if you would pay particular attention, enable you to write on the same subject, it is by reflection upon a subject that will enable you to write, with ease.

Dec 19th 1854

My dear Daughter

How reviving to the anxious heart! are the missives from those we love, whenever one is received all with eager eyes & ears are intent on the contents. I am delighted to find you try to accommodate yourself to the expectation & make yourself contented & happy, that is comparatively. Your letter of 11th came to hand on Sunday as we came out of church, Dr Jenkins had taken the mail out on Saturday evening, no one went in the eve so I read it Sat - the mail is very tardy owing perhaps to the heavy snows, we hear from your Brother regularly & often, but one thing my dear makes me feel sad to think

Received at Pittsfield on Sunday afternoon Dec 22^d 1854

you do not write to your Brother
it is very unaccountable, you are
aware he will be anxious
to ^{hear} of you, & not a syllable has he
rec^d from you tho' he has written
letters of 2, 4, 12, & 20 pages, now
my child this ought not to be, it
is most unkind, let me beg of you
to do so no more, it is grievous to
me to find fault with you, now
that I am on the subject of correspond-
-ance, have you written to Emma?
Your Father has written to Mr. Ag-
new, some of the names of your
correspondents, Dr. Jenkins, Emma
McLau, at home, your Brother, &
that you might have others, he did
not think of, he was confident you
would not act impudent in the
matter, so you must begin ^{to} liqui-
-date, as you are in arrears in
this matter, of correspondence,

If you will only form some
method to regulate yourself
you will have abundance of
time to write, it is very annoy-
-ing to request to do a thing, when
you know there is a positive rule
against it, & if one is permitted
to break it another will do so, &
so on, what confusion there would
be, where there are such a num-
-ber, there must be the laws of the
Medes & Persians, I wish you
would say how you are getting on
in your studies, you know your
deficiencies, & the importance of
diligent, & persevering, industry to
excel in all you undertake, &
make yourself a thorough scholar
I thank you for the Bible directory
it is excellent, & hope you will read
with attention, & be made wise
unto salvation, I leave Ell to

Home & direct, just after the
car stops, & who should get
off but Kate, she had reach-
ed Lex the evening previous
if we had only known it we
would have brought her out to
dinner, she remained the next day
& then went to Clintonville, to Dr
Lanes, Mary Castleman is also re-
-minded your father saw her last week
in Lex (Aunt (Aubry)) alias Mrs
Sayre, Mrs Geatz send much love
to you, also Mrs McCaw, she hopes E.
& you may meet in some of your
vacations, tell me if you have writ-
-ten to E. My kind regards to Mrs
Agnew & Miss Lafon hope she has rec-
-overed her health, neither you or I
say any thing about the cold or
how you stand it, take as much
exercise as practicable in the open
air, protect yourself by suitable wrap-
-pings. I wish you a merry Christmas
& a happy New Year. Your affec & devoted
W. C. Miller

5
& facility, how do you get along
in composition? you have
not made out a list of the books
you wanted, the merchants will
be going East in Feb. which is
a good opportunity, to send such
things as are necessary, you men-
-tioned the Poets, how negligent you
have been in the improvement of
yourself, when you had ample
time opportunity, now you could
bring it into requisition, resolve to
do so no longer but apply your-
-self with untiring perseverance
in the pursuit of knowledge, which
is the only superiority, it is intel-
& cultivation that makes one
more elevated than another, in
society, let not frivolities of life
deter you from the pursuit
of all that is ennobling & elevating
I am also delighted with your

Sabbath evening exercise, the
fine Organ, the deep tones
of which, seems devotional &
elevating, you must improve all
you can in sacred music,
I wish your Brother could be
inspired with an ardent love
of music, urge him to improve
himself on this branch of educa-
tion, I think it ought to be insis-
-ted on in all schools, & colleges
How do you like the Institute?
Do you think you would prefer
it to Miss Edwards? don't you feel
there is almost too much to attract
your attention in such a crowd?
do not let your approaching festi-
-vities take up an inordinate share
of your time, I love to hear you
have recreations & pleasures, I de-
-sire your happiness, & wish you
to enjoy pleasure, but at the

^{same}
time you can not gain knowledge
without toil, Patient application
The manner you propose to make
Christmas presents to the principles
seems very appropriate, you had
better consider before you begin
at the expenses of such a system
your love & what you would like
to do ^{is} not the correct course to
adopt at all times, you must con-
-sult others, you are almost a stranger
& cannot decide from principle
as to the merit of any, you will be
governed mostly from impulse
which is not the correct motive,
When you write to us about
your parties and Tableaus describe
the different costumes, & your own
do not make any change in dress
that will risk your health, Our
Thanksgiving was a very quiet
one, we were at church, came

influence of the holy spirit dwell in you
richly & aid you in every good word &
work, as to your going to the Baptist church
I have no objection, & will get your Father to
write to Mr. Agnew about it. You must write
what books you want, a dictionary is one.
To spell correctly my dear is the beauty of writing,
Have you not commenced taking writing lessons
yet, will you this term? how are you to pass
the 12 days in April? Mary A. Costman is
very anxious to go to the Pittsfield Institute if
she does she would be a good room mate, I do
hope she will go, I have written to night so that
it will go in when Dr. Perkins goes in the morn-
ing, & will write a longer one soon, take
care of yourself my dear & keep in good spirits
if we live we will see you before long, time
flies one month of the new year almost gone,
all joins in much love to you may angels
guard you Good night my precious child Your
Mother

Jan 19th 1855

I hope you have progressed in arithmetic so as
to be able to keep your account, what did your
Christmas ^{gifts} cost you? Duncannon August

Duncannon Nov 1854

My dear friend

I was very desirous to go & see
you before I left home, but there were so many
things to do it was impossible, I have left an
humble parting gift for you, & when you
clasp it you will think of the absent one
among "the snow capped peaks & mountains wild".
say good bye to Dr. Brown, Mr. Dwight, & give
for Mary. Please write to me your affect-

Friend Mary

My dear daughter here is the copy of a note I gave
Mrs. Brown with the garters you left for her, she
enquires very kindly for you & desires to be remembered
to you, Mrs. Sayre says she will prepare a
round of Beef "a la mode" for you, she desires
her love to you, & says she would like to hear

one, your hearty laughs, Mrs M. Law & the
jibbs engine for you, have you written to
Emma yet? if not delay not any longer, I believe
her vacations & yours are at the same time, you
may manage to see each other, as this is written
on this sheet I will. Begin my sweet daughter
& tell you how happy you made me when the
letter came that you wrote on new years week
almost a fortnight had elapsed since we had
heard from you, & this eve Friday Dr Jenkins
brought out your letter of the 15th, he is a bearer
of your letters if not a receiver, he says, you
treat him very cavalierly, I am glad you say
you will write to him soon, I regret to hear of
your frequent headaches, you must certainly get
cold is the cause of it, do not sit in a draught,
or let your feet be cold, sometimes it may be
from an empty stomach you can keep crackers
or cakes by you to eat between times, the eat-
ables shall be sent, as soon as an opportunity
occurs, Mr Butler will go on next month &

will go on to Boston, he has offered to take
charge of any thing we wish to send,
I hope your health will be better as the cold
decreases, it must be very bad for those that are
sick, it is not good to be in a room with one
that is always sick, it disturbs ones rest, makes
the air of the room impure, & so small a one
as yours, the air of it is soon changed, in regard
to Miss Reed you should be very prudent in
what you say about Nettie, I do not think she
has spoken to me since you left she has always
been very shy of me, Mrs M. Lee & Miss Wilson have
spoke in church to ask about you & Hal, often
I hope you feel encouraged in the progress you are
making in your studies, & the cultivation of
your heart, should not be neglected, may you be
led to seek the great object of life, the chief end
of man, that will prompt you to all good
resolves, & give you strength to perform, fit you
for the various duties of life, & a happy dwelling
place with the blessed, Oh! may the sweet

with us they are spending the winter in
Lex. The girls are in Frankfort & the boys
in Danville the younger ones are going
to school in Lex. I do hope my dear
that you have gotten along smoothly and
pleasantly - & happily with teachers &
pupils, with a perfect record, no errors,
or tardy, or any unpleasant occurrence,
I long for the time when we shall all
meet again, I feel sometimes that I can
not stand it any longer, when your heart
is sad at the thought of the loved ones
far away let the tears fall, weeping
will be a relief, it is ease to the burdened
heart to give vent in tears, there is no
weakness in it only pure feeling - but
still your endeavor must be to bear as
cheerfully as possible, the course of duty -
God bless you my dear & preserve your health
& may you grow in ^{his} grace & favor is the
prayer of your devoted Mother

Duncannon Feb 1st 1855

My very dear Daughter
When I wrote last it
was my intention to have written you a long
letter ere this but a variety of occurrences have
prevented my doing so, your last letter was
rec^d last Saturday, none this week, one from
your Brother yesterday, he is well & will
not be at home for 18 months, so you will
not be uneasy about his leaving you, he
says he has not heard a word from you
since the 6th of Jan, now my dear you
should not serve him so, think how lonely
& solitary he is, you are never alone, it is
vacation in College & his associates have
left for home, do write often if only
a few lines to let him feel he is affect
remembered by you, I do not doubt, that
he is still we like to have the evidence
before us, to make certainty more certain
if possible, do not be so tardy in future

I saw Sallie McCaw a few days ago & she said Emma wanted to know what was the reason you did not write to her, let me beg of you not to procrastinate any longer, Em has taken up another language this winter, I did not ask what, Mary A. Castman is going to the Pittsfield Institute in the spring, she says the winter is too cold for her, owing to the affection of her throat, I think she would be good room mate, I am very much surprised at Miss Lapon's conduct, you are very much to blame her with eatables, no more than politeness to give part, but keep the majority for yourself, always have something in reserve, you must not be so modest about what you lend. Keep a correct account, & when asked give a prompt answer, it is the correct way for you, & a lesson to those who are disposed to be rather loose, keep your accounts straight,

Alexander Morgan was married on the 25th of Jan, we were not invited to the wedding it was not a large one & the weather was very cold, more so than any we have had this winter, the ice is very fine, we have been down on the ice several times, sat in chairs & had them pushed over the pond, Lily was highly delighted as she would come part me & hold out her arms to catch hold, or we would go, part & then she would laugh most heartily, we have a round of beef a, la, mode, a roast turkey, a baked ham & a cheese, I think you had better present Mrs Agnew half the cheese, & a taste of the others also, you says those small articles you want, will not do to pack with those heavy ones so I will make a small package & send with Mr. Butler who will be going on in about a fortnight. Mr & Mrs Carter are coming to pass for me
-now

May 10th /55

My very dear daughter

Your letter came to hand much earlier than usual, & relieved my anxiety about you, still I do not feel quite easy about you, that cough lasts too long, you must be very careful & not expose your self keep your flannel waist on & skirt untill the weather is such you can't - do you get on more comfortably this term than the last? Why is the house keeper so solicitous to have the Moores in your hall? are the Moores pleased & contented? What is Mary Cas feelings in regard to every thing about the Institute? is she doing anything? do not let your letters lay about, lock up or burn I regret to hear Mary C. is sick, Did the house keeper bring the Dr to her? I also regret to hear of M. Agnew's bad health, Your brother's health is not good, but I hope it is only temporary, & that he will soon be in perfect health, I have been so happy that you have both enjoyed good health as you are so far from me, but it has come at last & makes me so anxious, about you both, Mrs Gratz & the girls were out this afternoon, she enquired very particularly for you & desired to be aff^{ly} remembered to you, Mrs Bell & Mrs Leafon were to see me this morning

Mrs Lafon says she will go to Pittsfield
on the 20th & was kind enough to offer to take
any thing to you I desired to send, she also
told me her daughter Mary had written to
her that ^{young} had had a cough for some time
which makes me think there is more serious
cause of alarm than I supposed, now do let
me know exactly how you are, & take proper
remedies at once to relieve it.

Mr & Mrs Sayre were
out yesterday, as usual many enquiries for you
& love to you, Mr S. has not been well for some
time he looks badly, he has been confined to
his house most of the winter & spring, that Mrs
S has given up playing in the choir, there is a
man playing, I've forgotten his name, he plays all
new peices so that I can't sing, which I do not
like at all, I prefer Mrs Sayre, Ellen Matthews
Amelia Hale, & Belle Combs, Jonette Menafee
& some others I do not know have joined the choir
Dr Matthews speaks of sending his daughters
to Georgia to live with their Aunt, Frank
has gone there to pass his vacation,

Give my love to the young ladies that remember
me, Cousins & sisters give you a great deal of
love & your Mother also, God Bless you my dear
Yours lovingly,

P.S. the servants all respectfully remember you E. Duncan

Friday, Duncannon May 28/55

My very dear daughter

Your letter came yesterday
to your father also one to Dr D. I am so glad
that you are well, do take care of yourself, &
should you ever need a Physician, send for
Dr Oliver W Holmes he is of the right school
& a very distinguished man in his profession & a
Poet, but I trust you will not want one,
I wrote you short letter on Monday & put it in
a small package for you which was given
to Mrs Deafon, who left on Tuesday morning
with her daughter for Pittsfield, she was so
kind to offer & said she had room for a much
larger one, I could not think of any thing
that you really needed it is only a trouble to
you to have so many things to care for, I
recommund you to make a list of the various
articles, of clothing winter & summer, the boys
trunks basket, etc, etc, also as the warm
season comes to have your winter articles
collected & put up, altogether, Have you thought
how you will pass the vacation? Dr & Mrs Flint
go north in August & will pass the summer
at Cohasset near Boston on the sea side
she says she will take charge of you

My love to Mary & I hope she takes good care of you

write any more at present, for they are waiting to go to the office - good bye
my dear daughter accept of your sisters & Mother's warmest affection

Q
we cannot go on, or would you prefer coming home? It is surprising that Mary Lafon treats you so after all your kindness to her, & also that Miss Reed should be influenced by her, just let them alone do not run after them, treat them with politeness but not familiarity, Mary L is an ungrateful girl suspicious & not to be trusted, Alice is nearly as tall as her mother & says she is only 12 years old will be 13 in Nov, she is more like 14, I can't believe myself. It is pleasant to hear that you & M. C. get along agreeably, & the other young Lady does. Mary thinks she will remain during the winter? The walk to the mountains you spoke of in a former letter was too much & fasting too never do so again, it might be the means of making you very sick. Mr Curtwright returned from Illinois last Tuesday & left here yesterday for Bourbon they will go to Mo in three weeks, to make it their home at least for some time so Kate will say good bye to Ky, Maria has been in Paris for the last week assisting Amelia to get ready for the wedding, Dr Jenkins & Mrs Wealthy & Hall are my company at present, I will put this in with Dr D's letter in the same envelope, as I can't



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

For if you go with Dr & Mrs Hunt there are many things that do not suit the sea side, the articles you leave behind should be carefully put away & a memorandum taken of them, do not leave them as you did before for some one else to do it, Whatever became of your indelible ink & the preparation to put on the linen? I found my glasses & pencils in my middle case that laid on the table all the time I was at the Beckshier, Mrs Lanyon has taken a cheaper boarding house, she told me she intended returning immediately, Where will her daughters pass their vacation? Your course towards them should be only politeness, after what has passed, such a friendship can not exist, but, "as much as lieth in you live peaceably with all."

Your sisters send you sisters love & are exceedingly desirous to see you, God bless you my dear child your affect Mother

E. Duncan
The servants desire to be remembered

Thursday June 21st 1755

My very dear Daughter

Your kind letters to us were recd to day at noon, I rejoice you have recovered from your slight affliction, & that it was not more serious, you may congratulate yourself that you had so pleasant a roommate during your exile, as you had so slight an attack you might have employed yourself in writing, & paying your debts in the corresponding list. When did you hear from Emma? does she return home in vacation? I can't tell how it is that you hear so seldom from us we write every week, your father is often writing to you & Hal, It is very uncertain about your father's going east so you must not feel certain of seeing him & then you will not be disappointed if he does not. My dear daughter I hope you are improving the time & making up for that which you have lost, I have no opportunity to judge of the proficiency in any of your studies, your hand

writing & better writing does not show any great degree of improvement, if you had practiced at home as you have since you left, it would be as good as at present, we must trust to yourself as judge of the benefit derived, do you really think that you are making all the proficiency in your studies that is practicable? I am getting very impatient at the thought of Abel & you being so long away from us, it is a constant care & anxiety, I am afraid your habits of order & neatness are not exercised, now is the time to acquire such, I have a trial in Mrs Hall she is one of the most careless disorderly women I ever saw she is hunting her scissors or thimble or work, yesterday she had all hands looking the house over for scissors she has two pairs & could not find one, her child takes every thing & runs all over the house goes in the parlor take the sofa pillows lays them on the floor & lies on them, I am completely

out done with her, Near a fortnight ago your Father handed Henry Hall \$50 to go to Chatanooga for Larena a week afterwards he rec'd a letter from him at Nashville for \$6 more & last night he returned with Larena almost naked notackewise to her back, bare foot an old cotton dress made for a woman she can't tell since the days of the week, I was so excited, I could scarcely contain myself, Larena is almost as tall as Mary I. she has grown astonishingly, There was a great deal I had intended saying to you, but this scene has driven it all away, I was writing last evening when they arrived, your father is at Bedford he will return Friday eve, he & Dr J are going to Paris to the wedding, perhaps Maria will return with them, things are so that I cannot leave home, I hope you rec'd the articles I sent you did not mention them, do the caps fit? your summer clothing will be in your way.

Miss Mary Duncan
care J. W. Agnew D.D.
Pittsfield
Mass



go I must, if you remain the next term
there is no use in coming home, as ^{he}
is not coming, & we ^{are} all anxious to see him
so I think it is much the best plan for us to
go on & be all together, & have you comfortably
fixed for the winter, Mrs Clay seems deter-
mined to send her daughter on to Pittsfield
she has been at her father's for some ten
days & has not rec'd your letter, as it is
at Richmond waiting for her, How does your
English grammar & Arithmetic come on? they
are both very important studies, You must
not dread the examination, but endeavor to
exercise confidence in yourself in regard
to the studies you have pursued, & feel
assured that you have made commendable
proficiency. I hope you are safely over the
mumps, & not taken cold on them which is the
only thing to be feared, The articles you wish
sent there is no opportunity at present to send
them - Mother & sisters send ^{an} abundance of love
to you my dear God bless you, ^{Love afft}
Mother

Lancannon July 5th 55

My very dear daughter

You are rather too severe
upon Mrs Hall, She is a very well educated
sensible woman, but without much system or
order, Her child, a girl, about 28 months of
age is a smart pretty child, & like all
indulged children, that have not learned
obedience, ~~to~~ not to meddle with others things.
In regard to Laura she is not to blame so
much as you may suppose, as Laura was
left in Chattanooga a year ago when Mrs
Hall went to New York, She was very
glad to see Laura, & expressed her fears as
to the manner in which she would be sent
home; & really was provoked at it & felt very
badly, Mrs ^{was} left here last Saturday, exactly
six weeks ^{since} she came, they speak of getting
a school in Paducah, I wish them success
with all my heart, she desired to be very
kindly remembered to you & said she would

write to you, the remembrance of you is exceedingly kind,

Dr Matthews came out last evening with his daughters & Morton, the girls have vacation now & will pass a few weeks with me, Ellen is like a young lady she is nearly as tall as I, wears her dresses trailing, she cuts out & makes her common dresses, she is a smart girl with her needle, I have been unable to prevail on her to sing for me, or even to play much, she makes the old excuse she left her music, the father says he will send it out to her, he & Dr J drove into Lex - Your father is at Bedford, just as the gentlemen had driven off & I commenced this letter Mrs Casterman drove up, ^{whom I was very glad to see} so I had to stop, & will now resume my pen, I was very glad to see Mrs C - it is the first time I have seen her since the evening she came over with M to start with us to Pittsfield, Fannie &

Belle came with their mother so I have had quite a merry house. Maria came home on last saturday accompanied by Mrs Davis Rebecca & Mary, & little Saeety, they returned on Monday afternoon, Maria was taken quite sick yesterday afternoon & has been confined to bed all day, I hope she will be able to be up tomorrow. there is considerable sickness in Lex - at present -

My dear M do not commit yourself in regard to a room mate next term. The young ladies you speak of may be clever enough, but there are some objections to a very close intimacy, so keep your own counsels & observe all closely, correct principles, good family, healthy, neat, studious, & intellectual, ^{are qualities which should be looked for} I fear very much you will not get the equal of the one you have, your comfort & happiness will be much affected in the choice you make, may you be guided for the best, my dear M. It is uncertain when we will go north but

August 10th 1855

My very dear daughter

Your father cannot make his arrangements so as to go north & spend your vacation in an excursion to the White mountains, Halifax etc. etc. As Dr Flint is going on & will return about the time your term closes, & we think it an excellent opportunity for you to return home & pass your vacation at home. And I think you had better collect all things together so as to be ready whenever the Dr may call for you it will be necessary to bring all with you, as there will be clothing that will not do again, & some that repairs will be needed, your hat box, & basket, & books, ^{very thing}, so that a general review can be made ^{of all} ~~of all~~ ^{probably} for the approaching winter.

Dr & Mrs Flint will be here tomorrow on their way to Bourbon, Mrs F. will remain with Mrs Arnold during the Dr's absence - I presume your marine dress will be good enough to return home in, you will not require any thing on the way as you will travel day & night. We intended to have passed today (Friday) with Mrs Castleman but it has been a day of continued rain, I understand Mrs C. will start very soon for Niagara, where she expects to meet Mr & Mrs Beck - in aid of Mary C. I wish we could have gone also I am really disappointed, perhaps, it is all for the best, my love to Mary, I wish her much pleasure in her anticipated visits, to her relatives both at Niagara

& Virginia, & that we shall soon have the pleasure
of seeing her again in Ky - I recd your letter yesterday
am gratified to hear you say that you think you
will stand an examination, have courage, be composed
& self possessed as the nature of the circumstances will
permit, I feel sure it is an exciting occasion, & it being
the first you have passed it will cause you some tri-
pidation, but not to such a degree as to render you un-
able to proceed, The catalogues have come safe to hand
a goodly number 17 - I think 5 is as many as any of the
young Ladies will know what to do with - we are at a
loss to know what to do with so many, we have sent
several to maysville, Dr Marshall passed last evening
with us, on his way to mason, he left a book for
you & said I must kiss you for him, he expects to return
some time in sep - & will call to see us -

Mrs Macalister was out yesterday she desired me to
give her love to you, Maria is talking of going to La
next week, I want her to stay & wait till you return, she
says she would be delighted to see you, but has an
opportunity of going & thinks it is best to embrace it - she
sends a great deal of love to you, Ellie & Lily send love
to Auntie, & thank her for the vessep, my love to her also
& others that have remembered me, my kindest regards to
Dr & Mrs Agnew & family, invite them to visit you, Ellie
& Lily are overjoyed at the thought of seeing you so soon, send
kisses & love to you & a kiss for Auntie. God bless you, & may
you return home safely. Your aff^t Mother B. G

You left a collar on your muslin Mattie Duncannon Trayday
do you wish it sent to you?
Oct 19th 1855

My very dear daughter

Your satisfactory letter came to hand on wednesday a feeling of relief & thankfulness that you had reached your destination & satisfactorily located was great, the only thing that was calculated to mar it was that you were attacked by some sickness, I could not have but expected such an one but not so soon in the term study hard & accomplish yourself & then return to "sweet home", did you find your basket, mug, knife, saucers, nail brush, ^{brandy & old Bourbon} & rags, you have a wash stand & basin & pitcher to yourself, you had better keep your eatables in the cake box, for it can be washed out when soiled, how did the grapes do after such a journey? tell me all about every thing & all your arrangements, you must have looked as if you were setting up a miniature restaurant, chickens, ducks, bread, cake, various preserves, pickles, candy, corn, candles, grapes, apples, hair oil, soaps, honey, mutton suet, etc, & other things too numerous to mention, your little room will be a curiosity shop, & be more care to you than advantage, we have heard from your Father since he left Hal on Saturday, I regret he did not take you to see your brother, but perhaps it is best, you had some preparation to make for winter, which I hope you have attended

to by this, & another important ^{reason} you were behind
in your classes, I would not take lessons on the
guitar, but ^{give} more attention to your studies, and
penmanship, & composition, in both of which I
should be delighted to see you excell, On Wed-
nesday Aunt Timberlake, & Mrs Merick came in
11 o'clock train, Mr Ford & Mrs Trimble were in
the cars going to Louisville, he took care with
him we miss him very much, Mrs Merick sends
her love to you, & regrets very much that she could
not get to you, Mr M. will be here this evening in
the cars, & probably your father as I am expecting
in every train. The weather is most beautiful
we have not had drop of rain since you left.
Maria is still here she has collected all of your
wardrobe that was left & packed away such as
was suitable in a trunk, there are only 3 linen
chemise, & 5 pc of summer hose, I would advise
you to make a memorandum of what you have
& keep it in your trunk, for without something
of the sort you will not be able to ascertain what
you have & if any are missing such towels, napkins
siapers of all sort, petticoats cotton & wool, indeed every
thing you have down to caps & nail brush, do
not think I am too particular it will be less trouble
in the end, to have a distinct memorandum of
every item, Now I must stop. I hope you will get
on comfortably & smoothly, & make good proficien-
cy in your studies, that will qualify you for use-
fulness & happiness, My love to the girls, Mother
sisters & cousin most sincere & warm affection
to my Mary God bless you ever Your Mother



Miss Mary Duncan
Care Dr Agnew
Pittsfield
Mass

fare well. My dear child
you will love these
May these times find
you after Mother

This death was occasioned by
the breaking of a blood vessel
by falling - There is another
caution I forgot to mention to
you in regard to your health, &
that is in exercising not to get heated
& then expose yourself or sit in a
draught, even in cleaning your
room you get into a perspiration
& afterwards sit down quietly &
get chilled, so I recommend you
to be prudent, & consider, do not
read this & forget it - & think it is
unnecessary, & useless precaution.
The children have just rec^d
some Christmas gifts from Maria.
She also sent me two cans of peaches
fresh to eat with cream, & a
shoe bag quite a nice affair she
says if I do not want it to send it
to you, but you have so many things
now you can scarcely take care of
them, it is cold very cold indeed, more so than usual.

A Happy New Year

Dec 27th 1855

My very dear daughter
With great anxiety
I have looked for some intelligence
from you, to know if you had recovered
of the neuralgia, the severity of that region
is I fear too great for you, I feel like
commanding you to return with Hal
if you are not able to write, get some
one to do so for you, as I shall be very
unhappy until I hear from you.
You must be more careful of your
health, do not think that because you
are strong & well, nothing will hurt
you, whenever you are called to go
out in the cold throw something
around you over your head,
changing your dress for those evenings
of amusement are a source of mis-
chief to health I am afraid -
The season with us is very inclem-
ent, exceedingly so, the days are
short & cold we do very little else
than eat & keep ourselves warm,
never permit yourself to retire to
bed with cold feet, warm a shower

& wrap around your shoulders, then the robe around your feet, the Buffalo robe, you have enough to make you comfortable, & must try & do so, it is sad to be sick from home, besides it makes me so anxious & unhappy so as soon as you receive this write immediately;

In the last letter I rec^d from you, you requested me to purchase a veil like the sample it was not to be had the merchants have sold off nearly every thing that is desirable, & will soon be going on for their spring importations, in February they usually go

Miss Castleman is in Mo & expect to stay spring, she went to Davy's wedding, his first cousin, Miss Harrison, she is said to be a most intelligent lovely young lady, an only child, Davy is a dull boy ~~in~~ my opinion,

I have not seen Miss Clark yet the roads are so bad it is almost a days journey to get to Mrs Castleman Mrs Morgan tells me they are very much pleased with her, do any of the girls

correspond ^{with} her? How is she pleased with Kentucky?

Christmas has been very dull, the weather is too cold to go out, so I have not seen any one, were it not for El & Lody, & the servants it might pass away as any other part of the year, the New Year is more calculated to inspire reflection, to make a retrospect of the past, & consider what we have accomplished during the past, & to make resolutions for the future, (Should our lives be spared with the blessing God, & that his spirit may dwell in you richly & prepare you for all the events of the future), the happiness of my dear children, is my great concern time is fleeting & death is ever nigh, that gave a sad instance of a youth in college, the idol of his family snatched from time to eternity, on sabbath he was at church well, & to all appearance likely to live many years, on Monday evening laid out a lifeless corpse, How solemn!